



MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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GRAND RAPIDS CELEBRATES ARBOR DAY WITH PARK TREE PLANTINGS

WHAT: Mayor Heartwell has proclaimed April 29th, 2011 as Arbor Day in Grand Rapids and urges all citizens to recognize the importance of trees as a vital resource to our community, and encourages all to find appropriate ways to celebrate Arbor Day activities.

The City of Grand Rapids, Friends of Grand Rapids Parks and members of the Urban Forestry Committee are teaming up to celebrate Arbor Day with volunteers in Garfield Park this year. We will plant 20 trees throughout the Park. Volunteers will also help prepare for the Global Releaf of Michigan Tree Sale the following day at Garfield Park.

WHY: Trees provide a multitude of social, economic, and environmental benefits for urban inhabitants and are integral components of the livability of our cities and towns. Each new planting helps us move toward the 40% urban forest canopy goal set as part of the Green Grand Rapids Master Plan.

WHEN: Friday April 29th, 2011 (11am-1pm)

WHERE: Media are encouraged to come to Garfield Park. Tree planting locations will be along the Madison Avenue entrance to the Park and near the parking lots and tennis courts along Burton Street.

WHO: Friends of Grand Rapids Parks and the City of Grand Rapids are helping to organize the event. The trees being planted come through a grant from DTE Energy Foundation Tree Planting Grant Program with additional donations from Katerberg Verhage. Volunteers from Home Depot, Americorps, and the community will be assisting with the tree planting.

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