



Date: February 6, 2012
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Portland Timbers Help Plant Trees in NE Portland on Feb. 11

Timber Joey, Timbers Army members and Timbers alumni ambassadors join Friends of Trees volunteers to plant hundreds of street and yard trees this Saturday

PORTLAND, Ore. – Feb. 6, 2012 - Friends of Trees' annual tree planting in the Boise, Eliot, Humboldt and King neighborhoods on Saturday, Feb. 11, will add many shades of green to NE Portland this year. Joining Friends of Trees volunteers to plant hundreds of trees will be Portland Timbers Alumni Ambassadors Scot Thompson and Mick Hoban, Timbers mascot Timber Joey, and a crew of Timbers Army planters, many in both planting garb and green and white Timbers' scarves.

Timbers fans and community volunteers are invited to help at the planting, which begins at 8:45 am at Friends of Trees' office, 3117 NE Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd, and continues throughout the morning across the four neighborhoods. Billboards created by Amy Ruppel for Friends of Trees' Plant It Portland! billboard campaign — whimsical interpretations of Timbers fans featured in the Timbers' popular billboard campaign last year — will be displayed at the office during the festive potluck lunch after the planting.

The Feb. 11 planting is sponsored by the Portland Timbers as part of a three-year partnership initiated last year, when the team chose Friends of Trees along with Big Brothers Big Sisters and Portland YouthBuilders as Community Pillar Partners in its "Stand Together" campaign. "Stand Together" represents the team's commitment to its fans and the communities where those fans live.

At a future date this spring, Portland Timbers players will tag 40 of the trees being planted on Feb. 11 as part of the team's "Score a Goal, Plant a Tree" project with Friends of Trees, in partnership with JELD-WEN Windows & Doors. The tagged trees will represent the 40 goals the team scored in 2011.

Last month Friends of Trees partnered with the Portland Timbers for the club's "Dribble Oregon" tour, presented by JELD-WEN, which included visits to Salem, Klamath Falls, Bend and Eugene-Springfield. In Salem and Springfield, the tour included a free youth soccer clinic, an opportunity to meet team players, and a community tree planting organized by Friends of Trees.

The Portland Timbers support Friends of Trees' *Plant It Portland!* campaign, which debuted in 2010 as a way to bring awareness to the need for street trees through whimsical graphics and grassroots efforts — including yard signs, door hangers and community outreach. The campaign, in partnership with Portland Bureau of Environmental Services, highlights four key benefits that "grow" on trees: better health, energy conservation, a safer community, and money. The goals of the campaign are to impart homeowners with a sense of civic duty and encourage action during the tree-planting season. Since 1989, thousands of Friends of Trees volunteers have planted more than 430,000 trees.

Learn more about Friends of Trees at www.friendsoftrees.org.