

Klamath Tree League

“Promoting proper planting and care of trees in the urban environment.”

c/o Oregon Department of Forestry, 3200 Delap Road, Klamath Falls, Oregon 97601

The Great Klamath Tree Plant

Celebrating

The Oregon 150 Sesquicentennial

The Klamath Falls community plans to celebrate the Oregon 150 Sesquicentennial through the Great Klamath Tree Plant. Community organizations including the Klamath Tree League, the City of Klamath Falls, Klamath County, the Klamath County Chamber of Commerce, the OSU Extension Service, Oregon State Forestry, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and local schools are working together to plant 150 trees this spring. The trees will be planted at a variety of locations throughout the urban area by local volunteers drawn from citizens, schools, service clubs and organizations, and youth organizations. Donations of funding and trees are currently being solicited and received.

A variety of locations in the urban area have been selected for plantings. All of the sites are publicly owned. Plans to include a tree planting location at the YMCA are currently under consideration.

Foothills afforestation project

The purpose of the Foothills tree planting project is to establish a sizeable island of tree cover that would presumably link up in the future with neighboring open space properties to establish a wildlife corridor through the northeast quadrant of the Klamath Falls urban area.

The project is being coordinated in conjunction with the Oregon 150 sesquicentennial celebration, and is part of an official Oregon 150 project being coordinated by the Klamath Tree League in cooperation with Klamath County, the city of Klamath Falls, the Oregon Department of Forestry and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. Primary funding for the project so far has come from private citizens who have responded to the Klamath Tree League’s invitation to “sponsor” a tree at the site.

The project is expected to occur in two concurrent phases – one section emphasizing native species and another with more ornamental shade tree species. Both sections would include a mix of deciduous and coniferous species.

In the native section, preferred species include red-osier dogwood, black cottonwood, quaking aspen, willow, Oregon white oak, California black oak, Oregon ash and incense cedar.

In the ornamental section, a broad range of species will be selected based on stock availability in nurseries. Preferred species will include ash, black locust, oak, maple, hackberry, mulberry, sequoia and cedar, plus others.

The project site is owned by Klamath County government, which has set the property aside as permanent open space. There are no plans for development of any kind on the site, although there are proposals for establishing subdivisions around the property. As a result, the project site will likely become an important parcel of open space and refugial area for wildlife in the decades ahead.

Vegetation on the site now includes native grasses and shrubs, with some occurrence of noxious weeds, which are the target of annual control program by the county. There are a very few scattered junipers.

Benefits of the project include providing habitat for a wide variety of birds, as well as some thermal cover for mule deer and other mammals. The site is believed to be a migratory flyway for mourning dove, and could support valley quail.

The project also serves as the “headwaters” of the 1-C Drain, which has long been a concern for water quality issues. Any large subdivisions that may occur above the project site could cause stormwater runoff to enter the property. A tree canopy captures rainfall and improves the penetration of rainfall into the soil.

Establishment of a tree canopy would also provide air quality benefits by capturing particulates.

Finally, the project will enhance the site’s function as a public space where people can observe wildlife and enjoy a park-like setting.

Trees will be planted by experienced volunteers, and will be watered for at least two summers by standby fire crews from the Oregon Department of Forestry. The Department of Forestry has agreed to supply enough water for 50 individual trees

Lake Ewauna Trail/Wetlands

Klamath Falls recently was fortunate to acquire a 1.8 mile public access easement along the east shore of Lake Ewauna together with 2 acres of waterfront adjoining Veteran’s Park in downtown Klamath Falls as a trail head. This developing multi-purpose trail provides two of the sites for the Great Klamath Tree Plant:

- 1) A grove of five trees will be planted in the waterfront area Veteran’s Park which has become a popular site for downtown celebrations with the two acre expansion. The planting of this grove will be the public cornerstone of our celebration and will provide a highly visible reminder of the Oregon 150 Sesquicentennial as well as further enhancing the park as a community gathering place.
- 2) At the south end of the trail, the City of Klamath Falls is completing a 42 acre wetland restoration project as part of an airport mitigation project. Between the newly recreated wetlands and Lake Ewauna is the southernmost $\frac{3}{4}$ mile of the developing Lake Ewauna Trail. The Great Klamath Tree Plant will plant cottonwoods and willows along this stretch thereby enhancing the trail and providing wildlife habitat.

Moore Park Forest

The City Parks system includes over 400 acres of pine forest on the south shore of Upper Klamath Lake in Moore Park. This natural area will be the location of the planting of pine seedlings donated by JWTR Nursery to help fill in the forest where recent fuels reduction work has occurred.

South Sixth Street Overpass

The South Sixth Street overpass islands are the fourth site for our Great Klamath Tree Plant. Following a jurisdictional transfer by ODOT, the islands' irrigation system has been upgraded and two dozen deciduous trees will be added to this very high profile entry into downtown.

Local Schools

Our local schools have been encouraged to include the planting of one Oregon 150 tree on each of their school grounds as the fifth 'site' for our local celebration. Still under development, the idea was enthusiastically received as a potential educational project in conjunction with National Arbor Week.

Volunteer Planting Schedule

April 4 th	Moore Park Forest
April 18 th	YMCA
April 20 th	South 6 th Overpass
April 22 nd	Lake Ewauna (covered)
April 25 th	Foothills
TBD	Veteran's Park and local schools

Planting crews will start at 8:00 a.m. for each project with the exception of Lake Ewauna

For additional information contact John Bellon, Urban Forester, at 883-5391