## **Small Business Success**



# **Trenching Made Easy**

#### **Background:**

Northwest Infrastructure (NWI), a certified **minority owned business**, was founded in 1997 by Michael Martin with little experience and no equipment. The goal: generate enough revenue to survive by providing the best service possible. NWI has built up a broad base of clients in both the public and private sectors by taking on a variety of projects. The company has employed its experience in both sectors to maintain a steady growth. "We have managed to grow stronger as a function of our diversity, and our balance between public and private work has enabled that growth," said Michael. "Our continued diversification has brought about further client and subcontractor relationships, and we have seen increases in repeat business as these relationships are strengthened."

With the impact of events to the vitality of the commercial market, NWI has also been able to grow its presence in the commercial public markets. New areas of business have been identified, including public housing projects such as the New Columbia, Miracles Club, and Blanchet House. "We are pleased with our ability to respond to the changing market and the owner's needs."

NWI is one of the region's fastest growing minority owned small business excavation companies. Through strong leadership, a knowledgeable and diverse workforce, and determination to overdeliver, NWI has built a reputation as a true service provider to clients throughout the Portland Metropolitan area. With an impeccable safety record, you can be confident in knowing that NWI is safe, qualified and able to get the job done on time and on budget. Specializing in commercial projects, Northwest Infrastructure has the expertise, experience and equipment to complete the job right.

#### How the Edith Green-Wendell Wyatt Project Helped:

Because Edith Green Wendell Wyatt (EGWW) is an existing building, most would assume that very little (if any) excavation would be required for the renovation. In truth, there was a significant amount of underground piping for new plumbing that had to be trenched by a qualified excavator. Therefore McKinstry reached out to a handful of excavators to bid the work, and NW Infrastructures was awarded the job. NW Infrastructure gained experience working in a very busy downtown project site. Although NWI did not add any new employees for this project, the job at EGWW kept the NWI crew busy during what would have been down time between projects.

#### The Results:

NWI took on the responsibility of planning and executing the task of excavating soil and concrete from the second level basement of EGWW, successfully excavating all trenching required for the underground plumbing on EGWW, all while maintaining a safe environment for themselves and others on the job. Navigating equipment and material through narrow hallways over open trenches is a dangerous and difficult task. NWI stood up to the challenge and succeeded beyond McKinstry's expectations.



NWI Owner Michael Martin was proud of the clean and efficient work his crew did at EGWW and looks forward to additional work with McKinstry.

As more plumbing scope was added throughout the remainder of the project, NWI was McKinstry's first call for all excavation.

### **FAST FACTS**

**Project**: Renovate GSA's Edith Green-Wendell Wyatt federal building creating a high performance green building consistent with the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) intention.

Location: Portland, Oregon

**Impacts:** Opportunity for local small businesses, workers, families, commuters, and students.

Contract Value: \$82,942.00

**Company**: NW Infrastructure Excavation and Trucking 503-235-6392 | <u>info@nwi-corp.com</u>

**Partners:** Howard S. Wright, SERA Architects, McKinstry