



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 12, 2019

Contact:

Friends of Trees

Kathy Armstrong: 503.735-1832; kathy@friendsoftrees.org

PGE

Rachel DeRosia: 503.830.1924; rachel.derosia@pgn.com

City of Tualatin

Jackie Konen: 503.691.3087; JKonen@tualatin.gov

Friends of Trees, PGE and the City of Tualatin Team Up to Plant Trees for Earth Month
In honor of Friends of Trees' 30th Anniversary, PGE donates \$100,000 over the next five years

Portland, Ore. – This Saturday, April 13th, Friends of Trees volunteers will plant more than 1,000 trees and native shrubs in Tualatin with longtime partners Portland General Electric (PGE) and the City of Tualatin. PGE employees, including Maria Pope, PGE's President and CEO, and their friends and family will be planting alongside representatives from the City of Tualatin and its Mayor Frank Bubenik, and community members.

This year the Friends of Trees' planting season marks its 30th anniversary as the organization was founded in 1989. The season will wrap up in May with more than 100 tree-planting and tree-care events across the region. PGE has supported Friends of Trees since its founding in 1989. PGE is sponsoring a total of 10 planting and tree-care events, bringing the total of PGE-sponsored plantings to more than 100 since 2005. This year, PGE announced a special gift of \$100,000 that will help Friends of Trees reach its milestone of one million trees planted since its inception.

"PGE has a great partnership with Friends of Trees. It gives us the opportunity to make a significant impact on our beautiful state and contribute to the sustainability of our community," said Kregg Arntson, director, Corporate Social Responsibility at PGE. "PGE is happy to be a part of one million trees planted and bringing our communities together to reduce carbon, strengthen neighborhoods and improve the environment."

Friends of Trees executive director, Scott Fogarty, praises the partnership, "Friends of Trees can't plant 50,000 plus trees and native shrubs every year without the support of sponsors like PGE. Their support, since our founding, has been key in our ability to plant 800,000 trees and native shrubs, to date, with tens of thousands of volunteers. We are just thrilled that PGE's donation will help us get to the incredible milestone of one million trees planted by our 2023-24 planting season."

Fogarty continues, "Community tree planting events make a significant contribution to our region's livability, improving our air and water quality, cooling our neighborhoods; further, not only do trees help make us healthy, volunteering also improves human health!" Fogarty concludes, "Friends of Trees will be out this weekend, and every Saturday from October through April, throughout the region, planting trees with community volunteers. We plan to plant more than 50,000 trees and native shrubs this season, which is significant for a number of reasons, not the least of which is carbon offset: One young tree can absorb 26 pounds of carbon."

The City of Tualatin is another longtime Friends of Trees partner. This year marks the 21st year that the City has partnered with the organization, explains Jackie Konen, volunteer program manager for the City of Tualatin. Konen furthered stated that "the leadership and support that Friends of Trees supplies enables the City to plant over 8,000 native trees, shrubs and pollinator friendly plants in Tualatin parks and greenspaces. Tualatin has been designated a Tree City for 32 years meeting requirements for planting restoration sites with volunteers and having a robust street tree program. Last year, 1,500 volunteers contributed 6,500 hours to keeping Tualatin green and growing."

-more-

The April 13th planting event, sponsored by PGE, is part of the City of Tualatin's Arbor Week celebrations. Tualatin Mayor Frank Bubenik will plant Tualatin's annual community tree at 10 a.m. Other events include the Annual 5th Grade Arbor Week Poster Contest and Photography Contest, as well as tree-themed activities such as a Heritage Tree planting and an educational workshop, "Trees in Your Landscape." There also will be story-times, and arts and crafts at the Tualatin Library.

Event Information:

WHEN: Saturday, April 13 at 9 a.m.

WHERE: Tualatin Community Park
[8515 SW Tualatin Rd, Tualatin, OR 97062](https://www.tualatinoregon.gov/8515-SW-Tualatin-Rd,-Tualatin,-OR-97062)

Editor's note: This event was very popular, so unfortunately its closed to additional volunteers. We're inviting you to please join us for photo opportunities and participation with the community. The planting starts promptly at 9 a.m. Friends of Trees will provide breakfast snacks and hot chocolate/coffee, as well as gloves, tools and guidance.

###

About Friends of Trees: Friends of Trees was founded in 1989 by a local community member who loved trees and started planting them in Portland neighborhoods. Today, Friends of Trees is a nationally recognized, regional leader in improving the urban tree canopy and restoring sensitive natural areas—through programs delivered by thousands of volunteers. Friends of Trees greens our region while growing community. Working with thousands of volunteers Friends of Trees has planted more than 750,000 trees and native plants in 120+ neighborhoods in six counties across two states since its founding. Learn more at FriendsofTrees.org.

About Portland General Electric: Portland General Electric (NYSE: POR) is a fully integrated energy company based in Portland, Oregon, serving approximately 885,000 customers in 51 cities. For more than 130 years, PGE has been delivering safe, affordable and reliable energy to Oregonians. Together with its customers, PGE has the No. 1 voluntary renewable energy program in the U.S. With approximately 3,000 employees across the state, PGE is committed to helping its customers and the communities it serves build a clean energy future. For more information, visit portlandgeneral.com

About the City of Tualatin: The City of Tualatin, population 27,000, is a dynamic, vibrant community conveniently located just 12 miles south of Portland and 30 miles north of Salem, the state capital. Situated at the intersection of Interstate highways 5 and 205, Tualatin is a short distance to adventure: skiing, snowboarding, and sledding on majestic Mt. Hood in the Cascade Mountain Range; family-friendly summer water activities on the central Oregon Coast; national-level wind-surfing or parasailing on the Columbia River, while enjoying the natural beauty of Multnomah Falls in Columbia Gorge National Recreation Area. Tualatin's population is well-educated, diverse, and involved in community and school activities. There are excellent educational opportunities available to residents through the Tigard-Tualatin School District and numerous colleges and universities within easy commuting distance. In the most recent satisfaction survey, 84 percent of residents rated the overall quality of life in Tualatin as "excellent" or "good." Residents enjoy community amenities such as award-winning parks, unique shopping and dining establishments and a low tax rate. For more information, visit tualatinoregon.gov