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Project Information: [www.oregon.gov/odot/hwy/region1/i205\\_mup](http://www.oregon.gov/odot/hwy/region1/i205_mup)  
[www.friendsoftrees.org/programs/green-space-initiative](http://www.friendsoftrees.org/programs/green-space-initiative)

## **Second season of three-year planting project along I-205 starts Saturday**

*ODOT, Friends of Trees and Metro partnership improves popular Portland path*

ODOT, Friends of Trees and Metro announced the start of another planting season along the Interstate 205 Multi-Use path in their continued effort to green-up the 16.5-mile path between Marine Drive in Portland and SE 82<sup>nd</sup> Drive in Gladstone.

The partners will host a Nov. 6 tree-planting at 9 a.m. just south of Division Street. The celebration starts the second season in a three-year, \$410,000 partnership agreement to add native greenery to the path.

Local elected officials will join ODOT Region 1 Manager Jason Tell and Friends of Trees Executive Director Scott Fogarty in planting the first tree of the day. Volunteers, neighborhood residents and project partners will plant trees and shrubs throughout the morning.

The planting is the first of 11 planned for this season. The work is funded by a Metro Nature in Neighborhoods capital grant and executed by community volunteers. Last season, more than 400 volunteers planted just over 2,400 trees and shrubs at various locations along the path.

Trees along the path are meant to reduce air pollution, increase neighborhood livability, provide habitat for wildlife and songbirds and beautify the much-traveled transportation corridor. ODOT will showcase the three-year project as a statewide model for greening opportunities within its right-of-way.

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. With projects underway to enhance the path, ODOT's goal is to transform it into a more user-friendly facility.

The **Oregon Department of Transportation** provides a safe and efficient transportation system that supports economic opportunity and livable communities for Oregonians; the locally-based nonprofit **Friends of Trees** brings people in the Portland-metro area together to plant and care for city trees and green spaces; and **Metro**, the regional government that serves 1.5 million people who live in the 25 cities and three counties of the Portland metropolitan area, provides planning and other services that protect the nature and livability of the region.

**###ODOT###**