

## FRIENDS OF TREES

Friends of Trees brings people in the Portland-Vancouver and Eugene-Springfield areas together to plant and care for city trees and green spaces. Our Neighborhood Trees program offers homeowners low-cost, high-quality street and yard trees, and organizes weekend events where neighbors plant trees together to improve their community. Our Green Space Initiative program brings people together to restore urban natural areas. Using a “train the trainer” community building model, we train volunteer leaders to organize neighborhood plantings and to guide weekend planting volunteers. Last planting season, our 3,500 volunteers provided 32,000 hours of service.

Founded in 1989 by Richard Seidman, Friends of Trees has planted more than 450,000 trees and shrubs over the past 24 years. Last fall Friends of Trees established a new office in the Eugene-Springfield area.

During the last planting season, Oct. 2011-April 2012, Friends of Trees’ Neighborhood Trees program planted 5,300 street and yard trees, more than during any previous planting season and a 15% increase over the year before. Our Green Space Initiative also planted more trees and native plants than during any other season—more than 38,000 native trees and plants—an increase of 36% over the program’s previous season.

This is the fourth year of Friends of Trees’ whimsical Plant It Portland! campaign in partnership with Portland’s Bureau of Environmental Services. The campaign, which aims to turn the city’s “grey” to “green” by planting thousands of street trees in East Portland neighborhoods, focuses on neighborhoods with the greatest need and lowest tree cover.

Partnerships are an integral part of our work. This is the final year of a four-year partnership with the Oregon Department of Transportation, Metro Regional Government, East Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District, and a dozen other agencies, foundations, businesses, and neighborhood groups to plant trees along the 16.5-mile Multi-Use Path. The path, which parallels I-205 and borders low-income, culturally diverse neighborhoods, is used by pedestrians, cyclists, and transit travelers.

This is our second year partnering with SOLVE and the Clackamas River Basin Council to offer free streamside restoration to landowners along Rock Creek, a tributary of the Clackamas River. The project is funded by Clackamas County Water Environment Services, on behalf of Clackamas Service District No. 1.

Friends of Trees is dedicated to bringing people together to establish a healthy urban forest, which benefits all of our citizens.

"When we plant trees," said the late Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Wangari Maathai, "we plant the seeds of peace and seeds of hope. We also secure the future for our children."

