

## Portland Mayor, Parks and Rec, students to plant native trees

*by Bend\_Weekly\_News\_Sources*

Portland — To improve the environmental health and natural aesthetics on the Jefferson High School campus, Portland Parks & Recreation (PP&R) and students will be planting 28 native Oregon trees on the school grounds from 8:45 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, January 16. Portland Mayor Tom Potter will take a break from his civic duties that morning to lend a hand in planting some of the evergreens that have been selected for the planting.

Portland Parks & Recreation will be working with 50 Jefferson High School students and 120 students from adjacent Humboldt Elementary School to plant the nine different species of native trees. The planting will transform the empty school field into a diverse arboretum complete with educational signs to educate students and the surrounding neighborhood about Oregon's native trees and urban ecology. "This is a great service learning experience for the students to have on their own campus," notes Karl Dawson, an urban forester with PP&R. "It's also a great opportunity to learn about the role every tree we plant plays in our community's sustainability. The students will beautify their campus, but will also learn how the city's urban tree canopy benefits us not only aesthetically, but environmentally and economically, as well." Located just three blocks east of I-5, these large evergreen trees will reduce noise and air pollution, sequester carbon, beautify school grounds and create a native school arboretum that will teach students about life cycles & native ecology. The tree planting coincides with Mayor Tom Potter's week at Jefferson High School, which will offer students a firsthand experience in city government, as well as the variety of careers that are available working for the city. A PP&R City Nature Forestry crew will help with the planting and discuss careers in the field of arboriculture with the students.

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