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Mayor Coleman Touts Environmental Benefits of Partnership with Toyota in Kick-Off Event

Donated Hybrid Vehicles to Parks Department to Improve Efficiency of City Fleet

SAINT PAUL – Mayor Chris Coleman joined Parks & Recreation Director Bob Bierscheid and officials from Toyota Corp. and the Minneapolis Parks Board on Tuesday to announce the donation of new hybrid vehicles to both cities' parks and recreation departments.

Coleman spoke on the environmental and economic benefits the unique partnership with Toyota brings.

“Saint Paul is a national leader on sustainability, acting locally to reverse the negative impacts on the environment. This partnership clearly demonstrates how the City and corporations can find local solutions to the problems we face,” Mayor Coleman said. “These vehicles will help lay the groundwork for future initiatives to improve both the emissions and fuel efficiency of our vehicle fleet.”

The event in Rice Park on Tuesday showcased the vehicles both cities will receive from Toyota. The Saint Paul Parks & Recreation Department and Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board will each receive 10 leased Toyota vehicles, six of which are hybrid, and a total of \$300,000 over three years. Toyota will receive citywide event sponsorships and the option to place vehicles and promotional materials at these events. Along with both cities, Toyota has an established history of being at the forefront in addressing environmental issues. All vehicles being donated are at or above the competition in terms of pollution emissions and fuel efficiency.

“Toyota is excited about this unique partnership opportunity with Saint Paul and Minneapolis,” said Bob Carter, Toyota group vice president. “This partnership really demonstrates how committed each city is to ‘going green.’ It gives us the opportunity to demonstrate our commitment to the community and to the environment.”

“Sustainability is a high priority for the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board,” explained Minneapolis Park Board President Tom Noryke. “We are committed to reducing energy use in vehicles and to



Mayor Chris Coleman joined Parks and Recreation Director Bob Bierscheid on Tuesday in Rice Park to kick-off a partnership with Toyota that will bring donated hybrid vehicles to the Parks & Recreation Department.

showcasing best practices. Our partnership with Toyota allows us to do both.”

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The City of Saint Paul boasts great parks to visit and fun activities for the whole family to enjoy. Included among its facilities are more than 160 parks and open spaces, the Como Park Zoo and Conservatory, a 9-hole and three 18-hole golf courses, over 100 miles of trails, indoor and outdoor pools, a public beach, sports and aquatics facilities, and wonderful rental facilities for weddings, picnics, and corporate events.

The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board provides 182 park properties featuring playgrounds, golf courses, tennis courts, ball fields, gardens, picnic areas and 55 miles of parkways which includes roads, bike and pedestrian trails, and park amenities. The Park Board’s mission is to permanently preserve, protect, maintain, improve, and enhance its natural resources, parkland, and recreational opportunities for current and future generations.

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