



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 5, 2010

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City and Friends Committed to More Tree Planting

OWOSSO, MI - 24 trees planted, 24 more to go! Owosso Main Street, The Friends of the Shiawassee River and the City of Owosso would like to thank the community for participating in the first GreenUp, CleanUp event in Owosso on Saturday, May 1, 2010. The City also declared May 1 to be Arbor Day to celebrate the contributions of trees to our communities and to the health of our ecosystems and rivers.

“This is the first of two events to increase canopy cover in the City of Owosso and help improve the environment near the River” said Sarah Warren-Riley, City Housing and Neighborhood Development Coordinator.

Trees were provided through a competitive grant awarded to the City, in partnership with the Friends of the Shiawassee River, through the Michigan Dept. of Natural Resources and Environment, Urban and Community Forestry Program. Through grant funding, 48 large, native trees will be planted in and along the riparian area to help protect and stabilize stream banks while helping to moderate high water and maintain good water quality.

The remaining 24 trees will be planted with volunteer assistance on Saturday, May 15, 2010. To volunteer, please call the Friends of the Shiawassee River at 989-723-9062. Invite a friend, roll up your sleeves and we'll see you there!

Despite morning rain on May 1st, organizers welcomed over 60 volunteers that worked collaboratively to spruce up the downtown district, maintain and remove debris from the banks of the Shiawassee River and the Jim Miner River Trail, paint bridge underpasses and plant 24 trees along the river bank. Volunteers all received t-shirts, compliments of Hankerd Sportswear, and pizza from Roma's Backdoor Restaurant. Approximately 4 yards of debris was hauled away from the river habitat and downtown and one dumpster was filled with debris during the City's Refuse and Reuse Reception. Donations to Goodwill filled nearly one trailer. Thanks are in order to Owosso City Council, Owosso Middle and High Schools, Lincoln High School, Kiwanis, Steam Railroading Institute, Shiawassee Association of Realtors, Chemical Bank, Wade-Trim Engineers, Curwood Festival, Goodwill and Granger for their contributions.

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