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Media Contact:  
Lori Riddle Eberenz  
[lreberenz@bch.com](mailto:lreberenz@bch.com)  
502-589-7711 or 502-552-5563

## **21<sup>st</sup> Century Parks Launches Pilot Education Program**

***Local students to experience unique series of educational opportunities***

Louisville, Ky.—21<sup>st</sup> Century Parks, the nonprofit organization leading the creation and management of a new, 4,000-acre public parks system along the Floyds Fork watershed, is launching a pilot education program this spring. Several professionals who have partnered with 21<sup>st</sup> Century Parks will share their expertise with local high school students.

In the coming months, students and teachers from Fern Creek High School, which resides near the southern portion of the Floyds Fork and the park lands, will be given the opportunity to:

- Learn from legendary writer Bob Hill during a writing seminar.
- Canoe Floyds Fork with David Wicks, founder of the Jefferson County Public Schools Center for Environmental Education and co-director of the Kentucky Institute for the Environmental and Sustainable Development.
- Discover the park lands by hiking with naturalist Michael Gaige, who has already identified more than 100 special places throughout the Floyds Fork corridor.

“We are lucky to have so many talented individuals supporting the creation of the parks and we are excited to share their talents with local students,” said Dan Jones, president and CEO of 21<sup>st</sup> Century Parks. “This pilot program will be the first of many educational opportunities the parks will provide in the coming years.”

The new parks system is one of the largest and most ambitious metropolitan parks projects in the nation, which makes it a unique educational opportunity for the Louisville community. 21<sup>st</sup> Century Parks is currently developing a long-range educational outreach plan to envision the entire 4,000 acres of the parklands as a living laboratory for local and regional students.

### **About 21<sup>st</sup> Century Parks**

Founded in Louisville in 2004, 21st Century Parks is the nonprofit organization leading

the creation and management of a new, 4,000-acre public parks system along the Floyds Fork watershed in eastern and southeastern Louisville. The new parks system is one of the largest and most ambitious metropolitan park projects in the nation.

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