



DATE: August 27, 2008

CONTACTS: Dave Gamstetter, Cincinnati Park Board
(513) 861-8970

Bob Knight, Cincinnati Public Schools Representative: GBBN Architects, Inc.
(513) 241-8700

Holly Christmann, Hamilton County Solid Waste Management District
(513) 946-7705

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Local Trees Receive New Life In Cincinnati Public Schools

The Cincinnati Park Board, Cincinnati Public Schools and the Hamilton County Solid Waste District (District), have partnered to develop a solution to urban wood waste, including ash trees that may be in jeopardy due to the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB). The efforts of this partnership have paid off and urban wood waste is now being milled to be used in Cincinnati Public Schools. To date, eleven ash, maple and oak logs have already been turned into 3,100 board feet. The taskforce expects to process approximately 20,000 board feet to be used in CPS.

When the EAB was first discovered in Hamilton County in May, 2007, the District's Policy Committee requested that a taskforce be assembled to identify ways to use the urban wood waste; primarily ash, but also other types of trees.

The goal of the taskforce was to develop a plan for higher and better use of urban wood waste, including ash. The taskforce also identified outlets for the milled material with the largest customer being Cincinnati Public Schools.

The ash tree recycling project was added to Cincinnati Mayor Mark Mallory's 2008 Green Initiative program implemented by the Cincinnati Park Board. Cincinnati Parks is responsible for falling the trees, transporting them to a local saw mill, rough cutting the boards, loading and transporting them to a local kiln/finish mill and supervising all the work listed. The cost to CPS for this service will be \$1.00 per board foot of material, with the market value of this product currently at \$2.15 not including transportation costs. The payment from CPS to Cincinnati Parks will be used to support the operation of the local sawmill (ash wood cannot be transported across Hamilton County borders) and to supplement

-more-

procuring trees for the Park Board's reforestation program. Cincinnati Public Schools will use the lumber as flooring and shelving in their new and renovated schools.

"This is an ideal solution for the use of urban wood waste. Not only are the trees being utilized to their highest and best use, but none of this material is being sent to the landfill," comments Dave Gamstetter, Supervisor of Urban Forestry with the Cincinnati Park Board. Mr. Gamstetter continues,

"Using this local resource (urban wood waste) in construction also aids CPS with their LEED certification process and any profit will be used to plant replacement street trees, in parks, and on CPS grounds."

"The partnership and program provides a hands-on learning opportunity for the students of CPS," says Bob Knight with GBBN Architects who leads the sustainable design initiatives for CPS. "The schools will have final products which will show the circle of life, and this is all done with local workforce and materials."

"This is a win-win for all involved and truly a ground-breaking solution for the use of previously unwanted urban wood waste, specifically infected ash trees," adds Holly Christmann, Manager of the Hamilton County Solid Waste Management District.

For more information about the urban wood waste project, contact Dave Gamstetter at 861-8970. To view additional photos of the urban wood waste being transformed into usable board feet, please visit www.hamiltoncountyrecycles.org, click on NewsRoom, then Photo Gallery.

###