Xylem joins Plummer youth to clean, enhance campus ahead of capital improvement project

By Michael McHugh | Staff Writer May 24, 2025



SALEM — Global water solutions company Xylem Bell & Gossett and Fluid Industrial Associates (FIA) partnered with Plummer Youth Promise for a day of volunteer work earlier this month focused on cleaning and enhancing the natural beauty of the beachfront at the foster home's campus on Winter Island.

Plummer Youth Promise is a nonprofit child welfare organization that works with young people in the foster care system, providing support and residency in their group home for youths 16-22 who are aging out of the child welfare system and have no family with whom to live.

On May 15, volunteers and youth collaborated to clean up the beachfront, plant flowers, and create a more welcoming, cared-for environment.

This partnership is part of a larger two-year capital improvement effort with Bell & Gossett and FIA, supplying energy efficient hydronic system products for the nearly 160-year-old facility. The project is also in collaboration with Achievable Renewable Energy (ARE), which led the HVAC design and installation, with upgrades to improve comfort and energy performance across the campus.

"At Plummer, we believe every young person deserves a family that's there for them long-term," Jessica Norton, community partnerships manager at Plummer Youth Promise, said. "Creating a space where they feel supported and connected to the environment is a big part of that. Partners like Bell & Gossett and FIA are supporting our mission through their hard work and dedication to the people we serve."

These enhancements will create a healthier indoor environment and directly support Plummer's green infrastructure plan through improved air quality, energy efficiency and reduced environmental impact, according to Xylem. In addition to on-site support, Xylem presented a \$10,000 Watermark grant to help stabilize the coastal bank and support ongoing shoreline restoration across the surrounding property.

"This event was about more than restoring the shoreline — it was about strengthening the roots of this community," Susan O'Grady, senior director of marketing at Xylem Bell & Gossett, said. "At Xylem, we believe protecting vital natural resources and strengthening community connections go hand in hand. Working with FIA, ARE, Plummer Youth Promise and local volunteers to restore this space showed the real impact that collaboration can have both for the kids and for the environment. We're grateful to play a small part in helping that continue."

These revitalization efforts are a part of Plummer's broader vision to create a greener, more restorative campus. The organization is implementing native plant landscaping, permeable paving and stormwater management best practices. Nearly 50 geothermal wells have been drilled to support an energy-efficient heating and cooling system, powered in part by on-site solar arrays.

For more information about Plummer Youth Promise, visit <u>plummeryouthpromise.org</u>.

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