

MEDIA ADVISORY

National Summit on Environmental Stewardship, May 4-7

Event to Advance Global Reach, Local Impact for Parks and Recreation

January 31, 2008 — Ashburn, Virginia — The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) will host the first-ever [National Summit on Environmental Stewardship for People, Parks and Public Lands](#) May 4-7 at the Marriott Portland Downtown Waterfront. The event will bring together leaders and advocates of parks, recreation, conservation and sustainable practices to address the challenges of building environmental stewardship and advancing local leadership in sustainability.

Katie Grove Coffroad, Interim Executive Director of NRPA, commented on the purpose of the Summit: "The American public is increasingly looking for practical solutions within their communities, their businesses, and their homes for environmentally sustainable practices. The stewards of our nation's public lands, parks, and recreation resources can play a critical role in demonstrating best practices to achieve sustainable landscapes, connect our youth with nature in order to build the future for sustainability, and to define excellence in this effort for local communities. This Summit on Environmental Stewardship will provide a forum to demonstrate the principles, and a call to action for making it happen."

The Summit will be held in Portland, Oregon – a city that consciously protects the environment and connects its communities with nature. Portland was one of the first cities in America to create an Office of Sustainable Development to provide leadership for improving the area's environmental, social, and economic health.

The agenda for the Summit is designed to form dialogue and awareness around the need for attention and effort in three key areas:

- Promoting Sustainable Landscapes
- Fostering the Next Generation of Environmental Stewards
- Providing Leadership for Sustainable Communities

The Summit will blend together inspirational messages from top environmental leaders; sessions focusing on best practices and case studies at the local level; and active learning through experiencing the best that Portland has to offer.

Featured speakers include:

Richard Louv, author of the national best seller, *Last Child in the Woods* and Chairman of the [Children and Nature Network](#).

Gina McCarthy, Commissioner, [Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection](#) and leading advocate for connecting children with nature.

Larry Selzer, President and CEO of [The Conservation Fund](#) and a leader in the development of partnerships to conserve America's legacy of land and water resources through land acquisition, sustainable programs and leadership training.

The National Summit on Environmental Stewardship is made possible through a generous grant from the [National Recreation Foundation](#).

For more information or to register for the Summit, visit www.nrpa.org/esummit or call 800.626.NRPA (6772).

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About NRPA

The National Recreation and Park Association is a national membership organization dedicated to advancing park, recreation and conservation efforts that enhance quality of life for all people. Through its network of more than 21,000 recreation and park professionals and citizens, NRPA encourages the promotion of healthy lifestyles, recreation initiatives, and conservation of natural and cultural resources. For more information, visit www.nrpa.org.