

SOLVE IT Sandy Earth Day project at Bluff Park

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Shade Our Streams work party to help improve water quality

The Clackamas River Basin Council is teaming up with the city of Sandy for a Shade Our Streams spring clean and spruce up at Sandy Bluff Park.

From 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, April 26, at Sandy Bluff Park, 36801 Goldenrain St., community members are needed to help with an Earth Day cleanup and restoration event as part of SOLVE IT for Sandy.

The Clackamas River Basin Council has partnered with the city at Sandy Bluff Park as part of the Shade Our Streams program, a community tree-planting project that aims to improve water quality in the Clackamas River basin.

Over a six-year period, Shade Our Streams has the goal of planting more than 450,000 native trees and shrubs along 30 stream miles, restoring streamside habitat at no cost to property owners.

The project will focus on planting along the streams that need the most help: those areas that lack shade canopy and are overrun with invasive weeds.

“Sandy Bluff Park is situated on the edge of the Clackamas River and Sandy River watersheds and has presented a great opportunity for the Shade Our Streams program,” said Morgan Parks of the council, “both through the partnership with the city of Sandy and being highly visible to the public with adjacent neighborhoods and Sandy High School nearby.”

In February 2013, Shade Our Streams planted 8,000 native plants along nearly half a mile of Tickle Creek that runs through the park. The native plants are meant to create shade that will help cool water temperatures, stabilize soils, improve fish and wildlife habitat and enhance the experience of visiting the area, Parks said.

The work party activities April 26 are meant to continue improving water quality by removing trash and providing young plants with a new layer of mulch.

The public is invited to meet at the Sandy Community Center at 9 a.m. for registration, breakfast and free giveaways before heading to the park to pick up trash and spread mulch.

Tools, gloves and water will be provided. Volunteers should wear sturdy shoes and dress for weather.

To RSVP for the work party, contact Morgan Parks at 503-303-4372, ext. 101, or morgan@clackamasriver.org.

Landowners with streamside property are encouraged to contact the Clackamas River Basin Council to find out how to get involved in Shade Our Streams.