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Stewardship with Paid Work

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

businesses and introduced by Portland City Commissioner Mingus Mapps.

The work included tree and shrub plantings at the east end of the Morrison Bridge. Long term, even more projects would get support under the mayor's proposed budget which calls for \$5.7 million for city-wide clean-up, graffiti removal, and a program to provide cleanup jobs for homeless people.

The program aims to create a healthier green space to benefit the community and Willamette River while offering paid stewardship and skill-building opportunities for people who are unhoused.

Currently, because of camping that compacts the soil and trash

dumping, the bioswales aren't able to perform the function they were created for. The program promotes environmental stewardship, leading to better functioning bioswales and, as a result, a healthier Willamette river. "This tree planting and the long term program behind it brings people together to creating lasting relationships, lasting opportunity, and lasting stewardship," said Commissioner Mapps, who oversees the Bureau of Environmental Services. "Together, government, business, and people who are unhoused are repairing our infrastructure and repairing our community ties."

"Central Eastside Together, our Enhanced Service District, is focused on providing innovative, solutions oriented and trauma-informed programs that benefit all res-

idents and businesses in the Central Eastside Industrial District," says Kate Merrill, executive director of the district, which oversees Central Eastside Together.

The Central Eastside Bioswale Program provides low-barrier workforce development opportunities to the most vulnerable in our community, co-creating solutions to the challenges the region faces.

In partnership with the Ground Score Association, a peer-led initiative of Trash for Peace, stewards are paid \$20 and coordinators \$25 per hour, while also connected to ongoing job opportunities, officials said.

Central Eastside Industrial Council has a two-year commitment to fund this program and is also seeking in-kind support from local businesses.

The Bureau of Environmental Services - the City's stormwater and sewer utility - is supplying the trees, materials, and staff for the tree planting and has committed to provide support in navigating City and County requirements as well as education for program participants.

Looking ahead, the Central Eastside Together Bioswale Program has the goal of being a sustainable model for outreach and stewardship to support the cleaning, maintenance, and design of green infrastructure, official said.



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