



NEWS RELEASE
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**ATTORNEY GENERAL JON BRUNING TO AWARD \$25,000 IN ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION FUNDS
TO THE GROUNDWATER FOUNDATION**

**Check presentation to take place at the Lincoln Children's Zoo,
a newly designated Groundwater Guardian Green Site**

LINCOLN, Nebraska (September 8, 2009) - Attorney General Jon Bruning will present The Groundwater Foundation with \$25,000 towards environmental education programs on September 11, 2009 at 10:00 a.m.. The ceremony will take place at the Lincoln Children's Zoo in conjunction with the designation of the Zoo as the newest site in The Groundwater Foundation's Groundwater Guardian Green Site program.

The money awarded to The Groundwater Foundation was made available through the Attorney General's Environmental Protection Fund. The fund is comprised of voluntary payments collected in court-approved settlements from entities that have violated state and federal environmental statutes and regulations.

"Education is a key component to fostering environmental stewardship in youth and adults," Bruning said. "The Groundwater Foundation involves people and communities across Nebraska in groundwater protection efforts, which are vital to the well-being of our state."

The funding will assist programs for adults and youth, such as the Groundwater Guardian Green Site program, which recognizes locations that implement groundwater-friendly practices on their land. The Lincoln Children's Zoo, which recently earned official designation as a Green Site, will host the check presentation in conjunction with its designation into the program. The event will take place at 10:00 a.m. on September 11, 2009.

Funding from the Attorney General's Office will also be used for two youth education programs, Water Ways and Awesome Aquifers for Science Olympiad. Water Ways offers hands-on environmental education to young students and establishes a connection to nature. Awesome Aquifers for Science Olympiad is geared towards middle and high school students and offers them the opportunity to participate in an academic competition through an aquifer building activity.

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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.