



Lavette Lacy Portland OIC Trainee

January 2010

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 Metro Natural Areas Bond Measure's Nature in Neighborhoods Capital Grant
- \$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

Beaming with enthusiasm, 18-year-old Lavette Lacy of Northeast Portland happily spent a sunny Saturday morning along the I-205 Multi-Use Path near Airport Way planting trees and shrubs. Lacy has not planted many trees in her life; in fact, the first tree Lacy planted was along the I-205 Multi-Use-Path in December.

Lacy is a student at Rosemary Anderson High School, a program of Portland Opportunities Industrialization Center (Portland OIC) – an organization dedicated to helping at-risk youth engage in school and training. Through Portland OIC, Lacy is studying natural resources, including streams and fish.

Portland OIC recently joined in a unique partnership with Friends of Trees, ODOT and Metro to green the I-205 Multi-Use Path with thousands of trees and shrubs over a three-year period.

As part of the project, Portland OIC and other organizations including Verde, Portland Development Commission, and Worksystems, Inc. have created 16 green jobs and are expanding environmental education to under-served and minority communities.

When Lacy isn't planting trees or studying natural resources she likes spending time with friends, reading, and writing. Lacy is currently writing a book.

"It's a work in progress," she said.

In the future, Lacy would like to become a doctor or surgeon because she has a desire to take care of others, but she also said she wouldn't mind firefighting either.



Portland OIC Trainee Lavette Lacy participates in the Jan. 23 I-205 Multi-Use Path planting in northeast Portland.

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However, her dream job would be to travel the world – spending time in Tokyo, Ethiopia or Asia – eating good food and seeing how people in other countries live.

In the meantime, Lacy is happy to plant trees along the I-205 Multi-Use-Path.

“People are learning how to plant trees as they socially network with one another. You get to learn something new and see the work that you have done,” she commented.

Lacy will be at future tree plantings along the I-205 Multi-Use-Path and plans to bring her one-year-old niece to an upcoming planting. Lacy wants to start instilling the importance and rewards of volunteering to her niece at a young age.



www.facebook.com/I205MultiUsePath
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To learn more about the people contributing to this project, visit:
www.oregon.gov/odot/hwy/region1/i205_mup/profiles.shtml

