



Annual Report

Fiscal Year 2010 – 2011

Each year I see this remarkable organization continue to learn and grow. As new Directors, staff, and partners bring new ideas and perspectives, existing programs get smarter and veteran staff and Directors further hone skills and acquire new wisdom. Every field of endeavor encounters change, none more so than conservation and local government. The challenges we face and the tools in our arsenal change as the cadre of partners we work with continues to expand. The work of a Soil and Water Conservation District is many things – weed control, naturescaping workshops, plant sale, manure management, planting trees and shrubs along waterways, funding community projects, land conservation, rain garden training - important, challenging, and satisfying work it is my privilege to be a part of. –Jean Fike, Executive Director

Board Members Serving During FY 2010-11

Laura Masterson zone 2- *Chair*
Rick Till at large 1– *Vice Chair*
Dianna Pope zone 3- *Secretary*
Robert Salinger zone 1
Jill Kuehler at large 2 *Treasurer* (term began 1/1/2011)
Ron McCarty at large 2 (term ended 12/31/2010)
Anne Peterson – *Associate Director* (term ended 12/31/2010)

EMSWCD Directors are elected (Associates are appointed) and volunteer their time. The Board is ultimately responsible for all that EMSWCD does. Our Directors represent the public, provide oversight, set policy, supervise the Executive Director and set our strategic direction. Our Board also provides invaluable advice, support and inspiration. Thank you for your service.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

2010-2011 FISCAL YEAR*

INCOME

EMSWCD Property tax	\$ 3,719,343
Contracts & Grants	\$ 110,960
Events	\$ 33,015
Misc. Income	\$ 41,298
Total Income:	\$ 3,904,616

EXPENSES

Capital Expenditures	\$ 574,292
Operating Expenses	\$ 147,381
Printing and Postage	\$ 13,607
Professional Services	\$ 182,355
Grants & Contracts	\$ 559,593
Travel	\$ 15,641
Payroll	\$ 829,183
Total Expenses:	\$ 2,322,052

SPECIAL FUNDS ending balance

Building Reserve Fund	\$ 0
Land Conservation Fund	\$ 4,272,300
Conservation Projects	\$ 1,214,600
Total Special Funds:	\$ 5,486,900

*These figures are not audited.



Funding for Conservation Projects in the District

Lissa Adams, Partner Assistance and Conservation Easements (PACE) Program Manager

The EMSWCD Board of Directors has long held that the District should carefully assess what aspects of our work can be best accomplished in house through the work of staff and which make more sense to pursue through partnerships. Where another organization in the community is undertaking important conservation work and we can best serve by providing financial support, we use our grant programs to do so.

The District has established several programs to provide funding for projects that advance our conservation mission including on-the-ground restoration or conservation, sustainable agriculture or gardening, sustainable stormwater management and conservation education. Designed to appropriately facilitate both large and small projects, each program has its own guidelines and application process. In all cases the Board of Directors determines the awards with input from staff and partners.

The PACE programs award grants to organizations in the district who are working to improve soil and water quality and watershed health. PACE grants encourage organizations, community groups, governmental agencies, educational institutions, and landowners to get involved in soil and water conservation projects and leverage resources to expand conservation and education efforts.

Available funds were increased in FY 2009-2010 to help offset the difficult fundraising environment created by the economic recession. The increased grant funding continued in FY 2010-11. Together these programs helped fund more than 50 projects in 2010-2011, leveraging nearly \$4.4 million. Following is a brief summary of each program and a list of projects funded.

Conservation Landowner Incentive Program (CLIP)

Designed to assist private landowners or land managers with natural resource concerns (such as soil erosion or water quality), the CLIP program is a tool for providing financial (cost-share) assistance to landowners and land managers who are voluntarily addressing natural resources concerns on their property. Participants in CLIP receive technical assistance from the District on how to correctly install and maintain conservation practices.

The focus of our work with landowners is on helping them to identify and address significant natural resource concerns on their property. Where funds are limiting or helpful in motivating a change and there exists a significant public benefit, CLIP cost-share assistance can help cover project costs. Funds are typically only available to private landowners and land managers in the District who are receiving technical assistance for on-the-ground conservation projects. The funding limit in 2010-2011 was \$7,500 per project.



During 2010-2011 a total of \$990 was awarded to support invasive weed removal and install water conservation practices, in addition to supporting ongoing multi-year projects awarded the previous Fiscal Year.

Partners in Conservation Program (PIC)

The Partners in Conservation Program (PIC) was established to advance the mission of EMSWCD by leveraging District funds through conservation-related work that is carried out by other organizations. This program awards grants of up to \$100,000 to support conservation projects and conservation education in the District.

Eligible project types include:

- On the ground restoration or conservation
- Sustainable agriculture or gardening
- Pollution prevention
- Sustainable stormwater management
- Engineering of a conservation project
- Research/monitoring
- Education of youth and/or adults

PIC grant recipients may use funds for costs such as project management, transportation, supplies and materials, native plants and soil amendments, equipment, permit fees, and contracted services for conservation projects that address soil erosion prevention/control, soil quality, water quality, water conservation, watershed health or wildlife habitat.

PIC GRANTEE HIGHLIGHT: Portland Parks and Recreation-Greenspaces Restoration and Urban Naturalist Team (“GRUNT”)

Two PIC grants totaling \$51,706 were awarded to the City of Portland Parks and Recreation for their naturalist and job training program for teens – one in FY 2009-10 and one in FY 2010-11. The overarching goal of the GRUNT program is to diversify the environmental field by recruiting teens from schools in diverse neighborhoods, getting urban teens interested

Portland Parks and Recreation-Greenspaces Restoration and Urban Naturalist Team (“GRUNT”)



Top: GRUNT participants doing trail maintenance

Middle: Teens participating in an amphibian survey on Powell Butte

Bottom: Exploring water quality on a field trip to Reed College



in nature, and providing job skills and work experience. The GRUNT program is a free, volunteer-based naturalist and job skills training program for urban teens that combines an introduction to the outdoors with basic leadership skills. Teens engage in hands-on learning activities outdoors including: testing water quality; learning about the importance of native plants in the ecosystem; bird/amphibian/wildlife identification, habitat, tracking, migration; stewardship-removing invasives, and practicing 'leave no trace' principles. Teens also participate in paid internships and summer work in a variety of areas including: environmental education with Portland Parks Summer Nature Day Camp; invasive removal with the No Ivy League; and maintaining and building parks trails while learning about the impacts of erosion and off-trail travel.

Projects Funded Through PIC

In 2010-11, the PIC program awarded \$613,052 for the 28 projects listed below. These funds were matched by over \$4.3 million in cash and in-kind support through donations of supplies, services, materials and volunteer time.

- Urban League -Urban Harvest Garden: \$10,000
- Friends of Zenger Farm-Zenger Farm Shares & Community Garden: \$20,000
- Lower Columbian River Estuary Partnership-Oxbow Regional Park: \$25,078
- Columbia Slough Watershed Council-Children's Arboretum Restoration: \$10,000
- Corbett Elementary School-Outdoor Classroom & Natural Area: \$11,295
- Portland Parks & Rec-Greenspaces Restoration & Urban Naturalist Team: \$29,595
- Columbia Riverkeeper-Water Quality Monitoring: \$9,900
- City of Portland Environmental Services-Mt Tabor Invasive Plant Control: \$40,000
- Mt Hood Community College-Regional Watershed Crew & Mentorship: \$15,165
- Y Arts Center-Playground Garden and Stormwater Management: \$7,500
- SOLV-Team Up For Watershed Health (Baltimore Woods): \$10,476
- SE Uplift-Stormwater Retrofit: \$5,000
- Lower Columbia River Estuary Partnership-Oneonta Creek Restoration: \$48,319
- Delta Sigma Theta Sorority-June Key Delta Center Stormwater Management: \$10,000
- Metro-Sandy River Vegetation Restoration: \$84,404
- Johnson Creek Watershed Council-Tacoma Station Fish Habitat Design: \$58,574
- Exotic Species Control Project-Latourell Watershed English Ivy Control: \$18,486
- Willamette Riverkeeper-Ross Island Education & Restoration: \$12,705
- Immigrant & Refugee Community Organization-Gilbert Park Native Garden: \$6,193
- East Columbia NA-Blue Herons Wetland Restoration: \$16,990
- DEPAVE-DEPAVE Summer 2011: \$17,000
- City of Portland Environmental Services-Eastmoreland Culvert & Restoration: \$50,000
- Audubon Society-Backyard Habitat Certification Program: \$24,200
- Ecumenical Ministries of Portland-Cully Young Farmers Project: \$9,998
- Friends of Portland Community Gardens-Frazer Community Garden: \$15,000
- Friends of Portland Community Gardens-Sumner Community Garden: \$9,875
- Lent Elementary School-Springwater Corridor Ecology Project: \$26,600



Small Projects and Community Events Program (SPACE)

In addition to CLIP and the larger PIC grants, the SPACE program provides small grants of up to \$1,500 for conservation projects, conservation education, and community events that promote natural resource conservation benefiting citizens of the District. These grants have a short turnaround time (usually one month or less) and are intended to provide resources for events and projects with a small budget (total costs usually less than \$5,000).

Projects Funded Through SPACE

During 2010-2011, a total of \$26,889 was awarded to 21 projects.

- Oregon College of Art and Craft-Sustainable Rain Chains: \$1,500
- Oregon College of Art and Craft-Splash Blocks for Welcome the Rain: \$1,000
- Holy Cross Catholic School-Rain Garden: \$1,500
- St Johns Community Garden-Community Garden: \$1,500
- Columbia Slough Watershed Council-Restoration & Workforce Integration: \$1,500
- Columbia Slough Watershed Council-Fairview Creek Restoration: \$1,500
- Parkrose United Methodist Church-Community Garden Development: \$1,500
- Calvary Lutheran Church-Our Happy Block Watershed Restoration Project: \$1,500
- Sauvie Island Center-Farm-based Educational Fieldtrips: \$1,500
- North Willamette Research & Extension Center-Growing Farms Scholarships: \$1,500
- Duniway Elementary School-Kindergarten Shade Tree and Stormwater: \$1,460
- Corbett High School-Buck Creek Research: \$1,500
- City of Troutdale-Earth Day/Arbor Day Restoration: \$1,500
- Children's Clean Water Festival: \$1,500
- Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians-Native Memorial Garden: \$1,500
- Reynolds High School-Native Meadow Establishment: \$1,500
- Mill Park Elementary School-Outdoor Classroom & Garden: \$1,180
- Concordia Neighborhood Association-Meek Pro Tech High Tree Stewardship: \$748
- Piedmont Rose Connection-June Key Delta Community Garden: \$1,500
- E2 Foundation-Local/Sustainable/Organic Food at Outdoor School: \$1,500
- PDX 2 Gulf Coast-BP Oil Spill Education Tools: \$1,500



SPACE GRANTEE HIGHLIGHT: St Johns Community Garden-Community Garden Development

SPACE grant funds helped garden organizers and volunteers at the St. Johns Garden in North Portland continue to develop their community garden by building and installing an open fence to delineate the garden space and support vining plants and vegetables, adding several new garden plots in raised beds, purchasing fruit trees and berry bushes, and establishing a common area to grow squash, beans, and tomatoes. The garden serves low income neighbors in St. Johns. Volunteers started with an empty lot in 2009 and added 12 raised beds the first year. During the second year, with the aid of the SPACE grant, they were able to build on that momentum. Garden volunteers are becoming more involved and a relationship with the St. Johns Community Center was recently established to give the children at the community center two garden beds to tend during next season. Currently the garden feeds about 20 families.

District Led Project Funds

In addition to the grant programs described above, EMSWCD provides support to partner organizations in several additional ways. One is through allocation in the budget process of funds to be used at the Board's discretion to support projects in which the District is involved. In FY 2010-11 \$10,000 was committed to the Oregon Solutions process for Gateway Green to provide ongoing staffing by a facilitator to help ensure successful implementation of the Gateway Green Project. Gateway Green is an ambitious citizen-led effort involving many partners with the intent to convert an isolated parcel surrounded by highways and rail at the I-84/I205 interchange into a healthful outdoor recreation, habitat and open space asset to the surrounding communities.

St. Johns Community Garden Community Garden Development



Community volunteers help create the garden; fence is installed and beds are planted; the community garden is thriving.



Watershed Council Support

For the past four years the Board has voted unanimously to provide funding to support the conservation work, outreach and education, and general operations of watershed councils in the district. The District and the watershed councils work collaboratively to support watershed improvement activities throughout the district. During FY 2010-11 a total of \$75,000 was awarded to 3 watershed councils.

- Columbia Slough Watershed Council: \$25,000
- Johnson Creek Watershed Council: \$25,000
- Sandy River Basin Watershed Council: \$25,000

Funds provided by the District have enhanced the Councils' ability to do such things as:

- Riparian rehabilitation projects – treating invasive weeds and re-vegetating riparian areas
- Tabling at community events
- Volunteer recruitment and training
- Hold annual events and restoration work parties
- Develop and disseminate outreach and educational materials
- Leverage funds for other grants
- Help meet core administrative functions that support programmatic work

OWEB Small Grants Awarded through EMSWCD (OWEB funds)

The Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) is a state agency that provides grants to help Oregonians take care of local streams, rivers, wetlands and natural areas. The OWEB Small Grants Program awards funds of up to \$10,000 for on-the-ground restoration projects on principally private lands across Oregon. EMSWCD may serve as grantee/fiscal agent for projects funded through the OWEB Small Grants program.

The District participated on the Lower Willamette East Small Grants Team, which awarded \$100,000 in grant funds throughout the Lower Willamette Basin, but the District did not provide fiscal management for any OWEB Small Grants in FY 2010-11.

Land Conservation

EMSWCD completed its first land conservation project in FY 2009-10. We were able to leverage District funds over 2:1 to help acquire a parcel adjacent to the Nadaka nature park in Gresham. The landowner donated just over $\frac{1}{3}$ rd of the value of the property; Metro and EMSWCD split the remaining $\frac{2}{3}$ rds. The parcel has been conveyed to Gresham Parks and a master plan approved that emphasizes native plants, fruit trees, and community gardens. The project is in a low income area identified as lacking adequate access to parks and open space.

Our second land conservation project was initiated in FY 2010-11 with an offer made on an agricultural property in the Orient area. This land is under contract for purchase at the time of writing. Assuming remaining issues are settled satisfactorily, the farm will come in to District ownership in FY 2011-12. The pending purchase advances a number of the District's land conservation priorities, chiefly ensuring long



term protection of agricultural land for agricultural use while enhancing water quality and other natural resources.

We work with partners including the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Oregon Department of Agriculture, Clackamas County Soil and Water Conservation District, Metro, Columbia Land Trust, and the Trust for Public Land as part of the Farmland Protection Coalition (FPC). FPC members agree to common priorities and methods for working together and independently to protect working lands in the Metro region. We share expertise, information, and as appropriate, financial resources. As the District is new to this work and as working land conservation in the Metro area presents some unique challenges, participation in the FPC has been especially important to EMSWCD. We plan to continue this partnership going forward.

Conservation Technical Assistance Program

Julie DiLeone, CTA Program Manager

This program focuses on reaching private landowners to give them site-specific technical assistance about conservation practices that can help them protect natural resources – often while improving yields and operational efficiency. We focus on strategies and practices that both benefit the landowner and help improve water quality in our creeks, streams, and rivers.

Outreach Efforts

Ninety-two landowners attended on-site demonstrations of conservation practice installation and maintenance. Practices included installing erosion control measures, swales, fences, gutters, off-stream watering systems, native trees, shrubs, and cuttings. We partnered with the USDA-NRCS and neighboring SWCDs again this year on a booth at the NW Agricultural Show. The booth focused on attracting pollinators. We helped staff the USDA-NRCS booth at the Oregon Association of Nurseries' Far West Show, had our display at the Burns Feed Store customer appreciation day, and attended the Corbett Fun Festival.

We took the lead in developing a Rural Living Handbook for Multnomah County residents. This publication will be distributed through the County planning desk, to landowners and at district events. We also plan to partner with local realtors to help distribute the Handbook to new rural landowners. In partnership with Multnomah County staff, we developed The State of Beaver Creek fact sheet to give an overview of water quality issues, including the latest data, and to highlight the results of the OWEB funded fish survey conducted by Multnomah County during the summer of 2010.

The Lower Willamette Agricultural Water Quality Plan and Rules Biennial Review took place in May of 2011. EMSWCD staff helped coordinate the meeting, analyzed and presented our water quality data, and reported on the work of the 3 SWCDs in the Lower Willamette. The Biennial Review report is available on ODA's website at:

http://oregon.gov/ODA/NRD/docs/pdf/plans/lower_willamette_2011_progrpt.pdf.



StreamCare

This fiscal year, we continued to work our way downstream Johnson Creek and Beaver Creek. Landowners that agree to participate in StreamCare receive our commitment to controlling weeds, planting native trees and shrubs, and maintaining the area along the creek for free for five years. While our primary focus is on improving water quality, this work has a host of other benefits including potentially huge improvements to wildlife habitat.

We begin by sending a letter to eligible landowners, followed by a conversation over the phone or in person. Next our expert staff members evaluate the area along the creek, determine the weed control needs, and discuss the area we would recommend for planting. If a landowner agrees to participate, we obtain any necessary permits and supervise contracted crews to complete the work. Of the 123 landowners contacted this fiscal year, 24% enrolled.

StreamCare Totals for FY 2010-11

New Sites Planted Winter 2011	
# trees/shrubs planted	20,000+
Acreage planted	67
Stream miles	3.8
Maintenance of Previously Planted Sites	
Project area in acres	72
Stream miles	4.6

Technical Assistance and Implementation

The focus of our technical assistance is to help agricultural and other rural landowners improve their land in ways that also benefit water quality. Many landowners find it helpful to request a site visit to get site specific answers from our knowledgeable staff. We have seen what works and what doesn't work, which can help landowners get it done right the first time. General practice designs are available from our staff, and they can also customize a design to a particular situation. Two hundred and seventy-four site visits were conducted this fiscal year. Seventy-seven landowners implemented a total of eighty-seven conservation practices.

Summary of Implementation for FY 2010-11

Conservation Practices Installed	Area of Installation	Estimate of benefit
Farm Road Repair	1006 feet	3 ton reduction in soil erosion
Cover Crops and Conservation Cover	106 acres	844 ton reduction in soil erosion
Grassed Waterway	260 feet	1 ton reduction in soil erosion
Heavy Use Area	7720 sq ft	1 ton reduction in soil erosion
Roof Runoff Management	590 feet	3 ton reduction in soil erosion
Tree/shrub Establishment	77 acres	28732 trees (includes StreamCare)
Use Exclusion (Fence)	690 feet	690 feet stream bank protected
Water & sediment control basin	780 sq ft	39 tons of soil contained
Watering facility	5 troughs	reduced stream bank erosion
Weed control	499 acres	499 acres of weeds removed/killed
critical area planting	5280 sq ft	14 ton reduction in soil erosion
Composting facility	576 sq ft	90 tons less manure exposed to run off
Mulching	0.58 acres	5 ton reduction in soil erosion
Pasture & Hay Planting	9 acres	18 ton reduction in soil erosion
Surface Drainage	1330 feet	6 ton reduction in soil erosion



Combating Invasive Weeds

Knotweed

Prior to beginning our knotweed survey and control efforts in the Beaver Creek watershed, knotweed could be seen from nearby roadways in numerous places throughout the watershed. In the Latourell Creek watershed, landowners alerted us to the presence of knotweed and surveys identified four patches. After three years of control work in Beaver Creek and two in Latourell Creek, surveys during the summer of 2010 found no new infestations. There was a small amount of re-growth on previously treated sites. We hope this trend continues!

Garlic mustard

We continue to partner with Multnomah County, Oregon State Parks, The Nature Conservancy, Oregon Department of Agriculture, Oregon Department of Transportation, and the US Forest Service to map and control garlic mustard infestations. We focus our control efforts on the outer edge of the infested area, with the goal of containing garlic mustard and protecting the Mt. Hood National Forest from infestation. Results from the 2011 field season continue to suggest that our goal of containing garlic mustard is proving successful. Garlic mustard is rarely found in new locations outside of the established containment zone and our objective of annually eliminating all known reproductive plants outside of the containment zone is being achieved. Also, with the exception of the Sandy River between Dabney State Park and Camp Angelos, where garlic mustard had already moved throughout large tracts of forested floodplains and uplands, our work has prevented garlic mustard from moving from the roadside onto adjacent properties. For private landowners within the heavily infested area, we provide a dumpster in Corbett to make it easier to dispose of bags of pulled garlic mustard, and offer control assistance for infestation near the outer edge. Although the center of the infestation continues to be a control challenge, our work has prevented further spread of garlic mustard along roads and trails in the Columbia River Gorge while beginning to reduce size of the remaining patches.

Clematis vitalba

As our staff inventoried public and private lands in the Columbia Gorge, they noticed that a new vine was climbing and suffocating trees. This vine had not yet infested as many acres as English ivy has, but it was starting to look like it had the potential to do so. It also appears to have the potential to encapsulate a tree much faster than English ivy does. Known by the common names old man’s beard or traveler’s joy, *Clematis vitalba* needed our attention. Many landowners had begun to notice this vine climbing their trees, and they were grateful for assistance with control. Our staff did not let the large number of landowners or the steep slopes deter them. They surveyed a very large area and oversaw contracted crews to free the trees.

Clematis vitalba totals for 2010-11	
Number of landowners contacted	228
Area inventoried	1508 acres
Area controlled	179 acres



Clematis vines smothering trees in the Gorge

Early Detection, Rapid Response

To prevent the spread of new invasive weeds, we partnered with West Multnomah SWCD, City of Portland, and The Nature Conservancy to develop an Early Detection Rapid



Response (EDRR) network. We have begun training our peers and citizens that frequent natural areas to identify weeds that are problems in similar areas but are not known to be present here in great numbers or at all. Training includes a workshop with as many live specimens as possible, and each attendee leaves with a field guide. Once a new weed is reported, we quickly contact the landowner, verify the identification of the plant, and offer control services. EDRR networks have been demonstrated to reduce weed control costs, since it is less expensive to control a small, new infestation. EDRR reports have led to our efforts to control false brome, purple loosestrife, and spurge laurel. Please visit our web page to help us watch for these weeds: <http://www.emswcd.org/weeds/weeds-we-want-you-to-tell-us-about-edrr>.

Sustainable Urban Landscapes

Kathy Shearin, SUL Program Manager

The SUL program's purpose is to foster a stewardship ethic in the urban landscape by encouraging an urban lifestyle that folds pollution prevention and resource conservation into everyday life.

We seek to show the several hundred thousand urban dwellers within our District that individuals can make a difference and to introduce them to the benefits of sustainable gardening practices. We work at the neighborhood level to give them the information, skills, and confidence needed to take action. To do this we have created information-sharing events, workshops and presentations, educational posters and brochures, and an annual bare-root native plant sale that we hope will be the extra push that helps each citizen make healthier, more-informed choices for their families and our watersheds. We've also installed a number of sustainable gardening demonstrations here at our office and offer a free garden tour that further allow people to see and get ideas for their own gardens.

We currently contract with landscape designers and professionals to assist us in presenting our naturescaping and rain garden workshops. In addition to workshops, the Naturescaping program also gave presentations to a number of local groups, clubs, and professional organizations last year. Our staff set up displays at local information fairs and other events, where we offer advice in the areas of landscaping, gardening, invasive species management, conservation, and environmental protection. As a result of these efforts, we reached thousands of individuals last year with the sustainable landscaping message.

Workshops and Presentations

Short 1-2 hour Educational Presentations

Introduction to Rain Gardens

This presentation gives a one-hour overview of rain gardens and the role they play in sustainable stormwater management and restoration of the pre-development hydrology. Participants are introduced to the steps they need to take to assess their site and then design and build a rain garden. Most people will probably want to take the full Rain Gardens 101 before they actually build a rain garden on their property.



Introduction to Naturescaping

This one-hour presentation introduces participants to the concept of Naturescaping and sustainable landscapes through a series of pictures and a discussion about water conservation and pollution prevention.

Native Plants

These two-hour presentations are meant as a primer to our annual native plant sale. They introduce attendees to all of the plants that we will offer during the sale and talk about the micro-climates in which they are best suited.

Weeds

This one- to two-hour presentation show attendees some of the more common weeds of the area and some of the up and coming that they should be watching out for. We walk them through the ways that each plant spreads and through non-chemical methods of controlling them in our back yards.

Naturescaping Workshops

The naturescaping workshop curriculum consists of a series of three free workshops meant to be taken in succession.

Naturescaping Basics

In this first workshop we introduce attendees to the concept of naturescaping and its benefits to people and the environment. We take a short tour of a naturescaped yard or natural area, show a slide show of some of the Northwest's more popular native plants and start them on the basics of sustainable landscape design. We send folks home with a free workbook and native plant to help get them started.

Site Planning

The next workshop, Site Planning, is where we delve more deeply into the design process, walk through some hands on activities, and facilitate a creative design "dreaming" session.

Site Planning Feedback Session

The third and final in the naturescaping workshop series is the Site Planning Feedback Session. These are smaller, more intimate workshops where participants can bring in their own draft landscape design and get feedback from professional landscape designers.

Rain Garden Workshops

Rain Gardens 101

We have developed a rain garden class curriculum to teach homeowners how to manage the stormwater runoff from their roofs, driveways, and other impervious surfaces on their property.

During the three hour class people learn:

- How rain gardens improve urban watershed hydrology
- How to do a site assessment to determine where to safely install a rain garden
- Impervious surface calculation and rain garden sizing
- Plant selection
- Rain garden construction and maintenance



Rain Garden 201 – Feedback Session

New this year! Similar to the Naturescaping Site Planning Feedback Session, this 2hr long, small group session allows individuals to come back and get more in-depth questions answered. This shorter, more intimate workshop is geared towards folks that have begun to install or are about ready to install, but have run into complications or questions along the way. We want our region’s rain gardens to function properly, so we offer this workshop to allow folks to get their questions answered and to learn from each other’s mistakes, complications, and success.

Rain Garden Training for Landscape Professionals

EMSWCD partnered with OSU Extension and Green Girl Land Development Solutions to provide an in-depth training for landscape professionals. Response was so positive that we had fourteen people on the waiting list. Teaching a class on rain gardens to this audience was identified as a high leverage goal for our organization because landscape contractors have the ability to promote rain gardens to their clients as part of their standard business practice. This workshop not only introduced stormwater management and rain gardens as a sustainable stormwater tool, but participants also had the opportunity to design a rain garden project with other participants in the class.

Topics covered in the class include:

- Introduction to stormwater issues
- Outdoor site assessment exercise
- Rain garden construction
- Plants, invasives, maintenance
- Group work to design rain gardens
- Group presentations
- Sustainable landscape materials

We also received feedback from workshop participants that they would be very interested in taking an advanced rain garden class where they could learn about the challenges that are involved in rain garden design and construction. We are taking that feedback and working to develop an advanced rain garden class.

Rain Garden Volunteers Training

We held a Rain Garden Volunteer Training during fall 2010 as a way to encourage volunteers in the community to become “rain garden ambassadors” and promote rain gardens in their neighborhoods. Twenty-four people participated in the eight hour training followed up by a four hour rain garden installation a week later. The rain garden volunteers then “pay back” for their training by investing ten volunteer hours leading a rain garden project, organizing a rain garden class, taking additional watershed training, etc. Throughout the year, three Rain Garden Volunteer events were held to gather volunteers together and provide support to them as they develop their projects.



This program was implemented in partnership with Portland’s Bureau of Environmental Services and Colonial Presbyterian Church, the site of the class and installations, with funding from Portland’s Community Watershed Stewardship grant program.

Rain Garden at Work Signs

In addition to our rain garden classes, we have created a way for a homeowner to communicate to their neighbors and community what they are doing for clean water in the region. Our Rain Garden Registration allows people to register their rain garden on our web site. After they register we send them a rain garden sign they can install in their rain garden. This helps promote rain gardens in the surrounding neighborhood; people walking by have the opportunity to see a rain garden in action, and the sign directs them to our web site for more information. Additionally, this registry also helps us start to know how many hard-working rain gardens there are out there.



District Annual Events

Annual Native Plant Sale

It’s hard to find something more satisfying than getting over 14,000 native plants out and into the ground. Each of these plants helps to retain stormwater on properties, contributes to wildlife habitat, and reduces soil erosion, water consumption, and use of chemicals region-wide. What a feeling! Our online ordering system consists of a plant database that allows users to select plants that are specifically appropriate to their site conditions and needs, making it easy to choose the right plant for the right spot. We hold the sale in February under tents on our pervious parking lot. EMSWCD even provides customers with free compost to heel-in their new bare-root plants and has informational displays where staff is available to answer questions at all times.

Event Attendance FY 2010-11

Presentation/Workshop/Event	# Held	# Attendees
Introduction to Naturescaping (45 Min)	8	145
Introduction to Rain Gardens	7	136
Native Plants (2 hrs)	3	93
Weeds	1	11
Naturescaping Basics Workshops (4 hrs)	18	340
Naturescaping Site Planning Workshops (4 hrs)	4	75
Site Planning Feedback Sessions (2 hrs)	2	16
Rain Gardens 101	13	234
Rain Gardens for Professionals	2	47
Rain Garden 201 – Feedback Session	1	5
Rain Gardens Volunteers training	1	24
Naturescaped Yard Tour (4 gardens)	1	401
Welcome the Rain Event	1	300
EMSWCD Native Plant Sale	1	489
Information table at partner events	15	40,367



Naturescaping for Backyard Habitat Tour

For the second year in a row we were excited to partner with the Backyard Habitat Certification program to put on the Naturescaping for Backyard Habitat tour. This year, six yards were selected for the tour that had either Gold or Platinum Backyard Habitat Certification. Yard hosts graciously opened their yards to discuss the tips and tricks they've learned throughout their process. This year over 400 people attended this popular tour.



"I think naturescaping is a wonderful way to go. I feel I am enhancing my neighborhood as well as doing the creatures a favor, and the environment in general, by giving the earth what it most dearly needs - plants that complement it, rather than deplete its resources. That, for me, is the reward." —Carol Meckes

Welcome the Rain! Event

Welcome the Rain! is a fall event that celebrates our rainy season as well as a family-friendly "solutions fair" showing ways to solve some of the challenges stormwater brings to the urban environment. It is geared to address to the public's growing desire for more information on the topics of downspout disconnection, green streets, and urban stormwater. This year's event was held at Atkinson Elementary School and had an estimated 300+ attendees. It included workshops, information tables, complimentary child care, and music.



Partnerships

Oregon Rain Garden Guide

As one result of a long-standing successful partnership with OSU Extension, the Oregon Rain Garden Guide was published in January 2010. This publication received the 2010 Association of Natural Resource Extension Professionals (ANREP) SILVER award in the "Long Publication" category and is widely utilized not only by EMSWCD but by OSU and several other partner organizations.

Partnership to Develop Regional Guidance on Swale and Rain Garden Maintenance

EMSWCD is participating in an effort to develop regional guidance on best practices for maintaining rain gardens, swales, and stormwater planters. We will be developing a training manual and will be providing a training session at the Oregon Landscape Contractors Association conference in December, 2011. This effort is critical to ensure that private landscape contractors and operations & maintenance staff with local governments have the information they need to maintain stormwater facilities. Primary



partners include Metro, OSU Sea Grant, City of Portland, Clackamas County Water Environment Services, and representatives of the landscape and engineering business community.

Demonstration Projects at our Office Building

Conservation Corner 5211 North Williams Avenue, Portland, Oregon 97217

We here at EMSWCD know that we cannot replicate the natural hydrologic cycle that would have existed in a forested condition on our property before European settlement; however, we are making an effort to help mitigate the fact that we live and work in inherently impervious structures. We are doing this by implementing several innovative sustainable stormwater projects to showcase new and creative ways to manage our stormwater on-site. With all of our demonstrations and a new green street installed by the City of Portland this past year we are about as close to a one-stop shop for sustainable stormwater tours as could be hoped for – come see for yourself!

Gutter Tree

We have completed our “Bucket Brigade Downspout Planter/Gutter Tree” which was designed by internationally renowned artist Buster Simpson (<http://www.bustersimpson.net>) and Portland designer Peg Butler to create a “gutter tree” on our building. The purpose of a gutter tree, besides adding artistic beauty to the building, is to slow down the flow of water from the roof top. This slowing allows the water-loving native plants to absorb some of this moisture before it flows down and into a rain garden below it. There it will nourish the plants in the garden rather than flowing off the property and making its way to the street and eventually to the storm drain.



Stormwater Planter

Also installed on-site is a stormwater planter demonstration. A stormwater planter is an easy and attractive way to manage and filter some of the rainwater coming off a roof or other impervious surface. Rushes and sedges and other water-loving natives absorb a lot of the water. What they don't absorb is filtered through a layer of mulch, soil, and sand before it overflows onto your lawn, or in this case, under our pervious sidewalk and into a rain garden.



Pervious Pavement

The use of pervious pavement allows us to provide parking to staff and visitors while still allowing rainfall to soak into the ground naturally to recharge groundwater. Thanks in part to a grant from Metro Capital grants, we used pervious concrete for the driveway and pervious pavers for the parking stalls. The goal was to provide a demonstration of these



two pervious pavement systems such that homeowners, businesses, and local government could see them in action.

Ecoroof

An ecoroof is a lightweight, vegetated roof system used in place of a conventional roof. Ecoroofs are typically made of a waterproof membrane, drainage material, a lightweight layer of soil, and a cover of plants. An ecoroof can capture and retain 60% of the annual precipitation that falls on it and can outlast conventional roofs by twenty years or more. An ecoroof also filters air pollutants; reduces urban heat island effect; increases wildlife habitat and urban green space; insulates the building and lowers heating and cooling costs; and is visually attractive. We finished the installation of the ecoroof that adorns the front of our building with help from a grant from the City of Portland to help complete the project. The sedum is now beginning to cover over the jute netting (which will degrade over time) used to stabilize the sedum cuttings and soil while the plant roots develop.



Rain Gardens/Vegetative Bioretention Facilities

A rain garden is a sunken garden bed where you can direct runoff from your roof, driveway, and other impervious surfaces. They are an easy, low cost way to handle your stormwater and bring some more beauty into your landscape. Rain water that runs off our building is being absorbed by three rain gardens that have been installed as part of our landscaping. Very rarely, and only during the area's very largest storms, will stormwater ever overflow into Portland's combined sewer system.



Composting Toilet

Toilet flushes are responsible for twenty-six percent of water use in residential homes. A composting toilet is another way for us to demonstrate in our offices some of the most cutting edge water saving technologies on the market today. Combine this with the fact that we are diverting sewage from the over-burdened combined sewer/stormwater pipes and from the wastewater treatment facility, and this is one great solution for reducing our region's sewage overflows into the Willamette.

Because many people have difficulty imagining a composting toilet as a realistic option in their home, we have the opportunity to showcase the technology in our office building. People attending workshops, our annual plant sale, or simply taking a tour of the building are able to experience how a composting toilet meets the aesthetic requirements people expect from a traditional water-flush toilet. We successfully installed our composting toilet during the summer of 2009, and it was the first composting toilet installed in a commercial building in Portland. This is one of the several ways we are saving our precious drinking water resources.



Partnerships

Oregon Rain Garden Guide

After several years of hard work, the Oregon Rain Garden Guide was published in January 2010. The guide is now handed out to all workshop participants who take our Rain Gardens 101 workshop. This document is a comprehensive guidebook that walks a person through the steps involved with installing a rain garden, from selecting your site and determining the appropriate size to choosing plants and maintaining it. Authors of the publication, Derek Godwin and Rob Emanuel of OSU Extension and EMSWCD's Stormwater Specialist, Candace Stoughton, received the 2010 Association of Natural Resource Extension Professionals (ANREP) SILVER award in the "Long Publication" category.

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Backyard Habitat Program

For the past two years EMSWCD has partnered with the Backyard Habitat Certification Program to put on the Naturescaping for Backyard Habitats tour. This is a very popular yard tour that allows attendees to see naturescaping in progress and talk with the homeowners about their experience. Only yards that have gold or platinum Backyard Habitat Certification are selected for the tour.

Rain Garden Training for Landscape Professionals

EMSWCD partnered with OSU Extension and Green Girl Land Development Solutions to provide an in-depth training for landscape professionals.

Rain Garden Volunteers Training

This program was implemented in partnership with Portland's Bureau of Environmental Services and Colonial Presbyterian Church, the site of the class and installations, with funding from Portland's Community Watershed Stewardship grant program.

Cooperative Weed Management Area

The Sustainable Urban Landscapes program participates in the 4-county Cooperative Weed Management Area group. The 4-County CWMA is a partnership of organizations throughout SW Washington and NW Oregon dedicated to combating invasive weeds for the benefit of native habitat. The group shares information, creates outreach materials, and attends outreach events, all aimed at raising awareness around invasive plant species.



In Closing

Our work continues and we very much welcome your participation! Board meetings are open to the public, and you are most welcome to attend. Check our website www.emswcd.org or call 503-222-7645 to find out when the next meeting will be. If you haven't already, visit our website and sign up for a free naturescaping, rain garden, or native plant class, attend one of our events, or simply stop by if you are in the neighborhood and take a look at our many demonstrations on-site!

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The East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District (EMSWCD) prohibits discrimination in all of its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisals, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program.

