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Nine Communities Receive Prestigious State Environmental Award

Governor's Community Achievement Award Winners Announced

(Austin, Texas) -- On March 20, Keep Texas Beautiful (KTB) announced the nine winners of the 2009 Governor's Community Achievement Awards (GCAA), one of the most prestigious annual environmental awards in Texas. The communities of **Valley View, McCamey, Richwood, Navasota, Athens, Alvin, Grapevine, Midland** and **El Paso** were selected by KTB to share an award of $1 million from the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), to be used for landscaping projects in their communities.

The beautification grants are awarded in nine different categories based on population. The winner of the smallest population category – which recognizes communities with up to 1,500 residents –receives a $60,000 grant, while cities with more than 150,000 people can qualify for $265,000. Every community in Texas is eligible to apply for a Governor's Community Achievement Award, and a panel of judges selects the winning communities based on their achievements in seven areas: community leadership and coordination, education, public awareness, litter prevention and cleanup, illegal dumping enforcement, beautification and property improvement, and solid waste management.

The GCAA program has recognized outstanding communities for 23 consecutive years, with TxDOT providing the landscape grants since l985. KTB will formally recognize and award these communities during the 42nd Annual Keep Texas Beautiful Conference in Houston, which is being held June 8-11, 2009.

Keep Texas Beautiful, a statewide grassroots environmental and community improvement nonprofit, strives to educate and engage Texans to take responsibility for improving their community environment. KTB and its more than 360 affiliates work with government, businesses, civic groups and volunteers to ensure that every Texan has the opportunity to make Texas the cleanest, most beautiful state in the nation. For more information on programs and events, call 1-800-CLEAN-TX or visit www.ktb.org.

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Fact sheet Attached

Keep Texas Beautiful

GCAA FACT SHEET

WHAT:

The Governor's Community Achievement Award (GCAA) is one of the most prestigious environmental awards in the state, and is presented to communities in nine population categories for exhibiting the best grassroots environmental programs in the state. The GCAA have been sponsored by Keep Texas Beautiful (KTB) since 1969 and funded by the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) since 1985. The winning communities share a $1 million grant provided by TxDOT, designated for landscaping along state rights-of-way in their communities.

The awards recognize community excellence in the areas of:

- Community Leadership and Coordination
- Education
- Public Awareness
- Litter Prevention and Cleanup
- Illegal Dumping Enforcement
- Beautification and Property Improvement
- Solid Waste Management

Landscaping Prizes By Population

POPULATION CATEGORY:	PRIZE:
1. Up to 1,500	$60,000
2. 1,501-3,000	$65,000
3. 3,001-5,000	$70,000
4. 5,001-8,000	$75,000
5. 8,001-15,000	$85,000
6. 15,001-25,000	$95,000
7. 25,001-60,000	$130,000
8. 60,000-150,000	$155,000
9. 150,001+	$265,000
TOTAL	**$1,000,000**

WHEN:

The Governor's Community Achievement Award winners are announced annually in the spring. Recognition takes place each year during a ceremony at the Annual Keep Texas Beautiful Conference.

This year's conference is June 8- 11, 2009 at the Marriott Westchase in Houston, TX. The winners will be recognized on the final day at a gala dinner.

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GCAA Fact Sheet

MISSION: Keep Texas Beautiful's mission is to educate and engage Texans to take responsibility for improving their community environment.

ELIGIBILITY: The GCAA is open to all Texas communities. A program entered for competition may consist of more than one community, but one community may not have more than one GCAA entry. A community is defined as a region or regions with shared or adjoining boundaries whose beautification and litter abatement programs are administered by a common organization.

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