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Thousands Pitch In at Volunteer Events for National Public Lands Day
Service, recreation and fun mark coast-to-coast land improvement and clean-up event

WASHINGTON, D.C. – More than 170,000 volunteers, including families, students and organizations around the country will grab shovels, rakes, pruning shears and trash bags to improve America's beloved shared spaces as they take part in the 17th annual National Public Lands Day (NPLD) on September 25.

As the nation's largest one-day volunteer event in support of public lands, more than 2,000 sites in all 50 states and the District of Columbia will host a wide array of activities. The volunteer efforts will equal \$15 million in improvements.

NPLD, a program of the National Environmental Education Foundation, supports the goals of the [America's Great Outdoors](#) and the [Let's Move Outside](#) initiatives by offering activities at sites around the country to reconnect Americans to the outdoors and encourage family recreation.

"National Public Lands Day is a time for Americans to give back to the lands they love," said Robb Hampton, director of the program. "It's also a chance for them to learn about the wonderful recreation opportunities these lands afford - not just at iconic national parks. We want people to know that public lands can be as close at hand as your neighborhood park, school yard or nearby city green space."

Events held at city and county parks, neighborhood green spaces, wildlife sanctuaries, national parks and coastal areas are expected to draw the largest crowds in the program's history.

Eight federal agencies are partners. Secretary of the Interior Secretary Ken Salazar will attend an event at Big Branch National Wildlife Refuge in Louisiana while U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Lisa Jackson and White House Council on Environmental Quality Chair Nancy Sutley will be on hand at Kenilworth Park and Aquatic Gardens in Washington, D.C. They will be joined by hundreds of federal officials from around the country who will host events and volunteer at NPLD sites.

"This event exemplifies a multi-agency, public-private partnership for the benefit of all Americans," said Diane Wood, president of the National Environmental Education Foundation. "We're grateful to the thousands of volunteers, the agencies and our corporate partners for their commitment to improving our public lands. They are part of an effort that will make a positive difference for our public lands and, hopefully, spark a lasting interest in outdoor recreation for our volunteers and their families."

Toyota Motor Sales, U.S.A., Inc. shares a strong commitment to the environment and is sponsoring National Public Lands Day for the 12th consecutive year. Northrop Grumman is a corporate sponsor for the 2nd year. Volunteers from both companies will participate in volunteer events on Saturday and support NPLD efforts around the country.

"The importance of conserving our lands is evident as National Public Lands Day grows each year with the increase of participants and volunteer sites," said Michael Rouse, Toyota's vice president of philanthropy and community affairs. "Toyota is proud to continue its support of NPLD

and the thousands of volunteers who dedicate their time to making a sustainable impact in our national parks, local neighborhoods and at our beaches.”

In addition to the more than 2,000 sites hosting improvement projects, a handful of parks will host signature events, with guest speakers, special volunteer activities and more. Signature sites for 2010 include:

Big Branch Marsh National Wildlife Refuge, Louisiana

Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar will join volunteers planting marsh grass and helping to restore areas impacted by the Gulf oil spill.

Kenilworth Park and Aquatic Gardens, Washington, D.C.

EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson and Nancy Sutley, Chair of the White House Council on Environmental Quality will speak to volunteers, who will don hip waders and board row boats to remove lotus plants and invasive species from ponds. Other speakers include Art Gibson, chair of the National Environmental Education Foundation’s Board of Trustees.

Barton Creek Greenbelt, Austin, Texas

Volunteers will be joined by U.S. Rep. Lloyd Doggett, nonprofit organizations and neighbors removing invasive species and improving trails.

Midwin National Tallgrass Prairie, Ill.

United States Forest Service Chief, Tom Tidwell will join volunteers for a day of invasive removal on a historic farmstead and perform erosion control in restored wetland area.

Martin Luther King Jr. Historical Historic Site, Atlanta, Ga.

City officials, including Councilmember Kwanza Hall, Boy Scouts and youth leaders will work to restore historic houses adjacent to The Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.’s first home. Grounds around the houses will be improved as well with weeding and new planting.

Fort Washington Park, New York, N.Y.

Volunteers – including a large group of employees from Toyota and Audubon’s Together Green – will remove invasive plants, litter and debris from the shoreline and park and set up for the Little Red Lighthouse Festival. Children will have the opportunity to build and decorate bird boxes.

For more information about National Public Lands Day and to locate a volunteer project in your area, please visit www.publiclandsday.org.

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Knowledge to Live By

The National Environmental Education Foundation (NEEF) provides knowledge to trusted professionals who, with their credibility, amplify messages to national audiences to solve everyday environmental problems. Together, we generate lasting positive change.

NEEF partners with professionals in health, education, media, business and public land management to promote daily actions for helping people protect and enjoy the environment. Through our primary programs -- Classroom Earth, National Public Lands Day, National Environmental Education Week, Business and Environment, Earth Gauge® and Health & Environment -- we offer Americans knowledge to live by. To learn more, call (202) 833-2933 or visit www.neefusa.org.



Toyota (NYSE: TM) established operations in the United States in 1957 and currently operates 10 manufacturing plants. Toyota directly employs nearly 34,000 in the U.S. and its investment here is currently valued at more than \$18 billion, including sales and manufacturing operations, research and development, financial services and design. Toyota is committed to being a good corporate citizen in the communities where it does business and believes in supporting programs with long-term sustainable results. Toyota supports numerous organizations across the country, focusing on education, the environment and safety. Since 1991, Toyota has contributed more than \$500 million to philanthropic programs in the U.S. For more information on Toyota's commitment to improving communities nationwide, visit www.toyota.com/about/philanthropy.