

## The Standard

On April 2, 2011, nearly 50 people gathered together for the first Clackamas County tree planting along the I-205 Multi-Use Path near Johnson Creek Boulevard. Among those present were a group of about fifteen employees from The Standard, one of Oregon's largest employers in downtown Portland and a corporate sponsor of the planting.

Founded in 1906, The Standard provides financial services, employee services, and insurance products and services, as well as asset management, retirement plans, investments and more. The company employs 2,500 people in Oregon and encourages its employees to volunteer for events around the state.

The Standard has an employee Green Team, consisting of 100 people, who focus their efforts on education and sustainability events. Green Team members participate in events for local food banks, Friends of Trees, SMART (Start Making a Reader Today) and Meals on Wheels to name a few. Employees are active in their communities, and for The Standard's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary, they planted 100 trees.

Three of The Standard's representatives at the tree planting were Sky Callahan, Assistant Vice President of Customer Support (who is also a Friends of Trees Board Member); Carrie Farrar, Sustainability Manager; and Megan Brown, Public Affairs Specialist.



*Volunteers from The Standard take a quick photo break during an April 2, 2011 tree planting along the I-205 Multi-Use Path. Employees from The Standard, including a Green Team, are active in their communities and contribute to a number of organizations, including Friends of Trees.*

### Project Description

A three-year community-wide effort among ODOT, Friends of Trees and Metro to green the I-205 Multi-Use Path with thousands of native trees and shrubs.

### Benefits

- Improved neighborhood livability
- Enhanced experience for path users
- Increased wildlife habitat
- Decreased stormwater runoff
- Increased environmental equity among communities

### Project Funding

- \$410,000 from the Metro Natural Areas Bond Measure's Nature in Neighborhoods Capital Grant Program
- \$80,000 from East Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District
- \$25,000 from Spirit Mountain Community Fund
- Generous support from:
  - J. Frank Schmidt & Son Co.
  - IKEA
  - Cantel Sweeping
  - Collier Arbor Care
  - HSBC Bank USA, N.A.
  - Portland General Electric
  - Portland Bureau of Environmental Services
  - REI
  - Portland Timbers

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Callahan has worked at The Standard for over 25 years. He is from Boston and Southern California and admits that his appreciation of trees and green is what attracted him to Oregon. He now lives just south of Oregon City on a five-acre farm and has been the Friends of Trees Board Secretary for a year. "This work is fulfilling because of how long it lasts. You plant 100 trees over the weekend that will be here 50 to 100 years later," said Callahan, who also pointed out that the survival rate of trees planted by Friends of Trees and their volunteers is well over 90 percent.

Farrar has lived in Oregon for seven-and-a-half years. Originally from West Virginia, today she lives in the Concordia neighborhood of Portland. While planting trees along the path, Farrar commented: "Trees are the lens of our environment. They help keep the air clean and sustain life. It's great to be out getting some oxygen while getting our hands dirty."

Brown added: "As someone who uses the I-205 Multi-Use Path, I look forward to watching the trees grow and enhance the community."

Brown, Callahan and Farrar worked alongside other volunteers to plant trees and shrubs along the I-205 Multi-Use Path, a collaborative effort between ODOT, Friends of Trees and Metro. With grant funding from Metro's Nature in Neighborhoods Capital Grant program, ODOT and Friends of Trees – with support from volunteers – will add thousands of trees and shrubs in existing ODOT property along the I-205 Multi-Use Path over a three-year period. The project is part of ODOT's overall vision to make significant improvements to the 16.5-mile I-205 Multi-Use Path, which is used by commuters, neighbors, residents, bicyclists, pedestrians and transit users.



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[www.facebook.com/friendoftrees](http://www.facebook.com/friendoftrees)

To learn more about the people contributing to this project, visit:  
[www.oregon.gov/odot/hwy/region1/i205\\_mup/profiles.shtml](http://www.oregon.gov/odot/hwy/region1/i205_mup/profiles.shtml)

