



March 20, 2013
MEDIA ALERT

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U.S. Rep. Earl Blumenauer to Plant with Friends of Trees on March 23

Portland, Ore. — On the first Saturday in spring, March 23, U.S. Rep. Earl Blumenauer (D-Ore.) will join [Friends of Trees](#) and more than a hundred community volunteers to plant 202 trees in Portland's Concordia and Vernon neighborhoods.

Saturday's planting, sponsored by [NW Natural](#), is part of Friends of Trees' Plant It Portland! campaign, which was launched in 2010 to add trees to East Portland neighborhoods. The campaign is made possible through Portland Bureau of Environmental Services' [Grey to Green Initiative](#), a nationally-lauded effort to use green infrastructure to reduce stormwater runoff and pollution. To date more than 20,000 trees have been added to the city as a result of the campaign.

Since 1989, Friends of Trees has partnered with agencies, businesses, foundations, individuals and community groups to plant nearly half a million trees in Portland and other NW cities. Last month Portland was chosen by national experts as [one of the 10 best U.S. cities](#) for urban forests.

WHO: U.S. Rep. Earl Blumenauer; Von Summers, Manager of Community Relations for NW Natural; Friends of Trees Board Member Nancy Buley, Communications Director for J. Frank Schmidt & Son Co.; Friends of Trees Board Member Thor Hinckley, Renewable Power Program Manager for Portland General Electric; and community volunteers

WHEN: Saturday, March 23, 2013
Registration & Rally before the planting: 8:45 – 9:15 am; Tree planting at Redeemer Lutheran Church: 9:15 – 10:00 am, followed by crews planting throughout the neighborhoods

WHERE: Redeemer Lutheran Church, 5431 NE 20th Ave., Portland

WHY: Trees reduce stormwater pollution and management costs, slow climate change, and increase property values. Friends of Trees makes getting a tree easy and affordable. For \$35 to \$75, the nonprofit provides a permit, a tree approved by the city for the particular planting strip, delivery, hole digging, planting assistance, stakes and follow-up maintenance.

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