

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 16, 2008

Contact: Phil Mazor,
(616) 822-3031
pmazor@wm.com

30 Acres of Muskegon Wetlands Being Created with Help of Community, Waste Management

*Waste Management will seek Wildlife Habitat Council certification for
completed project*

MUSKEGON, Mich. — Ravenna High School and FFA students, Pheasants Forever, and local leaders today joined Waste Management workers to plant 700 trees and woody native species to help create a 30-acre wetland at the site of a previous sand mine on Broadway Ave. The wetland will be located adjacent to the SCA Independent Landfill, which was closed in 1987.

“This wetland will be an invaluable environmental jewel in the Muskegon community once it matures,” said Phil Mazor, Project Manager for the Closed Sites Management Group of Waste Management. “Waste Management is proud to affirm our commitment to preserving Michigan’s natural resources by playing a part in the sustained success of this, and other, wetlands.”

The process of converting the sand mine into a wetland started in 1996 when Waste Management began designing a groundwater-fed wetland for the area. The sand mine continued to be operated until 2004. In fall 2005, construction began on the site and continued into 2006, when it was halted to allow natural seed banks to develop. In 2007, Waste Management hired a consultant to assess the developing wetland and make recommendations for plants and trees to stabilize and advance the area. The goal of the 2008 planting is to introduce species of trees and plants, capable of helping stabilize and advance the groundwater fed-wetland.

“Projects like these are great for kids, because any way to connect classroom activities to a real life experience makes the material ‘stick’ for more students. The more they take ownership in a concept, the more they understand it,” said Melanie Block, Ravenna High School Agrascience teacher and FFA advisor. “Our Plant Science class has spent the past year learning about different types of plants and what makes them grow to their full potential, and now they can put those lessons into action.”

“This is a fantastic example of what can happen when different groups cooperate to create something positive for the community,” said Dwayne Buckner, Sullivan Township Clerk. “We’re essentially turning an old dump into a home for wildlife.”

Once the planting has taken root, Waste Management will update its application to the Wildlife Habitat Council, in hopes of receiving council certification of the wetland. The Wildlife Habitat Council's *Corporate Wildlife Habitat Certification/International Accreditation Program* "recognizes commendable wildlife habitat management and environmental education programs at individual sites."

The Muskegon County wetland project is part of a nationwide environmental sustainability initiative with four main goals, announced by Waste Management in late 2007. One of those goals is to preserve and restore more wildlife habitat across North America.

Nationally, Waste Management's landfills provide more than 17,000 acres of protected habitat for wildlife. By 2020, the company plans to increase the number of acres set aside for conservation and wildlife habitat from 17,000 acres today to approximately 25,000.

Waste Management services more than 450,000 residential and 60,000 commercial Michigan customers, and owns and operates 13 landfills in lower Michigan.

Waste Management of Michigan, based in Wixom, has provided solid waste collection and recycling services to lower Michigan communities for almost 40 years and is the largest residential and commercial recycling and waste services provider in Michigan. Waste Management has 1,700 Michigan employees.

Based in Houston, Texas, Waste Management is the leading provider of comprehensive waste management services in North America. Our subsidiaries provide collection, transfer, recycling and resource recovery, and disposal services. We are also a leading developer, operator and owner of waste-to-energy and landfill gas-to-energy facilities in the United States. Our customers include residential, commercial, industrial, and municipal customers throughout North America.

###