



For Immediate Release Contact:  
Diane Losavio  
March 27, 2008  
Baton Rouge Green  
225-381-0037  
diane@batonrougegreen.com

### East Polk NeighborWoods Tree Planting

*Sponsored by The Home Depot Foundation and Baton Rouge Green*

Baton Rouge, La.- Over the last decade, Baton Rouge Green has targeted Old South Baton Rouge for focused revitalization efforts to curb crime, engage communities, revitalize business districts, and increase property values. This year, their efforts focus on affordable housing. In what was only too recently a nearly treeless community, over 40% of the housing is in moderate to declining condition. Contiguous areas of vacant, adjudicated, and blighted property provided opportunities for planned developments.

To send the message that trees are a sign of a neighborhood's health and livability, Baton Rouge Green teamed up with the Baton Rouge Area Foundation and the Center for Planning Excellence to lead the greening aspect of a new infill strategy and begin to restore the quality of life while improving the neighborhood.

On Saturday, Baton Rouge Green, and about 100 volunteers will plant 80 trees at the new Hope VI affordable homes on East Polk Street. The project engages residents of Old South Baton Rouge and the public at large in hands-on action to produce tangible improvements. Jared Liu, Director of Programs at the Alliance for Community Trees in Washington, DC will be in attendance to talk about the value of trees, connections between affordable housing and greening, and participate in the planting. Also invited are the mayor's tree commission, Lorri Burgess (Metro Council), Steve Shurtz (Landscape Architect for the Parish), and Wade Dubea (State Urban Forestry Coordinator).

### The community improvement project will take place as follows:

3/29/08- 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. along East Polk Street.  
9:00 a.m.- Press conference at 349 E. Polk St.

Sponsored by The Home Depot Foundation, the Barton Family Foundation, East Baton Rouge Mortgage Finance Authority, Louisiana Department of Agriculture & Forestry, Louisiana Urban Forestry Council, and Entergy Corporation.

### About the Alliance for Community Trees

Founded in 1993, the Alliance for Community Trees is a national coalition of 150 nonprofit organizations engaged in urban and community forestry in 39 states and Canada. Its members are dedicated to grassroots community greening, public education, policymaking, job training, urban design, and other initiatives that support better awareness of the connections between trees and people. For more information, visit [www.actrees.org](http://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 by providing additional resources to assist nonprofit organizations building affordable, efficient, and healthy homes throughout the United States and Canada. The Home Depot Foundation is dedicated to creating healthy, livable communities through the integration of affordable housing built responsibly and the preservation and restoration of community trees. Since its formation, The Home Depot Foundation has granted more than \$50 million to nonprofit and government organizations throughout North America. In 2006 alone, projects supported by the foundation built 9,000 units of housing and planted 300,000 trees. For more information, visit [www.homedepotfoundation.org](http://www.homedepotfoundation.org).

###



National Sponsors

