

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **NRPA, NFL Award Grants for Youth Football**

December 13, 2007 — Ashburn, Virginia — The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) has announced the recipients of the 2007 National Football League (NFL) Youth Football Fund Local Agency Grants. Approximately \$300,000 has been awarded to nearly 150 park and recreation agencies and youth sports organizations this year.

To review a list of this year's grant recipients, visit the [NRPA Web site](#).

John Thorner, Executive Director of NRPA, touted the impact of the grants on local communities: "Park and recreation agencies across America are increasingly challenged to engage young people in healthy activities with fewer resources. We are very pleased to work with the NFL Youth Football Fund to ensure that children have access to safe, affordable participation in football with the support of qualified volunteers."

Each year, NRPA administers the Local Agency Grant program on behalf of the NFL Youth Football Fund and NFL teams across the nation. Grants typically range between \$1,000 and \$5,000 and are intended to be used for football programming, scholarships for underserved audiences, safety equipment, training for coaches and officials and related services. This year, over 200 applications were received this year from park and recreation agencies and independent youth football organizations using park and recreation facilities.

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### About NRPA

The National Recreation and Park Association is a national nonprofit 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](http://www.nrpa.org).

### About the NFL Youth Football Fund

In 1998, the NFL and NFL Players Association formed the NFL Youth Football Fund (YFF) - a 501(c)3 non-profit foundation which supports the game at the youth level and promotes positive youth development. Since then, hundreds of thousands of youngsters have been given the opportunity to learn the game of football, get physically fit, and stay involved in productive after-school activities with adult mentors. The YFF also has provided youth football participants with safe and accessible places to play as well as programs and initiatives that address the importance of proper coaching, academics, health and safety and life skills development.