

Community

Watershed Stewardship Program

2010-2011 PROJECT

Glenfair Community Garden



Stormwater runoff can impact water quality in rivers and streams. Natural resources, like urban streams, forests, and wetlands manage stormwater naturally to protect water quality, public health, and the environment. Green infrastructure reduces flooding and erosion, provides cool, clean water to our rivers and streams, and adds wildlife habitat and urban green space for healthier watersheds.

Project overview

Members of Glenfair Church (E Burnside St. at 143rd Ave.) envisioned a community garden on an unused area of the church's property. They formed a 10-person committee – five church members and five neighbors – to plan, fund, and establish the garden. The garden has provided access to fresh produce and helped build relationships among neighbors.

Community issues addressed by the project

Three-quarters of neighborhood residents live in apartments or condominiums and lacked access to garden space. The diverse neighborhood also lacked public green spaces where neighbors could meet, work together and build relationships.

Community benefits

- Fresh, nutritious produce for 14 neighborhood families who have garden plots.
- 300 pounds of food donated to a local food bank in the first year alone.
- Stronger community ties as a result of neighbors and church members working, learning, and gardening together. Project coordinator Kathy

NEIGHBORHOOD:

Hazelwood/Glenfair
(East Portland)

WATERSHED:

Willamette

COMMUNITY OUTCOMES:

Fresh, healthful food for neighbors and the food bank; stronger ties among neighbors

WATERSHED OUTCOMES:

Natural infiltration of stormwater through rain gardens; removal of sod and hard-packed soil

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

www.glenfaircommunitygarden.com



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- Gould says, "I know the garden has had a positive impact. Almost daily, neighbors walking by stop to thank us for it."
- Service learning experience for David Douglas High School students, who constructed the fencing and garden shed.
 - Free workshops and classes for neighbors on topics such as canning and garden planning.
 - A beautiful, cultivated green space that enhances the neighborhood.

Watershed benefits

The garden removed 5,000 square feet of lawn and compressed soil that did not adequately absorb stormwater and led to runoff problems. The project includes native plant rain gardens that absorb stormwater runoff and provide habitat for insects and birds, including pollinators that help the garden grow.

Community member profile

Anne has lived near the Glenfair Community Garden site for 14 years. After receiving a flyer on her door, she attended a meeting at the church to help plan the garden. She then helped organize gardening workshops to get the project up and running, and she's been involved ever since. In addition to the tangible benefits of the food grown in the garden, Anne is grateful for the positive effects the garden has had in the neighborhood. "Meeting our neighbors and community people and bringing them to Glenfair Community Garden has been a lot of fun," Anne says. "We find out the needs and problems of our community, and that gives us a sense of sharing and love."

Additional sources of support

- East Portland Neighborhood Office: Small Grants Program
- East Portland Action Plan
- Glenfair Church: Use of property, volunteers
- David Douglas High School: Student volunteers designed and built storage shed
- Reliable Landscaping: Donated equipment and labor
- Home Depot: Gift card

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Anne Kemp



The Community Watershed Stewardship Program (CWSP) offers grants of up to \$10,000 to help Portlanders improve their neighborhoods and communities, while also improving the health of our streams and rivers.

More information at
www.portlandoregon.gov/bes/stewardship or 503-823-7917

Funding subject to City Council budget approval.