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News Release

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Mayor Wharton, Corps of Engineers commander to view Wolf River environmental restoration work

MEMPHIS, Tenn., July 9, 2008 – Shelby County Mayor A.C. Wharton Jr., Corps of Engineers Memphis District commander Col. Tom Smith and other officials will view progress on the Wolf River environmental restoration and recreation project tomorrow (July 10) at 7:30 a.m. The officials will assemble at the Arlington-Collierville Road construction access road and drive to various locations along the river to observe the latest work **(directions at end of the News Release)**.

The Wolf River environmental restoration project is designed to prevent drainage of valuable wetlands and arrest “head cutting” - a kind of damaging erosion - by stabilizing the Wolf River channel and that of some of its tributaries between Houston Levee Road and Collierville-Arlington Road.

“This project provides the anchor and beginning of the County’s Comprehensive Greenbelt System which truly exemplifies our Sustainable Shelby Initiative,” Mayor Wharton said.

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The complete project includes a number of weirs, acquisition of 2,000 acres to serve as a wildlife corridor, construction of recreational trails, and two boat ramps. A weir is a small overflow-type dam used to raise the level of a river or stream and slow the water flow to reduce erosion and head cutting

“This project is very exciting for us as it gives us a great opportunity to translate our “green” environmental operating principles into real action,” Col. Tom Smith, the Corps’ Memphis District commander said. “We are anxious to do our part to ensure this waterway and its surroundings remain a both treasure today and for future generations.”

The total environmental restoration and recreation project cost is currently set at \$12.5 million with \$8 million paid through Federal funding and \$4.5 million paid by the local cost sharing partners of Shelby County and Chickasaw Basin Authority with assistance from the City of Collierville and the Wolf River Conservancy.

The Corps of Engineers expects to complete work on the project in December 2010.

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Directions: The construction access road is located approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ mile north of the main bridge over the Wolf River on the Collierville-Arlington Road, on the south side of the road. Look for the Corps of Engineers sign at the bridge crossing.