



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Embargoed for 5 p.m. CT May 4, 2005

WHOLE FOODS MARKET INKS LEASE **FOR FIRST STORE IN NASHVILLE**

New Location Confirms Whole Foods Market's Entry Into Tennessee

ATLANTA (May 4, 2005) – Whole Foods Market® (NASDAQ: WFMI), the world's leading natural and organic foods supermarket, today announced plans for a new store in Nashville, Tenn., the first Whole Foods Market for the city and for the state.

With an expected opening in fall 2006, the new store will occupy approximately 48,000 square feet of retail space on Hillsboro Road at the new **Hill Center at Green Hills** development announced by H.G. Hill Realty Company in May 2004.

Whole Foods Market's presence in Tennessee further expands the company's growth in the Southern United States, joining stores already open or in development in Georgia, Alabama, North Carolina, South Carolina, Florida, Louisiana, Kentucky and Virginia. The company has 167 stores in the U.S., Canada and United Kingdom, and has been ranked by *Fortune* magazine as one of the top 100 companies to work for in the U.S. for eight consecutive years.

"Whole Foods Market has been pursuing the opportunity to serve Nashville for quite some time," said **Scott Allshouse**, regional president for Whole Foods Market. "We are a uniquely mission-driven company and dedicated to natural and organic foods, and we believe food shopping should be a fun experience. We look forward to becoming part of the Nashville community, putting down roots, and becoming a meeting place for Tennesseans to enjoy and share purely delicious food."

"H.G. Hill Realty is proud to partner with Whole Foods Market as our anchor tenant in the Hill Center at Green Hills," said **Jimmy Granbery**, CEO of H.G. Hill Realty Company. "We believe Hill Center will be the trendsetter for Nashville in the way people shop, and Whole Foods Market was our number one choice to lead the way."

Whole Foods Market's quality standards ensure that all products on the shelves are free of artificial flavors, colors, sweeteners, preservatives and hydrogenated oils while featuring an enticing selection of natural and organic products.

(more)

Whole Foods Market Nashville, page 2 of 2

“Whole Foods Market is an old-fashioned green grocer, an organic farmer’s market, a European pastry shop, a custom butcher and seafood shop, a rotisserie grill, a healthful takeout deli, a nutrition and body care center, a full-service market and a community center all rolled into one,” Allshouse said.

About Whole Foods Market

Founded in 1980 in Austin, Texas, Whole Foods Market is the world’s largest natural and organic foods supermarket and America’s first national “certified organic” grocer. In fiscal year 2004, the company had sales of \$3.9 billion and currently has 167 stores in the United States, Canada, and the United Kingdom. The Whole Foods Market motto, “Whole Foods, Whole People, Whole Planet”™ captures the company’s mission to find success in customer satisfaction and wellness, employee excellence and happiness, enhanced shareholder value, community support and environmental improvement. Whole Foods Market, Harry’s Farmers Market®, and Fresh & Wild® are trademarks owned by Whole Foods Market IP, LP. Whole Foods Market employs more than 33,000 team members and has been ranked for eight consecutive years as one of the “100 Best Companies to Work for” in America by *Fortune* magazine.

Whole Foods Market’s South region is home to stores located throughout Greater Atlanta, North Carolina (Raleigh, Durham, Cary, Chapel Hill and Winston Salem) and South Carolina (Mt. Pleasant/Charleston) with new stores in development for Greenville, S.C., Duluth, Ga., Birmingham, Ala., Charlotte, N.C. and Nashville. Whole Foods Market purchased Atlanta-based Harry’s Farmers Market mega-stores and a warehouse and distribution center in 2001. Whole Foods Market is online at www.wholefoods.com.

About H.G. Hill Realty Company

Since 1895, H.G. Hill Realty Company has built a legacy of service and stewardship in Middle Tennessee as manager of one of the largest privately held real estate portfolios in the Southeast. Company-owned property has been donated for the YMCA centers in Green Hills, East Nashville and Brentwood, and to Down Syndrome Association of Middle Tennessee, Global Education Center, Ramsey Church of Christ-Nashville and Faith Presbyterian Church-Goodlettsville. Over the past decade, H.G. Hill Realty Company has initiated several major redevelopment projects that have spurred positive growth and earned community recognition including “The Good Hood Award” from the Hillsboro-West End Neighborhood Association and the Nashville Tree Foundation’s “Victor Johnson Award” for efforts to conserve the natural environment. The company’s property at 21st Avenue and Blair Boulevard recently won top honors in Nashville’s annual Excellence in Development Awards. For more information visit www.hghill.com.

###

Contact: Cheryl Galway, Whole Foods Market – 770-751-3353 or cheryl.galway@wholefoods.com
Celeste Patterson, H.G. Hill Realty Company – 615-252-8110 or cpatterson@hghill.com