



Sheila Dixon

Mayor,
Baltimore

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Mayor Dixon Announces City's Green Initiatives, Previews Green Week

Baltimore, MD (April 18, 2008) – Surrounded by the natural beauty of the “new” Jones Falls Trail, Mayor Sheila Dixon outlined today the City’s Greener Baltimore initiatives. Mayor Dixon also announced the City’s partnership with Baltimore Green Week to raise awareness about how local residents can make Baltimore more environmentally friendly. On Saturday, April 26, Baltimore Green Week will kick off with the 5th Annual EcoFestival and the annual Arbor Day FREE Tree Giveaway in Druid Hill Park.

“On behalf of the City of Baltimore, I am challenging citizens, businesses and community and non-profit organizations to get involved,” Mayor Dixon said. “Together, we will achieve a cleaner, greener, and ultimately, a safer, healthier Baltimore for generations to come.”

Mayor Dixon encouraged citizens to visit EcoFest to enjoy the activities and learn how a sustainable lifestyle can benefit the community. She also encouraged citizens to stop by the TreeBaltimore display to pick up a free tree to plant at their home or business. The City will be giving away 1,000 River Birch and Redbud flowering trees for free at the event.

Mayor Dixon also outlined the success of the City’s Greener Baltimore Initiative to date. Since April 2007, The City of Baltimore has initiated a number of projects and programs that are already improving the quality of life for residents. The City planted and distributed 5,683 trees in 2007 and also launched two key programs that will continue this progress. First, the City unveiled the Urban Forestry Management Plan: TreeBaltimore, which will double the city’s tree canopy within the next 30 years. More recently, the City launched the 2008 Growing Home Campaign, encouraging homeowners to plant a tree in their front or back yard and providing a \$10 coupon to purchase trees from local nurseries.

The City has also worked to enhance Baltimore’s medians and gateways and completed construction on a new 2.75 mile extension to the Jones Falls Trail, running from Druid Hill Park to Clipper Mill. Administratively, Mayor Dixon created the Sustainability Office to ensure the long-term environmental stability of the city and also developed the

Environmental Sub-Cabinet to prioritize environmentally friendly practices in all city agencies.

In honor of Green Week, Yellow Cab transported Mayor Dixon to the event in their first ever Hybrid taxi cab. Mayor Dixon was the first passenger ever to ride in the hybrid version of this familiar vehicle, which features an interactive touch screen display installed in the rear of the vehicles that will allow passengers to learn about various locations in Baltimore and even make dinner reservations or print movie tickets.

Yellow Cab chose the Toyota Prius for this program because it is the best selling hybrid vehicle in America, and it is highly rated for its durability and reliability. Yellow Cab currently has 10 hybrid vehicles in various stages of taxicab preparation.

For more information on Baltimore Green Week, please visit www.cleanergreenerbaltimore.org.

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Please visit our website at www.baltimorecity.gov