

Grove of the States Restoration Fact Sheet

Oregon's Grove of the States is located at the French Prairie Rest Area (southbound I-5 at Milepost 281), near Wilsonville.

The Grove is believed to be the oldest arboretum of state trees in the US and was originally a collection of trees from 53 US states and territories. The concept for the Grove was conceived and implemented by former Oregon Attorney General Robert Thornton in the mid-1960s, as a way to honor Lady Bird Johnson's Highway Beautification Act.



QUICK RESTORATION FACTS

- The Grove was established in 1967. Unfortunately, the original planting did not allow adequate spacing for the trees to reach mature size. As a result, many of the state trees have died or are in extremely poor condition and will need to be replaced as a result of being suppressed by a canopy of Douglas-fir trees encroaching on the Grove.
- A restoration effort is underway to restore this unique cultural resource to its intended stature as one of the oldest state tree arboreta in the US. In order for full restoration to succeed, the physical footprint must be expanded.
- Only 40 Douglas-fir trees of the more than 900 found in this part of the southbound French Prairie Rest Area will be removed; several for public safety reasons, and others thinned to provide room and space for the state trees' health.
- Restoration partners (including the Oregon Department of Forestry and Friends of Trees) are helping organize the planting of new tree specimens in early 2017. This project also includes installation of new walking paths and interpretive signage for the Grove.

• Sponsorships and in-kind contributions will help to pay for the project. This is a unique opportunity to have your business name seen by more than two million travelers who stop at the southbound French Prairie Rest Area each year. Prospective sponsors can find the sponsorship package on the OTE website, or may contact us at 503-373-0864.

Project timeline

2016

- GOS partners worked with a landscape architect to create a new planting plan
- OTE selected a contractor through and RFQ to thin trees identified as potential hazards and/or contributing to the ill-health of viable Grove trees
- The GOS partners established sponsorship guidelines for business and/or individual contributions to help fund the restoration project
- Restoration partners (Friends of Trees and Oregon Department of Forestry) began sourcing Grove replacement trees and established a planting date (February 2017)

2017

- Walking pathways and GOS footprint expansion construction will begin
- New representational tree plantings will take place
- New public interpretational signage will be installed
- August 2017: 50th Anniversary of the GOS public celebration

Grove of the States 50th Anniversary

In August 2017, the Grove of the States will turn 50-years old. A public ceremony will be held to coordinate with the anniversary, and project partners and sponsors will participate in the event. As we move closer to the completion of the restoration project, we will send out a media release along with stories about major contributors and sponsors. Stay tuned for the date and time.

Project contacts

TIC/OTE

Nancy DeSouza, Executive Director, 503-373-1042

Annie von Domitz, Community Assets and GOS Restoration Project Manager, 503-373-0864

About TIC/OTE

The Oregon Travel Information Council (doing business as Oregon Travel Experience) is a semi-independent state agency. Our mission is to create a great visitor experience by providing direction to destinations, connecting travelers with Oregon resources, and ensuring safe and convenient travel.



We collaborate with local communities to showcase Oregon's history through the official Oregon Heritage Tree and Historical Marker Programs. We manage 29 rest areas at 17 locations across the state—and issue permits for our state's highway business signs and travel information kiosks.