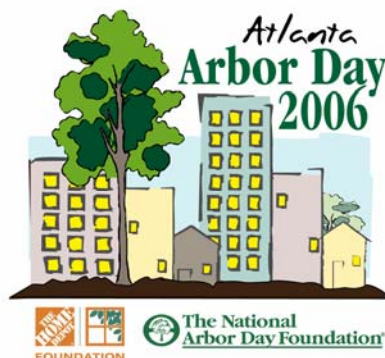


NEWS RELEASE

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2006 Celebrations:

Atlanta
Georgia Arbor Day:
February 17

Kansas City
Missouri Arbor Day:
April 7

Albany
New York Arbor Day:
April 28

Boston
Massachusetts Arbor Day:
April 28

Chicago
Illinois Arbor Day:
April 28

Dallas
Texas Arbor Day:
April 28

Minneapolis
Minnesota Arbor Day:
April 28

Phoenix
Arizona Arbor Day:
April 28

Reno
Nevada Arbor Day:
April 28

Los Angeles
Los Angeles Arbor Day:
April 29

THE HOME DEPOT FOUNDATION AND THE NATIONAL ARBOR DAY FOUNDATION KICK OFF NATIONWIDE URBAN FORESTRY CAMPAIGN AT GEORGIA ARBOR DAY EVENT

Atlanta area students, businesses, conservation groups and volunteers enhance Atlanta's urban forest at four tree-planting events.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Atlanta, GA (February 17, 2006) – With the help of the Georgia Forestry Commission, The National Arbor Day Foundation and The Home Depot Foundation kicked off a 10-city campaign to celebrate Arbor Day and help restore urban forests across the country. Local schoolchildren, businesses, and conservation organizations planted 100 large trees across the metro-Atlanta area, drawing attention to the benefits of urban forests and creating greener, healthier communities.

Representatives from The Home Depot Foundation and The National Arbor Day Foundation joined The staff and volunteers from The Home Depot, Trees Atlanta, Grant Park Conservancy, Cobb Housing Inc., and Keep Cobb Beautiful to plant the trees among three locations:

- **Grant Park in Atlanta.** The Grant Park Conservancy has undertaken a vigorous planting program to preserve the park's cooling, filtering, lush tree canopy.
- **Parkside Elementary School in Atlanta.** The school focuses on offering a quality education in a safe and caring environment, with an aim to produce productive citizens. Teachers and fifty 5th and 6th graders helped plant the trees.
- **Mitchell Chase Community in Mableton.** A Cobb Housing, Inc. affordable housing development of 31 single family homes built using green building concepts. Thirty-five 5th and 6th graders from Grace Baptist Christian School and their teachers took part in the event.

A press conference and tree-planting ceremony was held during Georgia's Arbor Day Ceremony in Centennial Olympic Park in Atlanta. Coordinated by the Georgia Forestry Commission, this event highlighted the value of trees in Georgia's urban and rural communities.

Trees Atlanta helped coordinate the Grant Park and Parkside Elementary events. "Trees Atlanta is thrilled to be associated with The Home Depot Foundation and The National Arbor Day Foundation as the Atlanta partner for Arbor Day 2006," said Cheryl B. Kortemeier, Director of Communications and Administration for the group. "Together, we are planting trees where they are needed most throughout the Grant Park-Parkside Elementary School community in celebration of all that trees mean to Atlanta."

The remaining nine Arbor Day Celebrations will be held in major cities around the country in April. "We are excited to partner with The National Arbor Day Foundation on this initiative," said Kelly Caffarelli, Executive Director of The Home Depot Foundation. "Our foundation works with affordable housing and tree planting organizations across the country to promote livable, healthy and affordable communities. This partnership provides a terrific opportunity to further our goals." The Home Depot Foundation's grant for urban Arbor Day celebrations supports its Healthy Community and Wildland Forests–Urban Forest Restoration initiative, which focuses on tree planting to restore urban and rural forests.

"The Home Depot Foundation has given us a wonderful opportunity to help enhance America's urban forests and increase awareness of the importance of trees," said John Rosenow, President of The National Arbor Day Foundation. "We are grateful to the Georgia Forestry Commission, The Home Depot associates, the volunteers and schoolchildren, Trees Atlanta, Grant Park Conservancy, Cobb Housing, Inc., and Keep Cobb Beautiful for helping plant and celebrate trees in Georgia today and every day."

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About The Home Depot Foundation: The Home Depot Foundation invests in nonprofit organizations that are in the business of building better communities. The Home Depot and many of the suppliers who help fill the company's shelves contribute to The Home Depot Foundation to help fulfill their shared vision of creating stronger, healthier neighborhoods. The Foundation focuses its efforts in the areas of affordable, efficient and healthy housing production and rehabilitation and tree planting to restore urban and rural forests. See www.homedepotfoundation.org for more information or contact Caroline Counihan at 770-384-2944 or caroline_counihan@homedepot.com.

About The National Arbor Day Foundation: Founded in 1972, The National Arbor Day Foundation is a non-profit organization established to inspire people to plant, nurture and celebrate trees. With nearly one million

members, the Foundation distributes and plants nearly 10 million trees through its membership and reforestation efforts in America's National Forests. The National Arbor Day Foundation works to impact community forests through educational seminars and conferences, collaboration with local tree-planting organizations, and the Tree City USA program, which includes nearly 3,100 designated Tree Cities. For additional information, visit www.arborday.org or contact Dan Lambe at 402-474-5655 or dlambe@arborday.org.

About Trees Atlanta: Trees Atlanta is a non-profit citizens' group dedicated to protecting and improving Atlanta's urban environment by planting and conserving trees and educating the public about the value of trees. Trees Atlanta was founded in 1985 by Central Atlanta Progress (a downtown business leaders association), the Atlanta Commissioner of Parks, and the Junior League to address downtown Atlanta's lack of green space. Over 1500 volunteers actively participate in Trees Atlanta programs, including landscape architects, contractors, public relations, photojournalists, printers, graphic artists, computer experts, and lawyers. Trees Atlanta is an independent non-profit citizens group and receives no financial support from the city. To learn more, visit www.treesatlanta.org or contact Cheryl B. Kortemeier at 404-522-4097 or cheryl@treesatlanta.org.

About The Grant Park Conservancy: The Grant Park Conservancy is a non profit organization committed to the restoration, beautification and preservation of historic L.P. Grant Park, Atlanta's oldest public park (est. 1883). Working in partnership with the city, the Conservancy focuses resources on the park and seeks to implement a multi-phase master plan for a return to the classic landscape envisioned by the Olmsted Brothers Landscape Design firm. For more information about Grant Park or The Grant Park Conservancy, visit www.gpconservancy.org or contact Phil Cuthbertson at 404-521-0938 or pcuthbertson@gpconservancy.org.

About Cobb Housing, Inc.: Cobb Housing, Inc. is a non-profit organization that provides confidential one-on-one counseling to prospective homeowners in Cobb County, Georgia. Through educational programs, homeowners receive critical training that enables them to make more informed housing decisions and improve their social, economic and housing status. In 2005, Cobb Housing, Inc.'s was one of six winners of the National Association of Home Builders' Innovations in Workforce Housing Award in recognition of its Mitchell Chase development, which makes affordable housing available to teachers, police officers and other public servants. The organization is a HUD-approved housing counseling agency. For more information about Cobb Housing, Inc., visit www.cobbhousinginc.org or contact Michael M. Miller at 770-429-4400 ext. 239 or mmiller@cobbhousinginc.org.

About Keep Cobb Beautiful: Keep Cobb Beautiful is a nonprofit organization established in 1984 with the support of the Cobb County Board of Commissioners for the purpose of "assisting the County and Board in establishing, promoting and maintaining a countywide policy for improved environmental and waste management." Keep Cobb Beautiful supports several environmental programs, one of which is known as Cobb Trees. In its sixth season, Cobb Trees depends on hundreds of volunteers to plant trees in Cobb, continuing its efforts to replenish a disappearing "inventory" of trees and green space in Cobb County. For more information about volunteer or support opportunities, you can visit www.kcb.cobbcountyga.gov or contact Gwen Baldwin at 770-528-1135 or gwen.baldwin@cobbcounty.org.

About The Home Depot: Founded in 1978, The Home Depot(R) is the world's largest home improvement specialty retailer and the second largest retailer in the United States, with fiscal 2004 sales of \$73.1 billion. The company employs approximately 345,000 associates and has 2,046 stores in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, 10 Canadian provinces and Mexico. The Home Depot has been recognized by FORTUNE as the No. 1 Most Admired Specialty Retailer for 2005. For more information, visit www.homedepot.com or contact Caroline Counihan at 770-384-2944 or caroline_counihan@homedepot.com.