

# On the eve of Earth Day, a North Salem park sees 33 new trees planted



Charles Gearing  
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City councilor Vanessa Nordyke remembers how much she enjoyed growing up around trees in Salem.

"I had a tree a couple blocks down from me that was enormous, and big enough to climb, and I loved climbing that tree," said Nordyke, who represents Ward 7. "I loved being in nature, I loved having my alone time up there."

Nordyke said that while her ward has an "extraordinary" tree canopy, not all areas in Salem do. So it was easy for her to get behind supporting the Salem

chapter of the American Association of University Women in conjunction with the city to hold a tree planting at Stephens-Yoshikai School Park on Friday in North Salem on the eve of Earth Day.



The 33 trees planted are a mix of Oregon white oaks, ponderosa pines, dogwoods, cascaras, Pacific crabapples, vine maples and big leaf maples.

"We picked this location mainly because city parks said that this area generally is in need of more tree canopy and I talked to a woman in the neighborhood who said that lots of the trees in the neighborhood are dying and this would be wonderful," said Peggy Shippen of the Salem AAUW chapter, which is celebrating its 100th anniversary. "The other thing is that our focus as an organization is for education, and what better place than between two middle schools and a neighborhood?"

AAUW is a national nonprofit that works to empowers women and girls with an emphasis on education and career opportunities.



The Salem chapter raised \$2,000 and applied \$500 of internal grant funds to pay for the project. The city helped promote and find a location for it.

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"We're very broad in our scope," Shippen said. "We look at health issues, we look at environmental health, we help girls negotiate salaries and wage increases, so over the years we've done many things."

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