Stormwater runoff can impact water quality in rivers and streams. Portland uses green streets, ecoroofs, trees and other green infrastructure to increase sewer system efficiency, and protect water quality, public health, and the environment. Green infrastructure keeps stormwater out of the sewer system, filters pollutants, provides habitat and increases neighborhood green space for healthier

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES CITY OF PORTLAND working for clean rivers Dan Saltzman, Commissioner

Dan Saltzman, Commissione Dean Marriott, Director

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Community Watershed Stewardship Program

Program Overview

The Community Watershed Stewardship Program (CWSP) helps Portlanders improve watershed health and helps organizations develop the capacity to continue that work into the future. CWSP offers funding for community projects, assists with project planning and management, and identifies extra resources to help complete projects.



CWSP provides annual stewardship grants of up to \$10,000 for community projects that protect and enhance watershed health, and native plant mini grants of up to \$500. Contact us to discuss ideas 503-823-7917.

Watershed health projects have many other benefits. CWSP projects give Portlanders more access to nature by creating green space. Communities take responsibility for making positive changes to their environment. Groups increase their ability to create positive changes in the future.

CWSP offers grants of up to \$10,000 for watershed health projects. Grant recipients can spend up to \$3,000 on professional services, including compensation for project coordinators, contracted services, and stipends for participating youth. An additional \$2,000 may be spent on youth stipends. Recipients typically also spend grant funds on native plants, soil amendments, tools, and other materials.



Education

Education is a part of every CWSP project. CWSP connects community groups with resources to develop educational events or programs about Portland's watersheds and natural areas.



Hard surfaces like asphalt do not allow rain to soak into the ground and generate stormwater runoff that can wash pollutants into rivers and streams.





In some parts of Portland, runoff also contributes to combined sewer overflows to the Willamette River. Removing pavement reduces stormwater runoff and creates green space.

Rain Gardens and Stormwater Management

Rain gardens and swales collect rain water from roofs and parking areas and let it soak into the ground. Plants and soil in rain gardens filter and cool the water as it replenishes groundwater supplies.









Natural Area Restoration

Removing invasive plants and restoring native plants improves wildlife habitat and maintains natural food webs. Participants in natural area restoration projects learn about watershed health and discover places to enjoy nature.

Community Gardens

Creating community gardens can involve pavement removal, soil improvements, erosion control, and invasive plant removal. Community gardens can include edible native plant areas, native plant areas for pollinators, rain gardens, fruit and nut trees, and can provide watershed education opportunities. All of these things contribute to healthy watersheds and healthy communities. If you are building or improving a community garden, call the grants coordinator to discuss how your garden can improve watershed health.

Cleanup Projects

Removing trash from natural areas and waterways benefits local wildlife and water quality, and transforms neglected places into community assets.



