

Friends of Trees Green Space Initiative

Bringing Trees to I-205

This three-year project brings together Friends of Trees' 20 years of nonprofit tree-planting experience, Metro's commitment to enhancing regional livability, and the Oregon Department of Transportation's vision for greening their right of way.

Friends of Trees and their Green Space Initiative program are planting thousands of native trees and shrubs along the I-205 Multi-Use Path, from the Columbia River south to Gladstone.

What does it mean to be green? Multiple government agencies, businesses, and nonprofits working together to improve a stretch of Oregon traveled and appreciated by people of all ages and backgrounds. This merging of private and public efforts is a model for other regions in Oregon, and for states across the country.



Metro



Oregon
Department
of Transportation



A lasting legacy with roots, a community volunteer model for other states

The scope of this project stretches further than the 16.5-miles it spans

Metro Future

Citizen voters made this project a reality



- With a unanimous council vote, Metro awarded Friends of Trees the largest capital grant in its history for this project
- The funding for the more than \$410,000 Metro Nature in Neighborhoods grant comes from the 2006 voter-approved measure 26-80, the Natural Areas Bond Measure
- Friends of Trees Green Space Initiative program is engaging individual donors and sponsors including East Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District, IKEA, Cantel Sweeping, J. Frank Schmidt & Son Co., PDC, PGE, and many others

Green Jobs

Stimulus dollars will preserve long roots



- ODOT and TriMet recently secured nearly \$4 million in federal stimulus funds for I-205 path improvements
- Nonprofit Verde 'bridges the green divide' by creating environmental job training and employment for low-income residents
- The Portland OIC employs alienated or at-risk youth in positive endeavors with their work-training programs
- Environmental infrastructure is being built, which will benefit area residents for decades if not generations

+Benefits

The public benefits in more ways than



- The air quality surrounding I-84 and I-205 is some of the dirtiest in Oregon, according to a Department of Environmental Quality report
- Trees not only intake carbon from automobiles, cooling our planet and the effects of climate change, but they also collect harmful airborne sediments on their leaves
- Roots absorb storm water runoff, helping to keep sewer pollutants out of the river systems
- A new tree line provides connected wildlife habitat, especially for migratory birds
- Native trees like the Douglas-fir are beautiful, plain and simple

Ideas to Trees

Are trees assets? Oregonians say yes



- Friends of Trees and ODOT first partnered in 2006 to plant trees in neighborhoods adjacent to I-5 near Delta Park
- Staff from Friends of Trees, Metro and ODOT worked tirelessly to identify trees as a capital asset and a green infrastructure investment
- The landmark agreement led to the largest capital grant Metro has ever awarded and has drawn interest from all spectrums of public and private industry
- Elected officials and the nursery industry are already imagining a specially manufactured tree grown specifically to withstand harsh elements along American interstates

Foot-Rail-Tire

I-205 Multi-Use Path is shared, priceless



- The I-205 corridor, which now includes TriMet's Max Green Line, transports thousands of Oregonians a day, north and south, via rail, wheel and foot
- The addition of trees on ODOT right-of-way will benefit not just surrounding neighborhoods but the entire Portland-Vancouver metro area
- Opportunities abound—not just for ODOT and Friends of Trees, but for municipalities and environmental nonprofits across the country that can be guided by this template