



NEWS RELEASE
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Contact: Jennifer Wemhoff
The Groundwater Foundation
1-800-858-4844

Sites Around Nebraska "Go Green"

The Groundwater Foundation is excited to announce that its newest program, Groundwater Guardian Green Sites, is now open for participation to highly-managed green space managers across Nebraska. The 2008 program application is available for download online at www.groundwater.org/gg/greensites.html.

Groundwater Guardian Green Sites are essentially places with a lot of green space – like golf courses; ball fields; educational campuses; and residential, recreational, and office parks – that implement groundwater and surface water-friendly practices to maintain the site. Site managers complete a simple application that documents the site's groundwater-friendly practices related to water use and quality, pesticide and fertilizer use, pollution prevention, and environmental stewardship.

In 2007, the program's pilot year, the following sites were recognized as Groundwater Guardian Green Site Pilot Sites:

- Arbor Links Golf Course – Nebraska City, Nebraska
- Bayside Golf Course – Brule, Nebraska
- Eastern Nebraska 4H Center – Gretna, Nebraska
- Firethorn Golf Club – Lincoln, Nebraska
- Heritage Hills Golf Course – McCook, Nebraska
- Hickory Hills Golf Club – Grove City, Ohio
- Players Club at Deer Creek – Omaha, Nebraska

Other currently participating sites include:

- Chalco Hills Recreation Area – Omaha, Nebraska
- Gifford Farm Educational Center – Bellevue, Nebraska
- Haymarket Park – Lincoln, Nebraska
- Millard School District Campuses – Omaha, Nebraska

Jen Roeber, Haymarket Park, Lincoln, commented about the program, saying "The application made me think about all the ways that what we do impacts water. I hadn't really thought about our operation that way before." Elton Nolde of Bayside Golf Course near Brule said, "Water is a precious resource, and we need to let our neighbors know that we do everything we can to manage our water use wisely."

The Green Site program grew out of a project seeking to revitalize and grow The Groundwater Foundation's Groundwater Guardian program, which recognizes communities of all types implementing groundwater education and protection activities on the local level. In 2007, 140 Communities in 34 states and one Canadian province were recognized as Groundwater Guardians.

Potential Green Sites throughout Nebraska are encouraged to get involved in the Groundwater Guardian Green Site program by downloading the 2008 program application at www.groundwater.org/gg/greensites.html, e-mailing guardian@groundwater.org, or calling 1-800-858-4844.

The Groundwater Guardian Green Site program is supported by the Nebraska Environmental Trust, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 7 Pollution Prevention Program, and the W.K. Kellogg Foundation.

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The Groundwater Foundation is a non-profit organization based in Lincoln, Nebraska with a mission to educate and motivate the public to care about and for groundwater. Since its inception in 1985, the Foundation has offered various educational programming for youth and adults. To learn more, visit www.groundwater.org.