



## CITY OF SAINT PAUL

Mayor Christopher B. Coleman

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For Immediate Release

May 7, 2008

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## Trees Saint Paul Program Kicking-Off Friday

### *New Donation Program for Tree Planting Begins with First Donation from District Energy*

(Saint Paul) – Saint Paul has seen its urban landscape altered by damaging storms in the past, but last year a tremendous storm struck, and over 1000 public trees were lost. Faced with tough economic decisions and calls for dramatic tree re-planting efforts to reshape the landscape, Trees Saint Paul, a new City run donation program was started. Although the program saw a “soft-launch” last fall, an official kick-off ceremony will take place this Friday at 11:30 a.m. at the new Jimmy Lee Recreation Center & Great River Water Park. The ceremony will feature 25 trees being planted by the first official Trees Saint Paul large donator, District Energy.

Saint Paul Mayor Chris Coleman, Parks & Recreation Director Bob Bierscheid, Representatives from District Energy and other supporters will be on hand to kick-off the new program.

District Energy and Saint Paul Parks & Recreation already have a strong partnership that includes the yearly recycling of the large Rice Park Holiday Tree. After each holiday season, the 70 foot Rice Park tree is given to District Energy to be recycled into power. District Energy is helping to ensure there will be future trees for recycling with their \$5,000 Trees Saint Paul donation. The financial donation equates to 25 trees for Saint Paul tree planting.

“District Energy has really stepped forward to help jumpstart Trees Saint Paul,” said Saint Paul Parks & Recreation Director Bob Bierscheid, “We have a terrific partnership with them, and their donation will certainly be a great kick-off to our tree planting.”

Trees Saint Paul allows Saint Paul residents, organizations, visitors and any other admirer of the Saint Paul urban tree landscape the opportunity to donate to the tree planting cause. A website was created to allow donations via cash, check or credit card. Interested parties can visit [www.stpaul.gov/parks](http://www.stpaul.gov/parks) and click on “Trees Saint Paul Donations” under the “Quick Links” section to donate or for more information.

All Trees Saint Paul donations will go towards Saint Paul’s tree planting efforts guided by the newly developed “Tree Planting Master Plan”. In addition to the important environmental cause, each donation comes with a donation receipt letter that could be used for tax purposes.



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**\*PHOTO OPP\***

Who: Mayor Chris Coleman, Parks & Recreation Director Bob Bierscheid & District Energy Representatives

What: Trees Saint Paul Kick-off with tree planting ceremony

Where: Jimmy Lee Recreation Center & Great River Water Park  
270 North Lexington Parkway  
Saint Paul, MN 55104

-3 Trees will be planted close to the parking lot entrance off Marshall Avenue

When: Friday, May 9, 2008 at 11:30 a.m.

For more information about Parks & Recreation, visit [www.stpaul.gov/parks](http://www.stpaul.gov/parks)

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