

# A New Forest Grows

## *I-205 Multi-Use Path Greening Project*

The I-205 Multi-Use Path is an important north/south connection in the Portland/Vancouver metro region for bicyclists and pedestrians who use it for recreation, commuting and accessing public transportation. The 16.5-mile path runs parallel to I-205 from NE Marine Drive in Portland to SE 82nd Drive in Gladstone. With projects underway to enhance the path, ODOT's goal is to transform the I-205 Multi-Use Path into a more user-friendly, world class facility.

### 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
- 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

### Greening the I-205 Multi-Use Path

In the summer of 2009, ODOT worked with Friends of Trees to secure a \$410,000 Metro Nature in Neighborhoods grant to green the I-205 Multi-Use Path with thousands of native trees and shrubs over a three-year period. This project will enhance path-user experience and demonstrate the value of planting native trees along key transportation corridors. When complete, this project will be touted as a statewide model for greening ODOT right of way.

As part of the project, Verde (a non-profit organization dedicated to connecting low-income people with the economic benefits of protecting the environment) has created minority jobs in the nursery industry and expanded environmental education to underserved communities of color. In addition, 16 Urban Renewal Area-funded jobs have been created for minority and at-risk youth who are part of Portland Opportunities Industrialization Center - a non-profit organization that serves youth who are affected by poverty, family instability or homelessness. These jobs were created through a partnership between Portland Development Commission and WorkSystems, Inc.

### Season 1 Highlights

- Completed seven plantings
- Planted 1,570 trees
- Planted 835 shrubs
- Recruited 435 volunteers
- Volunteers donated 1755 hours, an estimated value of \$34,230
- Leveraged \$484,659 in matching funds from businesses, nurseries, foundations, and public agencies
- Created 16 green jobs for minority and at-risk youth



*ODOT and Friends of Trees have partnered to green the I-205 Multi-Use Path by planting native trees and shrubs. The greening project sets an example for how government, non-profit organizations and communities can creatively work together to do great things.*

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### **Season 2 Plantings**

ODOT and Friends of Trees invite you to join in community plantings along the I-205 Multi-Use Path. For more information about the plantings, please contact Andy Meeks with Friends of Trees at (503) 282-8846 x.24 or [andym@friendsoftrees.org](mailto:andym@friendsoftrees.org). Plantings scheduled for the 2010 - 2011 season are as follows.

**Saturday, Nov. 6, 2010** - SE Division Street

**Saturday, Dec. 4, 2010** - Holman Hill (just south of Airport Way)

**Saturday, Dec. 18, 2010** - Columbia Slough (just south of NE Alderwood)

**Saturday, Jan. 8, 2010** - Alderwood Hill South (further south of NE Alderwood)

**Monday, Jan. 17, 2011** - SE Mill Street

**Sunday, Jan. 23, 2011** - Airport Way

**Saturday, Feb. 12, 2011** - Powell Boulevard (just north of SE Powell Blvd.)

**Saturday, March 19, 2011** - Lents (SE Schiller Street)

**Saturday, April 2, 2011** - Johnson Creek (just north of SE Johnson Creek Blvd.)

**Saturday, April 9, 2011** - Dean Creek Hill (south of SE Sunnybrook)

**Saturday, April 23, 2011** - SE Salmon Street



[www.facebook.com/I205MultiUsePath](http://www.facebook.com/I205MultiUsePath)  
[www.facebook.com/friendoftrees](http://www.facebook.com/friendoftrees)

To learn more about the I-205 Multi-Use Path, visit: [www.oregon.gov/odot/hwy/region1/i205\\_mup/](http://www.oregon.gov/odot/hwy/region1/i205_mup/)

