

SW News April 2016

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www.collinsview.org and collinsview.nextdoor.com

Collins View Evergreen Project: Nestled between the forests of Tryon Creek State Natural Area and River View Natural Area, Collins View Neighborhood is still one of the greenest neighborhoods in Portland. Sadly, new development and changing lifestyles are steadily eroding our natural environment. Many majestic evergreens are cut down to make way for new and expanded houses. Planting a few smaller deciduous trees does begin to mitigate the loss of our native conifers. With the support of Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc., the Collins View Neighborhood Association has launched a three- pronged effort to preserve and restore our native evergreen canopy: (1) educate neighbors about the importance of our native conifers, (2) work with city officials to strengthen the Title 11 tree code to protect our existing evergreen canopy from wholesale destruction, and (3) plant native conifers in residential areas ... hopefully, faster than developers cut them down. Remember how heavy the rain was last December? Torrents of stormwater streamed across major thoroughfares, flooded basements and our streams and rivers ran thick with mud. Large native conifers catch the rain and slow the stormwater runoff. Try it. On a stormy winter day go hiking in the forest. When you stand beneath the outstretched limbs of a Western red cedar, you are safe and dry. On the other hand, a winter bare deciduous tree is no better than a broken umbrella. Remember how hot it was last summer? On a hot August day, take a hike at Tryon Creek and feel the cool breezes beneath the towering Douglas firs. Peak summer temperatures are several degrees cooler in neighborhoods with evergreen canopy. Has the distant roar of commuter traffic and the smell of exhaust fumes crept into your backyard? Our dense native conifers help dampen traffic noise and improve air quality. Large trees generate tons of pure oxygen while removing tons of air pollutants like carbon monoxide, sulphur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide, ozone, etc. Our native evergreens do it all year long. And, what's the point of living in Oregon if we do not celebrate our natural beauty? Native conifers shelter and nurture our magnificent native plants. Collins View is a critical link in Portland's Westside Wildlife Corridor. Even as the commuters rush through our neighborhood, let's make a place for the birds, bees, butterflies and wildlife to meander through our gardens.

Our seasonal changes are best appreciated communing with Nature under an evergreen canopy. So, the next time you hear the threatening roar of a chainsaw, consider joining one of our planting events to restore our native conifers. Believe in the future. Well planted Douglas firs and Western red cedars will still be towering over our neighborhood in 500- 1000 years. Our first event is the April 2nd Arbor Month planting activity. We will be planting a few six foot Western Red Cedars. The native Americans who used to live here called cedars the "Tree of Life." Those interested in planting new life in our neighborhood may contact [dennybarnes@gmail.com](mailto:dennybarnes@gmail.com).