



I-205 Multi-Use Path Greening Project

Cora Potter

Lents Urban Renewal Advisory Committee Chair

As chair of the Lents Urban Renewal Advisory Committee, Cora Potter, a 36-year-old Lents resident, keeps busy. For Cora, it's all about neighborhood pride.

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

Lents, a designated Urban Renewal Area is just beginning to realize important infrastructure improvements and investments, attracting new businesses to its town center. Cora is looking forward to seeing even more positive additions and improvements to the neighborhood she calls home, such as a recent community tree planting.

On February 20 spring-like weather greeted more than 60 volunteers in Lents, where the group gathered to spend the morning making a long-term investment in the area's health and aesthetic beauty by planting trees and shrubs along the I-205 Multi-Use Path.

"I want to thank the wonderful people who are here today to help improve Lents," said Potter in her remarks to the volunteers and representatives who were present at the Lents neighborhood tree planting. "It is perfect because we've got a great path (the I-205 Multi-Use Path) and greening it will make it even better."

Taking part in the neighborhood tree planting was a good opportunity for Potter to do what she likes to do – "dig" – while also improving this part of the I-205 Multi-Use Path that runs adjacent to homes and apartments in the Lents neighborhood.



Cora Potter helps out at the February 20 I-205 Multi-Use Path planting in the Lents neighborhood at SE 94th and Pardee.

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"Lents is within the City of Portland," said Potter. "All people in the region use this path and I am glad to see folks out in our neighborhood getting to know us instead of just passing through."

In addition to her work to improve the Lents neighborhood, Potter works for Ride Connections, a non-profit organization that serves older adults and the disabled to meet their transit needs in the tri-county area. In her free time, Potter enjoys spending time in public meetings. She also likes to knit and is an urban chicken farmer.

Originally from Coquille, Oregon, Potter has lived in Portland for the past ten years. As a Lents resident, she has played an important role serving on several committees – all with the goal of making Lents a better place to live, shop and thrive.

At the planting event, Potter described the I-205 Multi-Use Path as a "well-loved amenity of the neighborhood." She thanked project partners and volunteers for helping to make the path "shine like it should."



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