

House Water Committee

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Protecting Oregon's Water Quality with **Natural/Green Infrastructure**

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ACWA



Who We Are...

- > Private Non-Profit
- > Formed in 1987
- > Our Members:
 - Over 125 public wastewater treatment & stormwater management agencies
 - Associate members (consultants)
- > Focused on partnerships for collaboration, broad statewide representation and support

Our Mission...

Protect & enhance Oregon's water quality

www.oracwa.org "Oregon ACWA"



What We Do...



Local government agencies protect and enhance water quality. We:

- Focus on **watershed-based** approaches that achieve **multiple environmental objectives** and **maximize benefits of public investments**
- Pursue **science-based**, proactive and innovative solutions that are **sustainable** for utilities, **communities and the environment**
- Collaborate to ensure that standards and regulations are implementable and **achieve intended environmental outcomes**

Local Governments Plan, Build and Operate Infrastructure to Protect WQ: Gray



Green



Community



Wastewater Management—POTWs and Stormwater Management—MS4s & TMDLs

- **Wastewater Infrastructure needs:**
 - Collect and convey--prevent SSOs
 - Treat and return/recycle--meet effluent limits
 - Manage residual solids—dispose or recycle
 - Grow with communities--ensure capacity
 - Reduce toxics/metals--Industrial pretreatment
- **Stormwater Infrastructure needs:**
 - Collect and convey—runoff/flood management
 - Detect and eliminate pollutants
 - Control runoff from urban development
 - Maintain flood and WQ functions of waterways

Natural/Green Infrastructure...

“Natural infrastructure is an area or system that is either naturally occurring or naturalized and then intentionally managed to provide multiple benefits for the environment and human well-being.” --*International Institute for Sustainable Development*



Medford—Rogue River Riparian Restoration (temperature reduction)



Clean Water Services—Riparian/Wetland Enhancement (temperature reduction)

Beneficial Recycling and Co-Benefits...



*Eugene/Springfield MWMC--Biocycle Farm
(Beneficial use of biosolids and recycled water)*



*Prineville—Municipal Golf Course
(Beneficial use of recycled water)*

Natural Wastewater Treatment Plants...

“Natural infrastructure can be used alone or alongside gray infrastructure...to provide cost-effective and sustainable solutions that bring multiple benefits.” --
Nature Conservancy



*Albany—Talking Water Gardens
(final treatment)*



*Salem—Wetland Treatment Facility
(wet weather treatment)*

Natural Infrastructure for Stormwater...

Removing Pollution, Managing Flows, Enhancing the Environment, Making Livable Communities

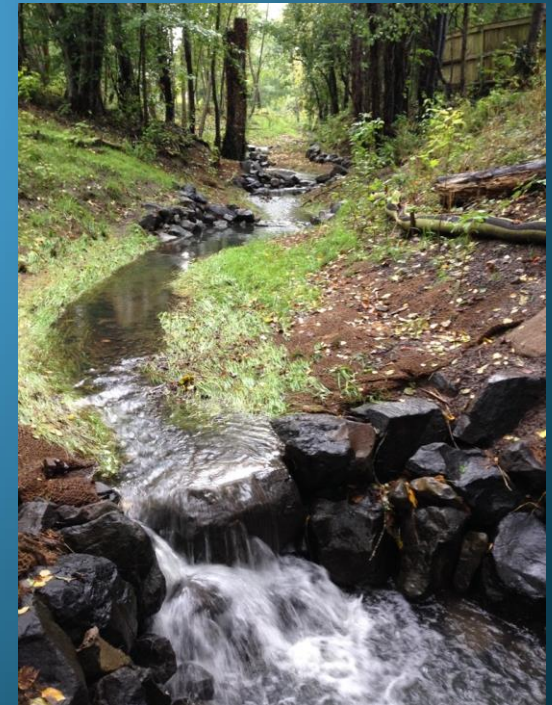


Clean Water Services

Portland BES >>>



Clean Water Services



Why is Natural Infrastructure so Important?

Gray infrastructure will always play an important role, but aggressive restoration and creation of natural infrastructure is needed to:

- Achieve broad scale WQ improvement and restoration of beneficial uses
- Enable resilience in the face of climate change impacts
- Mitigate the carbon footprint of a growing population
- Protect and restore watershed functions
- Optimize costs/benefits of public investment in water infrastructure

Sustaining Oregon's water resources and communities in the long term will require state and local government water quality and watershed professionals to work together, tapping the best and brightest, to develop regulatory and funding frameworks and implementation strategies that improve watershed health, facilitate resource recovery, and optimize overall environmental benefits and cost-effectiveness for local communities across the state.



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