



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **PGMS Searching for Top Park and Recreation Areas**

(Baltimore, MD) – The Professional Grounds Management Society (PGMS) is looking to honor the nation's top parks and recreation areas with its Green Star Awards.

The Green Star Awards program brings national recognition to grounds maintained with a high degree of excellence. The program complements other national landscape award programs that recognize outstanding landscape design and construction by saluting the grounds superintendent and staff responsible for maintaining a well-manicured landscape year round.

In all, grounds management professionals can choose among 15 categories: small sites; residential landscapes; public works sites; shopping areas; hospitals or institutions; government buildings or complexes; cemeteries or memorial parks; industrial, commercial sites or office parks; parks, recreation areas or playgrounds; multiple sites under management companies; condominium or apartment complexes; hotel, motel or resorts; amusement parks, theme parks or zoos; athletic fields, professional fields or golf courses; and school grounds, university and college grounds, or urban university grounds.

Last year's Green Star Grand Award winners in the Park, Recreation Area, or Playground Category included Mission Hills Park in Henderson, Nev. and the Biltmore Estate in Asheville, N.C.

The deadline for entries is Friday, August 1, 2008 and the entry process is simple. Just fill out the entry form and submit the payment and entry to the PGMS office. The cost is only \$150 for PGMS members and \$225 for others. For a reduced rate of \$275, non-members may join PGMS and enter the contest. There is no limit to the number of categories an organization may enter. Only digital photographs are accepted, along with brief descriptions of each. There are many elements of the highly recognized contest that may be best depicted in photographs taken throughout the seasons.

Each winning entry will be honored at the 2008 Awards Banquet in Louisville, Ky. on Saturday, October 25 at the conclusion of the Society's 2008 School of Grounds Management & GIE+EXPO scheduled to take place at the Galt House and Kentucky Exposition Center from October 22-25.

Further information on the awards, including an official entry form, qualifications, a full explanation of categories, and a list of past award winners, is available online at

<http://www.pgms.org/greenstars>.

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