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**“EXTREME GREEN MAKEOVER” -- PIEDMONT PARK
CONSERVANCY AND WSB-TV GO BOUNDLESS**

All-Accessible Playgrounds and Restrooms Set Standard for Park’s Future ‘Green’ Renovations

Atlanta – Piedmont Park Conservancy announced today that it is adding the first-ever Boundless Playground and LEED-certified restrooms to Piedmont Park this summer. As part of its “Going Green Georgia” campaign, WSB-TV will film the construction of the new Mayor’s Grove Playground and Restrooms for a prime time feature, “Extreme Green Makeover” which will air in September, after construction is completed.

The Mayor’s Grove Playground will be a Boundless Playground, and it will replace the outdated play structure currently located near the Park’s historic Bathhouse and pools.

Boundless Playgrounds are designed with sensory rich features that appeal to all children, so that children with developmental and sensory disabilities can actively enjoy them as well.

“There is a need in this Park and in others around the city to create wonderfully interactive playgrounds that are accessible and fun for children of all abilities,” said Debbie McCown, president and CEO of Piedmont Park Conservancy.

In May, the Conservancy hosted two charrettes, at which children and adults participated in a design process that will aid the Conservancy in selecting the features that will appear in the Mayor’s Grove Playground.

McCown said the Conservancy plans to add three new all-accessible playgrounds in phase two of the Park’s 53-acre expansion.

In addition to the new playgrounds, the Conservancy will also build new LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certified restrooms, another first for the Piedmont Park.

Bob Hughes – principal of the landscape architecture firm HGOR and chair of Piedmont Park Conservancy’s capital improvements committee – said the Conservancy plans to build the new Mayor’s Grove Restrooms to the high environmental standards by considering sustainable site development, energy efficiency, materials selection and indoor environmental quality.

“The Mayor’s Grove project will set the standard for the future development of Piedmont Park,” Hughes said. “We’ve had such great input from the community and are confident that we are doing something positive for park users and the environment.”

Earlier this year, WSB-TV approached the Conservancy with the idea of filming an “Extreme Green Makeover” in Piedmont Park, as part of its “Going Green Georgia” campaign that launched in April. The Web site www.GoingGreenGeorgia.com is a one-stop shop for anything related to green in the state, where users can quickly find information on environmental issues and trends, including recycling, recreation, green building and conservation.

The proposal could not have come at a better time for the Conservancy, which in 2006 adopted in a new environmental sustainability policy for developing and maintaining the Park’s future 53 acres of green space. Hughes said by following this “green print” the Conservancy could continue to meet the needs of an ever-increasing number of Park users, preserve the natural eco-systems of the Park for the long term and implement best practices for the environment.

“Sustainability is a long-term way of thinking that balances human needs, environmental stewardship and financial resources.” McCown said. “And a healthy and sustainable Piedmont Park adds to a healthy and sustainable Atlanta.”

The Mayor’s Grove play area will close July 7 for construction and will re-open with a ribbon-cutting ceremony September 1.

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About Piedmont Park Conservancy: Founded in 1989, Piedmont Park Conservancy is a member and donor funded non-profit organization, working with the City of Atlanta to enhance and preserve Piedmont Park as a vital, urban green space and as a cultural and recreational resource for Atlantans to enjoy.