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Media Contacts:

Anne Lasseigne Tiedt, APR, for RVi 512.784.3805 <u>atiedt@austin.rr.com</u> Brian Dolezal for Mueller 512.344.2035 bdolezal@tateaustinhahn.com

## 23-FOOT ARTISTIC ARACHNID TO KEEP WATCH OVER SOUTHWEST GREENWAY AT MUELLER

## RVi Planning + Landscape Architecture + Design to See Park Design Completed When Artist Dixie Friend Gay's Spider is Installed

AUSTIN, TEXAS – Apr. 16, 2008 – What has eight legs and 23 feet?

It's the 23-by-35-foot metal spider landing amid the fresh grass and newly planted trees atop the former airport parking lot that has been transformed into Mueller's Southwest Greenway, a 33-acre project designed by RVi Planning + Landscape Architecture + Graphic Design. The installation of this stunning piece by Houston artist Dixie Friend Gay begins Wednesday, Apr. 16. RVi was selected by Mueller's master developer Catellus Development Group to provide comprehensive landscape architecture and park design services for this part of the 711-acre development.

Nationally renowned Texas artist Dixie Friend Gay is creating the 23-foot tall by 35-foot wide metal spider. The sculpture will straddle the 10-foot-wide hike and bike trail that will eventually encircle Mueller. Over time, the spider's metal is expected to rust to an attractive shade of orange, while its six, deep purple eyes and blue and turquoise eggs will remain glossy and bright.

"Mueller's parks and open spaces are designed to bring residents, neighbors and Central Texas visitors together," said Matt Whelan, senior vice president of Catellus. "Featuring such unique public art throughout this common ground will help spark conversation and inspire creativity for those who come to learn more about native landscapes and environmental protection or just enjoy the great outdoors."

In May, additional artwork created by Mueller neighbor and artist Chris Levack will be installed further west near the new demonstration gardens in the Southwest Greenway. This complementary section includes a giant cactus pollen grain, a conceptual wigwam and drain covers embossed with snake designs.

# MUELLER MuellerAustin.com

"All of these artistic pieces were chosen to highlight environmental awareness and the restoration and rehabilitation of the area's endangered Blackland Prairie," said Barbara Austin, Principal at RVi. "In the process of designing the park system, we partnered with the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center to reintroduce native grasses and plants back into this remnant landscape. The combination of art and nature will create a more beautiful sense of place for Austinites."

The spider sculptures are being built in Houston and will arrive in Austin on April 15. Installation will begin on April 16.

#### About RVi Planning and Landscape Architecture (<u>www.rviplanning.com</u>)

Founded in 1982, RVi is one of Austin's oldest full-service land planning and landscape architecture firms with more than 100,000 acres designed in Central Texas. Its principles of conservation, stewardship and sustainability make RVi a sought-after partner for sophisticated land use projects throughout Central Texas and the southwestern United States. Its clients include commercial and residential real estate developers, city and county governments, state and federal agencies and nonprofit organizations.

### About Dixie Friend Gay, Artist (<u>www.dixiefriendgay.com</u>)

Dixie Friend Gay is an accomplished artist with an impressive exhibition history. For the last 10 years she has been creating art for public projects. One of her most recognized projects is the Houston Bayou at the George Bush Intercontinental Airport. The installation is comprised of a 73 feet long glass mosaic mural, columns, and the terrazzo floor with bronze inserts. It has won recognition and national awards as one of the best public art projects in the US. In 2003 the Texas Commission named her Texas State Artist of the Year for the Arts and Artist of the Year by Texas Accountants and Lawyers for the Arts.

#### About Mueller's Parks

Mueller's parks, trails and open space weave through the community, establishing a native local ecosystem and bringing outdoor recreation and education options to Mueller residents, employees and neighbors. With 20 percent of Mueller dedicated to parkland and open space, every resident will live less than a quarter mile away from a community greenspace. Mueller's park system features approximately 140 acres of parks, trails and open space, five miles of new hike and bike paths, at least 15,000 new trees throughout the development, the Mueller Greenway that connects to established city parks, a large, centrally located park with a 6.5-acre lake and an outdoor performance venue and five neighborhood parks with unique sets of amenities.

#### About Mueller (<u>www.MuellerAustin.com</u>)

Mueller will be developed over 10 to 15 years and is expected to include up to 4,600 singlefamily and multi-family living units, a mixed-use Town Center, an elementary school, the 32-acre campus of the Dell Children's Medical Center of Central Texas, 3.8 million square feet of office space, 650,000 square feet of retail space, a central transit corridor that provides for a possible extension of mass transit service, more than 140 acres of open space, and a pattern of landscaped streets designed to support pedestrians and bicycles.