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For Immediate Release

**Piedmont Park Conservancy Will Test
Sustainable Landscape Rating System**

ATLANTA (June 1, 2010) The Sustainable Sites Initiative (SITES) announced the selection of Piedmont Park as one of the first landscapes to participate in a new program testing the nation's first rating system for green landscape design, construction and maintenance.

Piedmont Park will join 174 other pilot projects from 34 states as well as from Canada, Iceland and Spain as part of an international pilot project program to evaluate the new SITES rating system for sustainable landscapes, with and without buildings. Sustainable landscapes can clean water, reduce pollution and restore habitats, while providing significant economic and social benefits to land owners and municipalities.

SITES, a partnership of the American Society of Landscape Architects, the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center at The University of Texas at Austin and the United States Botanic Garden, selected Piedmont Park based on its extensive environmentally friendly elements. These sustainable practices include reclaiming green space, recapturing wetlands managing rainwater on site, usage of solar energy and reforestation, protecting and caring for trees.

Piedmont Park joins the Flight 93 National Memorial, the Smithsonian Institution's African American History & Culture museum and other projects that include academic and corporate campuses, other public parks with hundreds of acres, transportation corridors and private residences of less than one acre. "Piedmont Park Conservancy is committed to being a leader in terms of green building and green design," said Yvette Bowden, president and CEO of Piedmont Park Conservancy.

In 1909, the City of Atlanta enlisted the Olmsted Brothers, pre-eminent landscape architects of the time, to develop a master plan for Piedmont Park. Due to budget limitations, their plan for Piedmont Park was not fully implemented. The current master plan, adopted by the City of Atlanta and Piedmont Park Conservancy in 1995, honors the brothers' original vision for the Park.

Like the other pilot projects, the 211-acre site will test the point system for achieving different levels of site sustainability on a 250-point scale, and the performance benchmarks associated with specific credits within the Guidelines and Performance Benchmarks 2009. The site's other sustainability features include the Gold LEED certified renovation of the Park's Greystone facility and wells drilled by Piedmont Park Conservancy.

SITES will use feedback from this and the other selected projects during the pilot phase, which runs through June 2012, to revise the final rating system and reference guide by early 2013. The U.S. Green Building Council, a stakeholder in the Sustainable Sites Initiative, anticipates incorporating the guidelines and performance benchmarks into future iterations of its LEED Green Building Rating System. More information is available at:

<http://www.sustainablesites.org>. For general media queries about SITES, go to:
<http://www.sustainablesites.org/news/>.

About the Sustainable Sites Initiative

The Sustainable Sites Initiative (SITES) is an interdisciplinary partnership led by the American Society of Landscape Architects, the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center at The University of Texas at Austin and the United States Botanic Garden to transform land development and management practices with the nation's first voluntary rating system for sustainable landscapes, with or without buildings. As these guidelines become the accepted practices by professionals and nonprofessionals alike, they will transform the ways we design and build on the land, creating landscapes that nourish life for generations to come. For more information, visit www.sustainablesites.org.

About Piedmont Park Conservancy

Piedmont Park Conservancy is a member and donor funded nonprofit working in partnership with the City of Atlanta to maintain and enhance historic Piedmont Park. Founded in 1989, the Conservancy has raised and invested more than \$23 million in private funds for Park improvements, and today manages over 90% of the overall maintenance and security. By 2010, the Conservancy will have invested an additional \$41.25 million in Phase I projects for the 53-acre expansion of the Park.

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