



CITY OF
PORTLAND, OREGON

Dan Saltzman, Commissioner
1221 SW Fourth Ave., Room 230
Portland, Oregon 97204
(503) 823-4151
Fax: (503) 823-3036
dsaltzman@ci.portland.or.us

October 20, 2010

MEMO TO: Mayor Adams
Commissioner Amanda Fritz
Commissioner Nick Fish
Commissioner Randy Leonard

FROM: Dan Saltzman 

SUBJECT: Report to Council on Grey to Green Initiative

On November 3rd Environmental Services staff will present a status report to the City Council on the progress of the Grey to Green Initiative. The Grey to Green Initiative began in fiscal year 2008/09. The Bureau and our partners are approximately half way through the five-year timeframe of the initiative. The planned total investment is \$55 million over the five-year period to achieve some specific targets:

- 43 acres of new eco-roofs
- 83,000 new street and yard trees
- 920 new green street facilities
- 800 acres of treatment for new invasive species
- 419 acres of natural area acquired
- 350 acres of re-vegetation
- 8 culverts removed or reconstructed to enhance fish passage

Environmental Services staff will present an update to Council on this program. We have invited a panel of our key stakeholders to attend and speak with Council at the conclusion of our presentation.

working green for clean rivers

GREY to GREEN

UPDATE

August
2010

working for
clean rivers,
healthy
watersheds,
and a livable,
sustainable
community

Portland's Grey to Green initiative expands the city's green infrastructure to sustainably manage stormwater runoff, stop the spread of invasive plants, restore native vegetation, protect sensitive natural areas, and replace culverts that impede fish passage. Grey to Green investments improve water quality, air quality, wildlife habitat, and neighborhood livability. They also provide safer routes to schools, and help us adapt to a changing climate.

The city began funding the initiative on July 1, 2008, with a 5-year planned investment of \$55 million. New public and private partnerships help achieve Grey to Green goals.

Grey to Green is beginning the third year of implementation. Here's a summary of the progress from the first two fiscal years, by program area:

Ecoroofs

Five-year goal: 43 acres of new ecoroof

- Successful outreach and education efforts are building the local ecoroof industry supply and demand
- 4.7 acres of roof completed; 4.9 more acres in design or construction
- 46 of the 87 completed roofs have utilized the Ecoroof Incentive (\$225,585 in incentive, \$1 million more allocated)
- New ecoroof construction contractor Request For Proposals weighted diversity score very high to bolster industry participation

Yard and Street Trees

Five-year goal: 33,000 new yard trees and 50,000 new street trees

- 8,487 yard trees planted (5,487 through Grey to Green efforts)
- 8,909 street trees planted (5,909 through Grey to Green efforts)
- Key partners include Friends of Trees, Verde, Portland Parks & Recreation
- Treebate incentive for homeowners to plant yard trees exceeded expectations (1,100 trees planted in first season)

Land Acquisition

Five-year goal: 419 acres purchased for protection

- 67 acres purchased; more negotiations and ongoing investigation underway
- Partnerships with Portland Parks & Recreation, Metro, Trust for Public Land, and Three Rivers Land Conservancy
- Streamlined acquisition process with City Council



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Revegetation

Five-year goal: 350 new acres of revegetation initiated; 175,000 natural area trees planted

- Restoration work has been initiated on more than 1,300 new acres, including ivy removed from trees on more than 1,000 acres in Forest Park to protect the existing forest canopy
- Nearly 70,000 tree seedlings have been planted in natural areas

Green Streets

Five-year goal: 920 new green street facilities

- 325 green street facilities constructed with more underway; on track to exceed goal
- Strong foundation built for tracking assets as part of Environmental Services work to incorporate green infrastructure into the asset management portfolio
- Launched the Community Green Street Stewardship pilot program

Control Invasive Plants

Five-year goal: 800 acres of new Early Detection Rapid Response (EDRR) treatment plus ongoing management

- Invasive Plant Management Strategy and code changes adopted
- Priority invasive plant species treated on more than 500 acres of rights-of-way and private property through EDRR program
- Invasive plants treated on 1,363 acres of Portland Parks & Recreation property through Protect the Best, with ongoing treatment on hundreds of additional acres
- 64 youth employed through Youth Corps to assist with effort

Replace Culverts

Five-year goal: 8 culverts in Crystal Springs Creek removed or redesigned

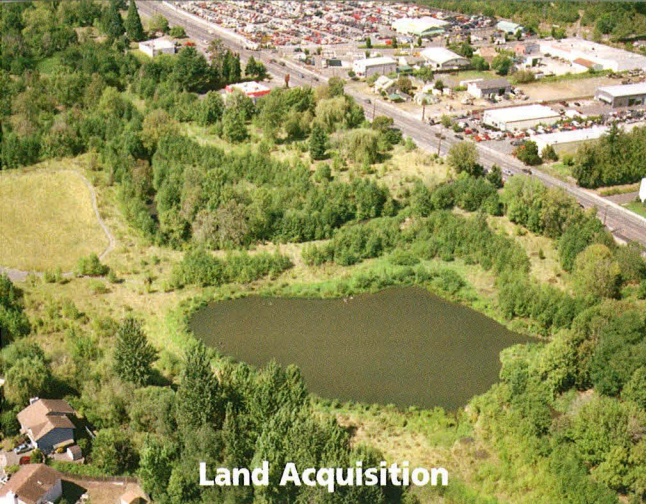
- Design completed for 4 culverts; construction started on one at Reed College
- Leveraging other efforts to create a holistic watershed restoration project, including using other Grey to Green funds for green streets and land acquisition in the Crystal Springs watershed
- Coordinating partnerships with many organizations and agencies

Ecosystem Services

Environmental Services convened a group of experts in 2009 to evaluate and quantify the health, energy, and community livability benefits of Grey to Green investments. In February 2010, the group issued the report *Portland's Green Infrastructure: Quantifying the Health, Energy and Community Livability Benefits*.

For more information

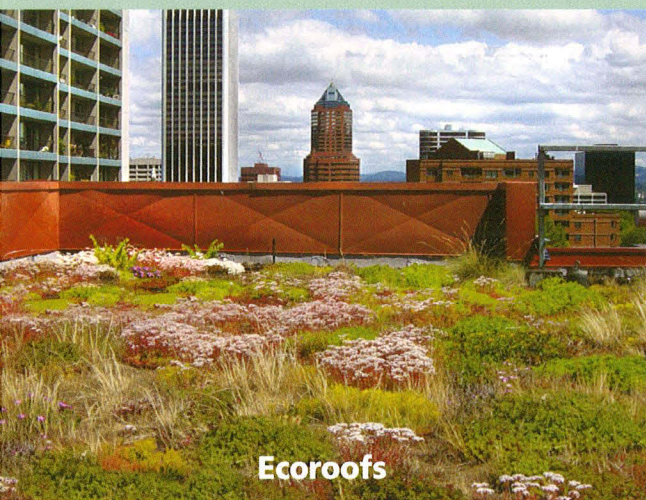
Contact Daniela Cargill at 503-823-7226 or danielac@bes.ci.portland.or.us.
www.portlandonline.com/bes/greytogreen



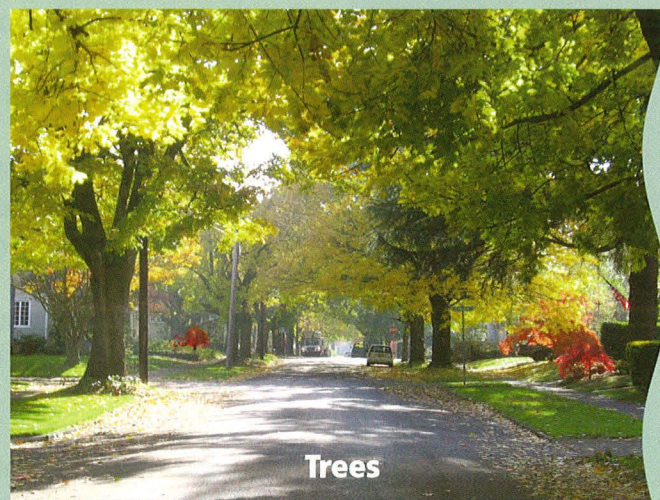
Land Acquisition



Green Streets



Ecoroofs



Trees



Revegetation



Invasive Removal



Culvert Replacement

GREY to GREEN

*going green
for clean rivers*

The City of Portland started the Grey to Green initiative in 2008 to expand stormwater management techniques that mimic natural systems, protect and restore natural areas, and improve watershed health. These investments in green infrastructure improve the quality of our neighborhoods, rivers and streams, and help us adapt to a changing climate.

Environmental Services
City of Portland

Dan Saltzman, Commissioner
Dean Marriott, Director

503-823-7740

www.portlandonline.com/bes

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working for clean rivers

The Grey to Green initiative partners with Portland residents, community organizations, and businesses in actions that build our civic infrastructure while we green our city. Here's how the pieces fit together:

Grey to Green Infrastructure



- 1 Land Acquisition** - Public ownership of natural areas protects them from development and allows restoration of sensitive habitat, especially around the headwaters of streams and riparian areas along streambanks. Healthy natural areas provide places for wildlife to live in the city, protect rivers and streams and prevent flooding, erosion and landslides.
- 2 Green Streets** - Green street facilities manage stormwater runoff naturally, allowing water to soak back into the ground and keeping pollutants out of rivers and streams. This is more cost-effective than piping stormwater to a treatment plant. Green streets recharge groundwater to supply cool, clean water to rivers and streams. They also add natural beauty to neighborhoods and can help calm traffic.
- 3 Ecoroofs** - Ecoroofs manage stormwater on-site before it flows over streets and washes pollutants into streams or the sewer system. Ecoroofs are living, breathing, sustainable alternatives to conventional roofs. They improve air quality, provide habitat for pollinating insects and birds, save energy, reduce the urban heat island effect and provide more neighborhood green spaces.
- 4 Street and Yard Trees** - Trees hold runoff to reduce stormwater runoff, as well as filtering air pollutants and providing bird habitat. Trees stabilize the soil to prevent erosion, provide shade and absorb carbon to reduce the greenhouse gases that contribute to climate change. Trees improve property values, and street trees can slow traffic, making streets safer for pedestrians, bike riders and motorists.
- 5 Replacing Culverts** - Many old culverts under roads don't allow migrating fish to pass through, and can cause flooding and erosion during heavy rains. Replacing them with culverts designed to allow fish to pass through makes more habitat accessible to native fish like coho salmon. It also restores a more natural stream flow that helps the ecosystem and protects property.
- 6 Revegetation** - Restoring native plants and trees in natural areas and open spaces provides healthy habitat and better water filtration. Revegetation makes urban forests more fire-resistant and better able to adapt to climate changes. Regular natural area maintenance costs less than restoring degraded land, and creates healthy natural areas for future generations.
- 7 Invasive Weed Control** - Early detection and removal of new invasive plant species prevents major infestations in Portland. Education and outreach limits the introduction of new invasive species that threaten our native ecosystem. Ongoing maintenance keeps parks, yards, forests and streambanks healthy.

Agenda No.
REPORT NO.
 Title

Report to Council on Grey to Green update. (Report)

<p>INTRODUCED BY Commissioner/Auditor: Saltzman</p>	CLERK USE: DATE FILED <u>OCT 29 2010</u>
<p>COMMISSIONER APPROVAL</p> <p>Mayor—Finance and Administration - Adams</p> <p>Position 1/Utilities - Fritz</p> <p>Position 2/Works - Fish</p> <p>Position 3/Affairs - Saltzman <i>Don Saltzman</i></p> <p>Position 4/Safety - Leonard</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">LaVonne Griffin-Valade Auditor of the City of Portland</p> <p>By: <u><i>LaVonne</i></u> Deputy</p> <p>ACTION TAKEN:</p> <p style="font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;">NOV 03 2010 ACCEPTED</p>
<p>BUREAU APPROVAL</p> <p>Bureau: Bureau Head:</p>	
<p>Prepared by: Grumm Date Prepared: 10/21/10</p>	
<p>Financial Impact Statement</p> <p>Completed <input type="checkbox"/> Amends Budget <input type="checkbox"/> Not Required <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	
<p>Council Meeting Date 10/03/10</p>	
<p>City Attorney Approval</p>	

AGENDA
<p>TIME CERTAIN <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Start time: 9:30</p> <p>Total amount of time needed: 30 (for presentation, testimony and discussion)</p>
<p>CONSENT <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>REGULAR <input type="checkbox"/> Total amount of time needed: _____ (for presentation, testimony and discussion)</p>

FOUR-FIFTHS AGENDA	COMMISSIONERS VOTED AS FOLLOWS:		
		YEAS	NAYS
1. Fritz	1. Fritz	✓	
2. Fish	2. Fish	✓	
3. Saltzman	3. Saltzman	✓	
4. Leonard	4. Leonard	✓	
Adams	Adams	✓	