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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Erin Chacey
(913) 909-9838
erin@greenbus.org

Central Ohio Basking in After Earth Day Glow

Columbus, Ohio – April 26, 2010 – The organizers of *Earth Day 2010: The Update*, central Ohio's region-wide Earth Day celebration aimed to be the biggest in the world (and universe), and all indications are that goal was achieved. In total, nearly 4,000 volunteers were involved with community service projects and the celebration at Franklin Park. These volunteers put in about 13,500 person-hours cleaning up neighborhoods, planting trees, preparing community gardens and otherwise caring for the natural and urban environment across central Ohio.

The bulk of the volunteering occurred the weekend before Earth Day when dozens of community organizations hosted 129 volunteer worksites across central Ohio. At these worksites 3,679 volunteers put in 12,943 person-hours:


- Planting 8,262 trees, and another 5,440 native plants
- Collecting 2,027 bags of trash
- Cleaning 23 miles of waterway
- Diverting 15,000 pounds of material that would have gone to the landfill
- Recycling 2.2 tons of tires
- Removing 100 graffiti tags
- Building 115 raised beds
- Preparing 47 community gardens

An additional 150 volunteers helped out at the celebration at Franklin Park on Thursday, April 22nd – the calendar Earth Day. Each worked 2 to 4 hour shifts, adding approximately 500 person-hours, bringing the total to about 13,500 total hours – the equivalent of more than 6.5 person-years.

At the celebration, the second annual Earth Day Challenge Cup awards were presented to the school, company and non-profit organization that sent out the most volunteers to *Earth Day 2010: The Update* worksites. The winners for 2010 were Dublin Coffman High School (school), The Ohio State University (company), and Simply Living (non-profit).

Pictures from the worksites, celebration and more are available at the event website – www.Update2010.org.

3528 N. High Street Suite G Columbus, OH 43214 | p. 614.846.8802 | www.greenbus.org

Promoting sustainable living by: 1) providing forums, 2) raising awareness, and 3) encouraging participation 

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About Green Columbus

Green Columbus exists to promote sustainable living in Central Ohio and globally by 1) providing forums for environmental groups, citizens and others to interact. 2) raising awareness about environmental issues and what can be done to address them, and 3) encouraging participation in action oriented green events. More information is available at www.greenbus.org.