



## News Release

For more information, contact:

Daniel Westcot

912.330.0918

[dwestcot@gfc.state.ga.us](mailto:dwestcot@gfc.state.ga.us)

GaTrees.org

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### **GEORGIA FORESTRY COMMISSION & MILLIKEN** **EXPAND MAKING THE SHADE**

Planting 58 trees will improve the appearance and safety of local school grounds through the *Making the Shade* partnership. The Georgia Forestry Commission partnered with Milliken & Company, the City of Alma, and Bacon County Board of Education to implement the program in Bacon County.

“We are very grateful to our partners who helped achieve healthier and more attractive school playgrounds by planting 13 species including oak varieties, maple, poplar and cypress trees,” said Daniel Westcot, Georgia Forestry Commission community forester.

Nearly five dozen trees will be added to the Bacon County Elementary and Bacon County Primary School campuses, which currently offer very limited shade areas for faculty and students. Adding shade trees to the landscapes will reduce the effects of high temperatures and related health and safety concerns, while those shading HVAC equipment will improve energy efficiency.

“As a major employer in the community, Milliken is pleased to have worked with our local schools and the state to implement the *Making the Shade* program,” said Vance Burkett, Bacon County Board of Education member and Milliken associate.

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* announced its first three partnerships on Arbor Day 2007. With almost 500 trees planted the program has expanded to benefit more than 9,000 students at 14 schools in

13 counties throughout Georgia. The Georgia Forestry Commission research indicates compelling reasons to add 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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