



I-205 Multi-Use Path Greening Project

Tatiana Hildner Lents Resident

On March 6, volunteer Tatiana Hildner, along with her husband Ben and their two-year-old son Lucas, came ready to plant trees along the I-205 Multi-Use Path in the Lents neighborhood at SE 92nd Avenue and Flavel.

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

"I love this project because it's very local. You get to meet people in the community," explained Hildner, a Lents resident who has lived in Oregon for the last four years. "I know Lents is working to make improvements in the neighborhood and I want to be part of that, making my neighborhood better and prettier."

The planting was part of a three-year project among ODOT, Friends of Trees and Metro to green the I-205 Multi-Use Path with thousands of trees and shrubs.

In addition to enhancing the path for bordering neighborhoods and everyone who uses it, the plantings will reduce air pollution, minimize

storm-water runoff into streams and rivers, and provide habitat for wildlife and songbirds.

Prior to the March 6 planting, Hildner had planted trees once before in her native Marcala La Paz, Honduras. She said she recognizes the social and health benefits of trees and sees planting them as doing something positive.

"I came to plant trees today because I want to enjoy what is here," Hildner explained. "I want people to say, 'Lents, what a pretty place.'"

Hildner is also working hard to raise Lucas, and aspires to start a home-based childcare business where she can continue to provide a strong and stable upbringing for her son.



The Hildner family pauses for a photo under the bright sun during the March 6 I-205 Multi-Use Path planting at SE 92nd and Flavel.

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In their free time, the Hildner family enjoys exploring the outdoors, including parks where they can walk and ride bicycles.

"Spending time outdoors and in nature is my idea of fun," Hildner explained. "It's also a good way to get to know people from different cultures."



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