Clean Water Services proudly dedicated its Field Operations Facility at 2025 SW Merlo Court in Beaverton, Oregon in the fall of 2003. Special design features and careful construction methods were used to protect local streams and the nearby Nature Park. The facility is a showcase and model for those wishing to protect the environment while building the community.

A Model for Protecting Water Quality
Natural land absorbs rainfall. But, buildings and pavement create unnatural runoff that increases water pollution, temperature and erosion. To solve these problems, thoughtful design can mimic nature to create pavement and buildings that absorb water.

The facility and parking lots were designed to manage surface water on-site. Instead of drainage pipes and catch basins that would carry water away, plantings and porous “softscaping” allow rain to soak into the ground and filter through vegetation. Runoff is reduced and slowed while water quality flowing to the creeks is improved.

We Walk Our Talk
Naturally, when Clean Water Services needed to build a new Field Operations Facility with lots of pavement and roof area, we went for an innovative design that would protect water quality. Innovations include:

**Ecoroof**
Soil and plants on the roof absorb rainfall and insulate the building.

**Porous Pavement**
Allows rain to soak into the ground and stay cool.

**Green Street**
Gently sloped swales replace curbs and gutters to slow water and remove pollutants.
Water Quality Protection Forevermore

Many elements of the facility design will protect water quality for many years to come, including an ecoroof on the administration building, swale systems instead of drainage pipes and catch basins, and an oversized water quality treatment facility that was graded to natural contours. Other enduring features include the green street with swale and no curbs, porous concrete in the employee parking lot, porous paving blocks in the visitor parking area, and reinforced gravel. Runoff from the traditional roof goes to scupper gardens and is filtered through plants.

Precious Resources Protected

Just downstream from the new facility is a precious natural resource, the THPRD Nature Park. The wildlife, native plants, creeks and wetlands benefit because typical construction soil and pollutants were kept out of the waterways. The environmentally-friendly buildings and parking will protect the watershed always.

More Benefits

On site surface water management improves habitat for urban wildlife and is more pleasing to view. It’s good for the bottom line, reducing the costs of heating and cooling. And, less landscape maintenance and water is needed. These are all benefits with economic, environmental and social values.