



For Immediate Release Contact:
Andrea Mosher
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Delaware Center for Horticulture
302-658-6262

Wilmington to Celebrate National NeighborWoods Month

Sponsored by The Home Depot Foundation

Wilmington, Del. – October 1, 2006. Delaware Center for Horticulture today announced that it will plant/maintain 25 trees as part of their Beautify Wilmington Tree Planting. This event is one of more than 100 greening efforts throughout the country being promoted during October, which has been declared National NeighborWoods Month by the national nonprofit, the Alliance for Community Trees (ACT). Delaware Center for Horticulture is a member of ACT's NeighborWoods Network.

The Tree Program seeks to revitalize urban neighborhoods and raise awareness of the value of the urban forest, its capacity to improve the quality of air and water resources, and ability to protect human health. Wilmington, like many urban centers, is plagued with a host of problems: crime, drug use, impoverished neighborhoods, and underserved minority populations. DCH's Community Greening Programs, including the Tree Program, serve as the first step in bringing people together to generate ideas and build consensus for neighborhood revitalization through greening. Partners will include: KaBOOM!, City of Wilmington, Kirkwood Park Working Group, and the 11th Street Bridge Civic Association.

"It's great to be working on an important greening effort at a time when other organizations are doing so as well," said Andrea Mosher. "Part of our goal is to draw attention to the good work being done at the grassroots level all across the country to improve urban and community forests." The Delaware Center for Horticulture seeks to enhance the quality of life through knowledge and appreciation of gardening, horticulture, and conservation.

Delaware Center for Horticulture's celebration will take place as follows:
Oct 14, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Call for location.

"Having local organizations like Delaware Center for Horticulture participate in National NeighborWoods Month helps us show the cumulative effect of a burgeoning urban and community forestry movement," said ACT Executive Director Alice Ewen Walker. Founded in 1993, the Alliance for Community Trees is a national coalition of 97 nonprofit organizations engaged in urban and community forestry. Its members are dedicated to grassroots community greening, public education, policymaking, job training, environmental design and other activities that support better urban forest stewardship.

Strategically planted trees contribute to energy conservation, improved children's health, increase property values, lower crime rates, save municipalities money through savings in stormwater management infrastructure, and encourage shoppers to linger longer. For example, children in neighborhoods with fewer trees have five times less lung function and higher school absences. Shaded streets require about 60% less sealant roadwork than unshaded streets. It is estimated that for every \$1 a city invests in trees, it receives up to \$3.74 in benefits.

NeighborWoods Month is sponsored through a generous grant from The Home Depot Foundation. "National NeighborWoods Month offers a unique opportunity for people to understand the contributions of trees to the health, beauty and livability of their communities," said Kelly Caffarelli, executive director of The Home Depot Foundation. "By partnering with ACT and local NeighborWoods organizations like Delaware Center for Horticulture, The Foundation is able to further its goals of investing in the overall health and success of our communities."

About The Home Depot Foundation

The Home Depot Foundation was created in 2002 to further the community-building goals of The Home Depot by providing additional resources to assist nonprofit organizations in building affordable, efficient and healthy homes throughout the United States and Canada. The Home Depot Foundation administers grant-making programs in the areas of "Affordable Housing, Built Responsibly" and "Community Trees – Healthy Neighborhoods." Since its formation, The Home Depot Foundation has granted more than \$25 million to nonprofit and government organizations throughout North America. For more information, visit homedepotfoundation.org.

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