



For Immediate Release Contact:
Scott Fogarty
October 1, 2006
Friends of Trees
503-282-8846

Portland to Celebrate National NeighborWoods Month

Sponsored by The Home Depot Foundation

Portland, Ore. – October 1, 2006. Friends of Trees today announced that it will host the Fun Run for Restoration. 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). Friends of Trees is a member of ACT's NeighborWoods Network.

Friends of Trees is hosting the first annual "Fun Run for Restoration." The "Fun Run" is a 5 mile run and 3.5 mile walk to promote awareness of street trees and raise money for Friends of Trees' work. The course will traverse through two neighborhoods, Sellwood and East Moreland, where FOT has planted street trees for several years and will wind through Oaks Bottom Wildlife Refuge where FOT has done numerous native plant and tree plantings over the past five years. Planted trees will have signs in front of them as will the native restoration sites.

Partners include: Nike Factory Store, a local radio station, local running clubs, the Metro board president, and the Assistant Director of Oregon Department of Environmental Quality. We expect 500 runners/walkers and will have several tree friendly organizations and businesses tabling. Our volunteer photographer will be on hand to take photos of the event. We expect approximately 75 volunteers will be helping including the Cleveland High School cross country team. All participants will receive a Nike T-shirts and Gymsack.

Friends of Trees' celebration will take place as follows:

Oct 8, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Oaks Bottom Park / Wildlife Refuge.

"Having local organizations like Friends of Trees 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 Friends of Trees, 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.

###

National Sponsors

