

PRESSRELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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Washington Park Zoo Gardens

Michigan City, IN (April 19, 2004) April 22nd is Earth Day, a global celebration of environmental awareness, education and service.

To mark Earth Day, Timberland, a national outdoor clothing retailer, is organizing over a hundred hands-on service projects around the world. Timberland's local store in Lighthouse Place Premium Outlet Center will landscape an area behind Monkey Island at Washington Park Zoo.

Nancy Philippe, Washington Park Zoological Society board member and volunteer coordinator for the Zoo, is working with Jan Kinola, Timberland manager, to beautify the land near the WPA-built Monkey Island.

Washington Park Zoo Director Lane Theriac said, "Timberland staff came to the Zoo on volunteer work days last year, and just last Saturday, several folks from Timberland joined our first 2004 docent training program. These generous volunteers worked with the LaPorte County Master Gardeners last year, too, to beautify our gardens."

Timberland manager Kinola said, "We have between 35 and 50 people - including all local Timberland employees - coming to Washington Park Zoo on Saturday to create a garden. Many of these volunteers are students from Krueger and Barker Junior High Schools." The Timberland volunteers will be at the Zoo from 8am through 5pm on Saturday, April 24.

"Projects that involve 25 or more students receive \$500 for materials from Timberland Corporation," said Kinola, "and they also provide a limited number of t-shirts to our volunteers."

Many individuals, organizations and companies have donated plants for the garden to be created at the Washington Park Zoo. "But we need more limestone," Kinola said, "and we're still seeking donations of limestone or funds to purchase it."

Anyone able to assist the project with limestone should call Jan Kinola at 219/879-3827 before Friday, April 23. Volunteers are encouraged to come to Washington Park Zoo between 8am and 5pm to help with the Timberland garden project. If you have questions about the event, contact Zoo Director Lane Theriac at 219/873-1510.

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