

**HILL CENTER GREEN HILLS WILL TEST
SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPE RATING SYSTEM**

Nashville, Tennessee – May 25, 2010 – The Sustainable Sites Initiative™ (SITES™) has announced the selection of Hill Center Green Hills as one of the first landscapes to participate in a new program testing the nation’s first rating system for green landscape design, construction and maintenance.

Hill Center Green Hills will join more than 150 other projects from 34 states as well as from Canada, Iceland and Spain as part of an international pilot project program to evaluate the new SITES rating system for sustainable landscapes, with and without buildings. Sustainable landscapes can clean water, reduce pollution and restore habitats, while providing significant economic and social benefits to land owners and municipalities.



SITES, a partnership of the American Society of Landscape Architects, the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center at The University of Texas at Austin and the United States Botanic Garden, selected Hill Center Green Hills based on its extensive environmentally friendly elements. These sustainable practices include a rainwater harvesting cistern, bioswales, native plants, high efficiency irrigation, high SRI walkways/rooftops, full cutoff street/parking lighting and a strong reliance on pedestrian amenities.



Hill Center Green Hills in Nashville is part of the Sustainable Sites Initiative’s new green landscape design rating system.

Hill Center Green Hills joins the Smithsonian Institution’s African American History & Culture museum, a New Orleans’ project to absorb storm water on the streets of the Lower Ninth Ward flooded during Hurricane Katrina, and other pilot projects that include academic and corporate campuses, public parks with hundreds of acres, transportation corridors and private residences of less than one acre.

Hill Center Green Hills was designed by RTKL Associates, Inc. and constructed by Hoar Construction. The 10-acre site was developed to create a mixed-use development along a tree-lined human-oriented streetscape within the larger community of Green Hills. Like the other

pilot projects, the site will test the point system for achieving different levels of site sustainability on a 250-point scale, and the performance benchmarks associated with specific credits within the *Guidelines and Performance Benchmarks 2009*.

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SITES will use feedback from this and the other selected projects during the pilot phase, which runs through June 2012, to revise the final rating system and reference guide by early 2013. The U.S. Green Building Council, a stakeholder in the Sustainable Sites Initiative, anticipates incorporating the guidelines and performance benchmarks into future iterations of its LEED® Green Building Rating System™. More information is available at <http://www.sustainablesites.org>. For general media queries about SITES, go to <http://www.sustainablesites.org/news/>.

About the Sustainable Sites Initiative

The Sustainable Sites Initiative (SITES) is an interdisciplinary partnership led by the American Society of Landscape Architects, the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center at The University of Texas at Austin and the United States Botanic Garden to transform land development and management practices with the nation's first voluntary rating system for sustainable landscapes, with or without buildings. As these guidelines become the accepted practices by professionals and nonprofessionals alike, they will transform the ways we design and build on the land, creating landscapes that nourish life for generations to come. For more information, visit www.sustainablesites.org.

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