



I-205 Multi-Use Path Greening Project

Vadim Riskin East Portland Resident

A first-time tree planter with Friends of Trees, east Portland resident Vadim Riskin and his family joined many other volunteers for a planting along the I-205 Multi-Use Path in the Montavilla neighborhood on March 20.

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

A member of the original East Portland Action Plan (EPAP) steering committee, Vadim explained that it was EPAP's call to community members that inspired him to bring his family to plant trees along the path.

The planting was part of a three-year project among Friends of Trees, ODOT and Metro to add thousands of native trees and shrubs to the I-205 Multi-Use Path, which is used extensively by bicyclists, pedestrians and transit users.

"I came out to help the community," explained Vadim. "I brought my family because I think it's a good lesson for my kids to contribute by saving nature, planting trees and being part of the community. I love this project and want to help more."



Vadim Riskin (right) and his wife, daughter, niece and nephew helped beautify the I-205 Multi-Use Path by planting trees at SE 95th and Hawthorne on March 20.

Vadim indicated that one of the benefits of participating in the tree planting is the variety and diversity of people you meet. He used this opportunity to get to know another Friends of Trees volunteer, Erik Weimer.

"This project is building community. You meet people when you plant together," explained Vadim.

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Originally from Russia, Vadim and his family have lived in Oregon for eighteen years. Vadim currently works for Portland Public Schools as an equity coordinator, working with parents, students and the community to ensure that everyone has access to getting an education. He has worked in the education field for 25 years.

"This is a good opportunity to teach others about the Russian community and to encourage others to feel comfortable to get involved. I brought my wife, daughter, niece and nephew today. We want to be involved we just need a little help and encouragement," explained Vadim.



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