



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Highwoods Properties Commences Public Offering of Common Stock

Raleigh, NC – May 26, 2009 – Highwoods Properties, Inc. (NYSE: HIW), the largest owner and operator of suburban office properties in the Southeast, today announced that it has commenced an underwritten public offering of 5,800,000 shares of common stock. In addition, the Company expects to grant to the underwriters for the public offering an option for 30 days to purchase up to 870,000 additional shares of common stock to cover overallocments, if any. Merrill Lynch & Co., Wachovia Securities and Morgan Stanley & Co. Incorporated will serve as the joint book-running managers.

The Company intends to use the net proceeds from the offering to repay borrowings and for general corporate purposes.

This press release does not constitute an offer to sell or the solicitation of an offer to buy any of the securities. A preliminary prospectus supplement, final prospectus supplement and accompanying base prospectus related to the offering will be filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission. Copies of the preliminary prospectus supplement and accompanying base prospectus, and final prospectus supplement, when available, may be obtained by contacting: Merrill Lynch & Co., Attention: Prospectus Department, 4 World Financial Center, New York, New York 10080; Wachovia Capital Markets, LLC, Attn: Equity Syndicate Dept., 375 Park Avenue, New York, New York 10152, by telephone at 1-800-326-5897 or by email at equity.syndicate@wachovia.com; or Morgan Stanley & Co. Incorporated, Attn: Prospectus Department, 180 Varick Street, 2nd Floor, New York, New York 10014 or by email at prospectus@morganstanley.com.

About the Company

Highwoods Properties, Inc., a member of the S&P MidCap 400 Index, is a fully integrated, self-administered real estate investment trust ("REIT") that provides leasing, management, development, construction and other customer-related services for its properties and for third parties. At March 31, 2009, the Company owned or had an interest in 382 in-service office, industrial and retail properties encompassing approximately 35.4 million square feet. Highwoods also owned 580 acres of development land. Highwoods is based in Raleigh, North Carolina, and its properties and development land are located in Florida, Georgia, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia.

Certain matters discussed in this press release, such as the expected use of the proceeds from the offering, are forward-looking statements within the meaning of the federal securities laws. These statements are distinguished by use of the words "will", "expect", "intend" and words of similar meaning. Although Highwoods believes that the expectations reflected in such forward-looking statements are based upon reasonable assumptions, it can give no assurance that its expectations will be achieved.

Factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from Highwoods' current expectations include, among others, the following: the financial condition of our customers could deteriorate; speculative development by others could result in excessive supply of properties relative to customer demand; development, acquisition, reinvestment, disposition or joint venture projects may not be completed as quickly or on as favorable terms as anticipated; we may not be able to lease or re-lease space as quickly as anticipated or on as favorable terms as old leases; difficulties in obtaining additional capital to satisfy our future cash needs or increases in interest rates could adversely impact our ability to fund important business initiatives and increase our debt service costs; our Southeastern and Midwestern markets may suffer declines in economic growth; our banking and joint venture partners may suffer financial difficulties that adversely impact their ability to satisfy their contractual obligations to us; and others detailed in the Company's 2008 Annual Report on Form 10-K and subsequent SEC reports.

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