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Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital Named a Groundwater Guardian Green Site

Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital was recently named a 2010 Groundwater Guardian Green Site by The Groundwater Foundation in recognition of the site's groundwater and environmental stewardship. Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital earned this exclusive designation based on its current practices related to water use, pesticide and fertilizer management, and pollution prevention.

Groundwater Guardian Green Sites are essentially places with a lot of green space – like golf courses; ball fields; educational campuses; and residential, recreational, and office parks – that implement groundwater and surface water-friendly practices to maintain the site. To earn the exclusive Groundwater Guardian Green Site designation, site managers complete a simple application that uniformly evaluates and documents their site's groundwater-friendly practices, such as selecting plants adapted to the region's climate, tracking irrigation water use, maintaining a no-application zone around surface water and active wells, and applying fertilizer based on nutrient needs.

2010 is Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital's first year as a designated Groundwater Guardian Green Site. The Green Site program began in 2007 to recognize good stewards of groundwater by encouraging managers of highly-managed green spaces to implement, measure, and document their groundwater-friendly practices.

"Groundwater is a hidden resource that all of us here in Nebraska rely on every day, whether it's the water we drink, it grows the food we eat, or helps our communities and economies thrive," said Groundwater Foundation President Jane Griffin. "It's important to us at The Groundwater Foundation to recognize active groundwater stewards like Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital, and hope it will motivate others to follow in their footsteps."

Potential sites are encouraged to get involved in the Groundwater Guardian Green Site program by downloading the program application at www.groundwater.org/gg/greensites.html, e-mailing guardian@groundwater.org, or calling 1-800-858-4844. The Groundwater Guardian Green Site program is supported by the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality and Cargill.

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The Groundwater Foundation is a non-profit organization based in Lincoln, Nebraska with a mission to educate and motivate the public to care about and for groundwater. Since its inception in 1985, the Foundation has offered various educational programming for youth and adults. To learn more, visit www.groundwater.org.