

Making the Shade Partnership Expands on Georgia Arbor Day

(LaGrange, Georgia) – *Making the Shade* expands to Bacon County, marking another benchmark for the successful partnerships formed with Georgia Forestry Commission, Milliken & Company and local schools. Plans to add shade trees to increase safety on the Bacon County Elementary School playground were announced on Georgia's Arbor Day, February 15.

"Milliken values our communities, safety and our children. *Making the Shade* is a good opportunity to combine these elements and enhance the school landscapes," said President of Milliken Floor Covering Division David Caples.

Rising temperatures signal potential safety hazards for elementary schools. With an enrollment of 430 students in grades three to five, Bacon County Elementary School in Alma, Georgia, serves the entire county. The Georgia Forestry Commission (GFC) has plans to install approximately 40 shade trees with support from Milliken. The campus currently offers very limited shade areas for teachers and children. The new trees, which will be planted in late 2008, will reduce the effects of high temperatures and related health and safety concerns and those shading HVAC equipment will also improve energy efficiency.

"This cooperative tree planting partnership with Milliken, Bacon County Board of Education, and Georgia Forestry Commission helps ensure that the campus of Bacon County Elementary will be a healthier place for students and faculty for many years to come," said Daniel Westcot, Senior Forester with the GFC's Sustainable Community Forestry Program.

Milliken supports *Making the Shade* as part of its *Trees For All* initiative, reflecting concerns for healthy environments indoors and out. Milliken demonstrates its commitment to improve Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) with adhesive-free TractionBack® modular installation system, which eliminates off-gassing, allowing everyone to breathe easier. Outdoors, the company nurtures millions of trees and is certified carbon negative through reduced emissions and carbon sequestration in its forests without purchased credits.

Making the Shade was announced on Arbor Day 2007 and in its first year arranged the addition of 131 trees to three school playgrounds serving 1,940 Georgia elementary students. This year the program has expanded to serve six more schools, with planting plans currently underway. The Georgia Forestry Commission research indicates compelling reasons to take action by adding shade trees to the landscape.

- Traditional elementary school campus design often eliminates the health benefits provided by shade trees.
- Children are more susceptible to ground level ozone because they often play outside on hot, muggy days.

- Children's skin damage can occur in as little as 15 minutes of overexposure to the sun's ultraviolet (UV) radiation.
- Elevated playground temperatures reduce air quality and increase risks for children with asthma and other lung related issues.
- Elevated surface temperatures of school yards and playground equipment can cause serious and painful burns to students.

Milliken Floor Covering shares an eco-heritage which has earned Milliken & Company global respect for leadership and innovation as the textile industry's standard-bearer for sustainability. Milliken Ecountability means being responsible for the entire product life span. ***Trees For All*** works to educate the supply chain, enhance communities, and reduce greenhouse gas impacts for future generations through online tree planting opportunities; partnerships to nurture trees; programs to increase elementary playground safety; and recognition of sustainable actions.

The Georgia Forestry Commission provides leadership, service, and education in the protection and conservation of Georgia's forest resources.

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