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Philadelphia to Celebrate National NeighborWoods Month

Sponsored by The Home Depot Foundation

Philadelphia – October 1, 2006. Pennsylvania Center for Horticulture today announced that it will host the Growing Greener Cities: Symposium on Urban Environmental Issues in the 21st Century. 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). Pennsylvania Center for Horticulture is a member of ACT's NeighborWoods Network.

Inspired by the PBS film series *Edens Lost & Found*, this national symposium promotes sustainable urban environments and the role of community-based participation. Sessions will focus on how integrated management of natural resources, including water, air, land and the green environment, fosters social, economic and environmental revitalization of cities. Keynote speaker Wangari Maathai received the Nobel Peace Prize in 2004 for her contributions to sustainable development, democracy and peace. Located at the University of Pennsylvania, Perelman Quad.

"It's great to be working on an important greening effort at a time when other organizations are doing so as well," said Priscilla Becroft. "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."

Pennsylvania Center for Horticulture's celebration will take place as follows:

Oct 15, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Oct 16, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Oct 17, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Call for location.

"Having local organizations like Pennsylvania 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 Pennsylvania 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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