



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 28, 2015

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Alternative high school students will lead restoration of arboretum Saturday

Portland, Ore. — Nine students from Rosemary Anderson High School—some aiming to be the first in their families to go to college—will lead volunteers planting 300 native plants Saturday at the Columbia Children’s Arboretum in Northeast Portland. The event is generously sponsored by the Port of Portland.

About 75 volunteers are expected. All are welcome to join in the planting by meeting at the arboretum, 10040 NE 6th Drive in Portland at 8:45 a.m. The planting goes until 1 p.m. Snacks, tools, training and gloves are provided, and it’s recommended to dress for the weather.

For these nine high school students, the outdoor leadership experience complements classroom studies in natural resources that put them on a strong career path.

“Our goal is to foster a life-long connection to the natural world and possible natural resources jobs, while at the same time restoring a natural slice of Columbia River floodplain forest right in their backyard,” said Logan Lauvray, Green Space Initiative Manager for Friends of Trees.

Since 2012, the students have been trained to lead every aspect of restoring the arboretum, supervised by Friends of Trees, Portland Parks & Recreation, the Columbia Slough Watershed Council, and the Portland Opportunities Industrialization Center (POIC). They design planting layouts to increase habitat value, canvass to recruit volunteers, lead crews of volunteers to remove invasive species and replant native trees and shrubs, and monitor which plants succeed.

Tucked between industrial areas, golf courses, houses and farms, the Columbia Children’s Arboretum is a little-discovered green space owned by Portland Parks and Recreation. Its 28 acres of trees, meadows and waterways provide some of the only places to play and walk amidst natural habitat in the East Columbia Neighborhood.

In addition to support from the Port of Portland's Airport Futures grant program, funding for Friends of Trees’ Columbia Children’s Arboretum Revitalization Project has also been provided by the Reser Family Foundation, Jubitz Family Foundation, Portland Parks and Recreation, and the East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District’s Partners In Conservation program.

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About Friends of Trees

Friends of Trees empowers people to improve the natural world around them through a simple solution: planting trees, together. FoT operates in Portland, Vancouver, Eugene and Salem. Through its Green Space Initiative, trained crew leaders guide volunteers at weekend events to restore green spaces, including the Columbia Children’s Arboretum. The Neighborhood Trees program provides homeowners with affordable trees to plant at their homes with their neighbors. www.friendsoftrees.org

About POIC

POIC reconnects alienated, at-risk youth affected by poverty, family instability and homelessness; with high school education through Rosemary Anderson High School (RAHS), and with career training through POIC Work Opportunity Training programs (WOT). www.portlandoic.org