



Contact:

Catherine Nagel, Executive Director
202-974-5120
nagelcatherine@cityparksalliance.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

City Parks Alliance Meets With Obama Administration Officials

WASHINGTON, DC – May 5, 2009 A delegation from City Parks Alliance met with Department of Housing and Urban Development Secretary Shaun Donovan and White House Office of Urban Affairs Director Adolfo Carrion Jr. on Friday, May 1, to discuss the federal role in city parks, request increase in funding through existing legislation and encourage a coordinated approach to funding across federal agencies as part of a national urban agenda.

Delegates included Adrian Benepe, Commissioner, City of New York Parks & Recreation, Tim Mitchell, General Superintendent, Chicago Park District, Peter Harnik, Director, Center for City Park Excellence/Trust for Public Land, and Catherine Nagel, Executive Director, City Parks Alliance.

Discussions centered on two key promises made during the Obama campaign: investment in metropolitan areas and the institution of sound regional planning. The CPA delegates also pointed out that city parks are of clear federal interest because of their abilities to help reduce global warming as well as obesity-related health problems. According to Director Carrion, priorities for the Office of Urban Affairs include economic competitiveness, sustainability and equity.

According to Secretary Donovan, the Department of Housing and Urban Affairs has begun work with the Department of Transportation on a Sustainable Communities Initiative as a first step to developing a more integrated approach to planning. The CPA delegation urged inclusion of parks as a core component of any new urban policy.

City Parks Alliance, a national network of urban park and recreation leaders, has launched a national campaign to increase investment in our nation's urban parks. CPA will continue to carry the message on the value urban parks bring to our quality of life and their role in creating more sustainable cities to new members of the Obama Administration and key Congressional leaders.

--more--

About City Parks Alliance

City Parks Alliance's mission is to create vibrant and health parks and green spaces that contribute to sustainable cities by organizing, facilitating and nurturing a broad-based movement. CPA is a leader in the urban parks movement. This city parks movement encompasses the myriad organizations – public, non-profit and professional – dedicated to championing high quality urban parks throughout the nation. The CPA network is vital to sound public policy that recognizes city parks as an integral part of forming stronger, more vibrant cities that nurture their citizens from every walk of life.

CPA's vision for urban parks is by 2020 everyone in urban America will live within walking distance of a park that is clean, safe and vibrant.

For more information, see www.cityparksalliance.org

#