



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA BUILDING INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

Media Release

For Immediate Release

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DCBIA Hosts 18th Annual Community Improvement Day **15,000 Plantings and 500 Volunteers To Renovate and Enhance The Metropolitan Branch Trail in Ward 5 on October 2**

September 23, 2010..... Washington, DC.... The District of Columbia Building Industry Association (DCBIA) Community Services Committee has selected a new site in DC for its annual Community Improvement Day. On this day, more than 500 volunteers will convene to enhance the landscape of more than 1,600 linear feet of new trail situated along a portion of the District Department of Transportation's (DDOT) recently opened Met Branch Trail in northeast DC. The event is actually the culmination of more than 6 months of planning and design by volunteers from the building industry along with community and governmental collaboration. The effort is completely funded by donations of time, money and labor from DCBIA's membership.

The event called Community Improvement Day is designing a new landscape for a section of the NE, DC segment of The Metropolitan Branch Trail (MBT), an 8-mile trail that runs from Union Station in the District of Columbia to Silver Spring in Maryland. This year the Committee members selected this site because of the unique challenge of creating an interactive Urban Arboretum along the old B & O railroad lines in Ward 5 of Washington, DC. Following the Metropolitan Branch Line of the Baltimore and Ohio (B&O) Railroad, the trail passes through numerous vibrant and historic neighborhoods as well as connecting to the National Mall. It is a transportation route providing connections to homes, work and play, as well as access to seven Metro stations. This trail will eventually link multiple trails throughout the metropolitan area.

The section of the Met Branch Trail that will be the area of involvement is between Franklin Street to the north and Rhode Island Ave. to the south, adjacent to the Rhode Island Ave Metro Station. The proposed design will include several landscapes predominantly on a hillside close to a number of preparatory schools with a senior living residence nearby. The main design theme for this year's event will be an

Urban Arboretum with areas for seating and interacting with the plant life as a learning tool. A portion of the design will have a terraced amphitheater, or a Teaching Garden for outdoor learning. In addition, a soft path which is being called a Green Ribbon will be created, running throughout the hillside, allowing one to interact with the Urban Arboretum from the paved pathway to the upper levels of the hillside. Donations from Casey Trees will permit planting more than 50 trees, including fruit and berry trees in this stretch of the Met Branch Trail. The trees are being incorporated in the design of the trail by members of the DCBIA design team.

Event Chairs of Community Improvement Day are **Derek Mason, Architectural Design Consultant** and **Kevin Rogge, Vice President, Harvey Cleary. Hines**, for the tenth year, has stepped up as Lead Corporate Sponsor of the event, and is joined by **Archstone (4th year)** and **Terra Nova Title & Settlement Services**. Additional major sponsors include **Bradley Site Design, Cunningham + Quill Architects, DBI Architects, and Merrifield Garden Center.**

Elected and local officials **Councilmember Harry Thomas (Ward 5)** and **DDOT Director Gabe Klein** will make an appearance at the ribbon cutting ceremony scheduled for **12:30 PM.**

The District of Columbia Building Industry Association (DCBIA) is the professional association representing both the commercial and residential real estate industries in the nation's capital. Its membership of nearly 500 companies and organizations represents several thousand real estate professionals. The Association's membership encompasses all aspects of real estate development and includes developers, general contractors, architects and engineers, lenders, attorneys, brokers, accounting firms, title companies, utility companies, community development organizations and other professional members. As a service organization, it offers comprehensive educational programs, social events and community service activities.

For more information about DCBIA and its members, please visit its website at www.dcbia.org or call the DCBIA office at **(202) 966-8665.**