PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 27, 2009

MEDIA CONTACT
Paula Freund
Public Information Officer
Indy Parks & Recreation
Office: (317) 327-7035
pfreund@indygov.org

CITY EXPANDS PARTNERSHIP WITH RUPERT’S KIDS TO 28 PARKS

INDIANAPOLIS – Mayor Greg Ballard along with Indy Parks Director Stuart Lowry and Rupert’s Kids, Inc. founder Rupert Boneham today announced an expanded partnership with the nonprofit organization that provides work education training to at-risk youth.

“Rupert’s Kids are now caring for all 22 mini parks and six additional city parks,” Mayor Ballard said. “The size of mini parks range from less than a quarter of an acre to about an acre. This unique partnership allows more at-risk youth to participate in this successful program that teaches work ethics, responsibility and job skills and also provides a cost savings of more than $60,000 to the City of Indianapolis. Rupert’s Kids has a great history and a great track record of working with Indy Parks and will continue to help with the landscaping needs of our small but very important community assets.”

This year marks the fourth consecutive year that Rupert’s Kids have assisted Indy Parks with maintenance of its parks, growing the partnership from six parks in 2006 to 28 in 2009. The parks Rupert’s Kids will be caring for totaling 22.79 acres are: Alice Carter, Babe Denney, Barton, Basswood, Beville, Broadway & 29th, Broadway & 61st, Centennial & 20th, Dequincy, Finch, Frank Young, Highway Parcel 1500, Hot Shot Tot Lot, Irvington Circle, Marrott, McCarty Triangle, Orange, Patricia, Polin, Porter Playfield, Presidential Place, Pride, Ramsey, Ransom Place, Ringgold, Sexson, Stacy and Stamm.

“The best thing that any of us can do is to give back to ourselves and to our community,” Boneham said. “Our Park Adoption Program helps our community with its budget, but that is still just a byproduct. The product of our program is the empowerment of our participants and giving them the opportunity to have a safe and productive life. We all need to be a part of the solution.”

Indy Parks contracts out mowing at dozens of its parks. This spring Indy Parks renegotiated its contracts with 13 mowing contractors to arrive at 30 percent Minority Business Enterprise participation. The two-year contracts are eligible for renewal twice.

“These contracts represent the business model that we are building within Indy Parks,” Lowry said. “The longer terms encourage our contractors to invest in their small businesses and also offer a cost savings to the City of $25,000.”

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About Rupert’s Kids, Inc.
Rupert’s Kids, Inc. is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization committed to empowering youth to discover their inner strengths, realize their own self worth and recognize their value to society. Rupert’s Kids, Inc. is dedicated to providing mentoring and educational programming to at-risk youth in our communities; fostering community partnerships that serve youth and families; facilitating delivery of financial assistance and/or services to youth in the areas of education, vocational training and job placement; and developing committed volunteers and donors to provide resources of time, money and property. Visit www.rupertskids.org to learn more.

About Indy Parks & Recreation
The mission of Indy Parks & Recreation is to create fun, safe, engaging and sustainable parks that enhance the quality of life for individuals, neighborhoods and communities. Indy Parks will be a national model of excellence and destination for facilities and programs, protecting parks, greenways and open spaces and championing environmental initiatives. Visit www.indyparks.org for more information.

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