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Groundwater Foundation, Rain Bird Announce Partnership for the Groundwater Guardian Green Site Program

**Irrigation Leader Joins the Groundwater Foundation in Encouraging Environmental Stewardship
and the Implementation of Groundwater-Friendly Practices by Green-Space Managers**

AZUSA, CA and Lincoln, NE (March 1, 2011) – Rain Bird and The Groundwater Foundation announced today that they have entered into a partnership in support of the Groundwater Guardian Green Site Program, a program that encourages the sustained use of groundwater-friendly practices and recognizes green space managers for their groundwater stewardship. As a program partner, Rain Bird will work with The Groundwater Foundation in raising awareness of the importance of groundwater protection and assist green-space managers in identifying and implementing groundwater-friendly practices.

Initiated in 2007, the Groundwater Guardian Green Site program bolsters the Foundation's goal of educating the public on the importance of protecting groundwater resources by recognizing green spaces such as golf courses, sports fields, natural areas, educational and office campuses, and parks for their advancements in groundwater protection and environmental stewardship. Participating sites benefit by learning how their practices can impact the environment, receiving educational updates and resources, connecting with other site managers and water experts, and demonstrating their groundwater and environmental stewardship to their community.

"Rain Bird's commitment to the Intelligent Use of Water and environmental stewardship makes them a natural partner for the Groundwater Guardian Green Site program," said Jane Griffin, Groundwater Foundation president. "We are excited about our partnership with Rain Bird, and look forward to working closely with them to promote groundwater-friendly practices to new audiences of turf and green space professionals."

In order to attain the exclusive Groundwater Guardian Green Site designation, site managers must document their site's practices related to the responsible use of chemicals and water, pollution prevention, and water quality protection. Each applicant is evaluated according to current practices related to pesticide and fertilizer use, water use, managing sources of pollution, protecting water quality and environmental stewardship.

"The Groundwater Guardian Green Site program goes hand-in-hand with Rain Bird's Intelligent Use of Water philosophy and complements many of the company's existing initiatives aimed at educating the industry and public on the need for environmental stewardship through efficient water use," said Rain

Bird's director of corporate marketing, Dave Johnson. "In addition to providing half of our nation's drinking water, groundwater is also a primary source for irrigating the food we eat, making the protection of groundwater reservoirs from contamination and depletion of vital importance to the sustainability of our current and future water resources. It is through partnerships such as this that Rain Bird strives to help raise awareness of key issues and further the protection of all of the planet's available water resources."

The Groundwater Guardian Green Site program is open to anyone who manages or maintains a green space that currently implements groundwater-friendly practices. Potential sites are encouraged to get involved in the Groundwater Guardian Green Site program by downloading the program application at www.groundwater.org/gg/greensites.html.

ABOUT THE GROUNDWATER FOUNDATION

The Groundwater Foundation is a nonprofit organization with a mission to educate people and inspire action to ensure sustainable, clean groundwater for future generations. Since its inception in 1985, the Lincoln, Nebraska-based Foundation has developed programs, projects, and resources that have educated youth and adults about the importance of groundwater and ways they can help protect it. For more information about The Groundwater Foundation and its programs, visit www.groundwater.org.

ABOUT RAIN BIRD CORPORATION

Based in Azusa, Calif., Rain Bird Corporation is the leading manufacturer and provider of irrigation products and services. Since its beginnings in 1933, Rain Bird has offered the industry's broadest range of irrigation products for farms, golf courses, sports arenas, commercial developments and homes in more than 130 countries around the world. Rain Bird has been awarded more than 130 patents, including the first in 1935 for the impact sprinkler. Rain Bird and The Intelligent Use of Water™ is about using water wisely. Its commitment extends beyond products to education, training and services for the industry and the community. Rain Bird maintains state-of-the-art manufacturing assembly facilities in the United States, France, Sweden and Mexico. Learn more at www.rainbird.com.