



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 28, 2014

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OREGON ARBOR WEEK:

Morningside Elementary will get 21 new trees

Salem, Ore. — As part of Oregon Arbor Week, Morningside Elementary will get 21 new trees April 5 when the nonprofit Friends of Trees organizes volunteers for the planting, which is sponsored by the City of Salem and Portland General Electric (PGE).

Volunteers—including PGE Vice President Bill Nicholson and other PGE staff—will gather at Morningside Elementary School, 3513 12th Street NE, at 8:45 a.m. The planting will last until about 1 p.m., and attendees should come dressed for the weather and wearing sturdy shoes. Gloves, tools, breakfast snacks and coffee will be provided for this family-friendly event, which is open to all.

Friends of Trees is working with the City of Salem to increase Salem's overall tree canopy cover to 23 percent. Currently, the Morningside neighborhood has 19 percent canopy cover. Planting trees helps improve water quality in streams such as Clark Creek, which runs through the Morningside neighborhood. City trees also help absorb storm water, increase property values and lower home energy costs.

"We expect a great turnout to celebrate Arbor Week with Salem neighbors. This city loves its trees!" said Andy Meeks, Development Manager at Friends of Trees. "We'd like to thank Portland General Electric, the City of Salem and especially the hundreds volunteers who have come out to plant trees together this season."

To celebrate Arbor Month, PGE will sponsor these additional Friends of Trees plantings in April:

- **Saturday, April 12:** As part of Beaverton's Arbor Day celebration, volunteers are planting 40 native trees to turn a vacant lot into a mini-arboretum pocket park. Volunteers can meet at SW Barrows Road and SW 157th Avenue at 8:45 a.m.
- **Saturday, April 12:** Along the Springwater Trail Corridor, volunteers can come help cut back invasive weeds around previously planted areas by meeting at 7204 SE 92nd Avenue at 8:45 a.m.
- **Saturday, April 19:** To restore Fanno Creek in Durham City Park, volunteers will mulch 800 native trees and shrubs recently planted here in partnership with Clean Water Services. Meet at 17085 SW Arkenstone Drive in Durham at 8:45 a.m.

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About Friends of Trees

Friends of Trees empowers people to improve the natural world around them through a simple solution: plant a tree. Together. FoT operates in Portland, Vancouver, Eugene, Salem and surrounding areas. Through its Green Space Initiative, trained crew leaders guide volunteers at weekend events to restore green spaces. The Neighborhood Trees program provides homeowners with discounted trees to plant at their homes with their neighbors. www.friendsoftrees.org