



For Immediate Release Contact:
Jared Liu
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301-277-0041
jared@actrees.org

700 Projects Exceed Expectations for National NeighborWoods Month

Fifth Annual October Event Sponsored by The Home Depot Foundation

[College Park, Md.] November 9, 2009 – In 231 cities around the country, local nonprofit organizations and their partners participated in this year's National NeighborWoods Month, organized by the Alliance for Community Trees and sponsored by The Home Depot® Foundation, USDA Forest Service, and Wallace Genetic Foundation. Throughout October, participating organizations planted an estimated 36,000 trees with help from 24,000 volunteers to improve urban communities. Tree planting projects, tree maintenance and stewardship programs, training activities, and educational seminars were among the projects held during NeighborWoods Month. As issues such as improved public health, stormwater management, improved energy efficiency, and combating climate change advance on Capitol Hill, these same concerns are being addressed locally through trees and green infrastructure.

"This year's outstanding NeighborWoods Month celebration is a reflection of the growing movement for green cities. A dozen major cities have declared city-wide tree canopy goals, involving residents and the private sector to plant and care for trees," said Alice C. Ewen, Executive Director of the Alliance for Community Trees. "People everywhere are looking for simple, affordable ways to go green and improve their communities. Just by shading a home, you can cut summer energy use by a third, eliminating emissions that contribute to global warming. What's more, that same shade tree will clean the air, save you money, and enhance your home's curb appeal. Those are great benefits everyone can appreciate."

NeighborWoods Month is sponsored through a generous grant from The Home Depot Foundation. "Trees are an important component of responsible design to ensure that homes are affordable, energy efficient, safe and healthy," said Kelly Caffarelli, president of The Home Depot Foundation. "By partnering with ACT and local NeighborWoods organizations, The Foundation is able to further its goals of investing in the overall health and success of our communities."

For information about 2009 National NeighborWoods Month events, see:
www.neighborwoodsmoonth.org

About Alliance for Community Trees

The Alliance for Community Trees was incorporated in 1993 as a problem-solving center for leaders of community-based urban forestry groups. Its founders shared a vision of healthy, functioning urban ecosystems nurtured by a broad base of community stewards. Today, ACT is a growing network of more than 150 organizations engaged in tree planting, care and education. Its members are involved in grassroots community greening, public education, policymaking, job training, and other activities to support urban forest stewardship. Together, they have planted 14.9 million city trees by engaging more than 4.3 million volunteers. Information on ACT and its members can be found at www.actrees.org.

About The Home Depot Foundation

The Home Depot Foundation was created in 2002 to further the community building goals of The Home Depot. The Home Depot Foundation is dedicated to building affordable homes for working families that are healthy to live in and affordable to own. To make homes healthy and affordable, the Foundation encourages developers to incorporate responsible design and use durable and quality materials to ensure that homes are more energy and water efficient, have good indoor air quality, and provide a safe and healthy space to live. Since its formation, The Home Depot Foundation has granted \$120 million to nonprofit organizations and supported the development of more than 65,000 affordable, healthy homes. For more information, visit www.homedepotfoundation.org or follow The Home Depot Foundation on Twitter: HomeDepotFdn.

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