



I-205 Multi-Use Path Greening Project

Antonio Askew Portland OIC Trainee

Planting trees and shrubs along the I-205 Multi-Use Path on a cold and windy Saturday morning, 19-year-old Antonio Askew thinks about the future.

“Like if I have kids, I can tell them, ‘Hey, I helped with that,’” said Antonio as he pointed to freshly planted trees along the path.

Antonio is a graduate of Rosemary Anderson High School, an alternative school run by Portland Opportunities Industrialization Center. Portland OIC is an organization dedicated to helping at-risk youth engage in school and training.

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, ten Urban Renewal Area-funded jobs for Portland OIC trainees (like Antonio) have been created through a partnership between the Portland Development Commission and Worksystems, Inc.

Antonio discovered his enjoyment of environmental education and training when he connected with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to repair a park trail – a previous opportunity through Portland OIC.

“I enjoyed it,” he said. “It was my first time reconstructing natural habitat.”



Portland OIC Trainee Antonio Askew participates in the I-205 Multi-Use Path greening project's kick-off planting Jan. 9 at NE Marine Drive and 112th. Photo © 2010 Chijo Takeda

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

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Antonio's experience with the BLM helped land him a job as a civil engineering aide out of its Salem office. He believes that networking is an important part of the work he's doing through Portland OIC.

"It's a way to meet people and make connections," Antonio explained. "That's why I come out and do these functions."

Having graduated from Rosemary Anderson High School in June 2008, Antonio stays engaged with Portland OIC through a graduate support group. He credits the organization with pushing him to finish high school and to go to college. While he is currently taking the term off for financial reasons, he plans to go back to school at Portland Community College in the spring.

In his free time, Antonio likes to spend time with his girlfriend and family, go bowling and golf. He plans to take advantage of the jobs that are being created through the I-205 Multi-Use Path greening project by taking part in six plantings.

"I just love nature," he said.



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