

**For Immediate Release:** May 5, 2017 **Contact:** Greg Langley **Telephone:** 225-219-3964

## LDEQ to participate in "Kids to Park" day in Zachary May 9

**BATON ROUGE** – On Tuesday, May 9, environmental scientists from the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality will be demonstrating non-point source pollution scenarios at "Kids to Park" day at Zachary Community Park in Zachary.

Using EnviroScape, LDEQ staff will demonstrate a variety of scenarios involving non-point source pollution to fifth and sixth grade students from Copper Mill Elementary School in Zachary. The school was awarded a "Kids to Park" grant through a nationwide contest administered by the National Park Trust.

EnviroScape is a series of portable models used to demonstrate water pollution concepts and their prevention. At "Kids to Park" day, the models will be used to show examples of non-point source pollution, such as rainfall, that moves over and through the ground, carrying natural and man-made pollutants which are subsequently deposited in our waterways.

The grant awards schools with funding to promote student interest in exploring history, nature and science at their neighborhood parks. Classes can receive funding for a "Kids to Park" event to be held in their community, and students are responsible for the research and writing of the proposal, with encouragement and support from teachers and local park staff.

Seventy schools were winners in the contest, totaling around 4,000 students in grades Kindergarten through 12 across the United States. Copper Mill Elementary was the only school in Louisiana to receive the grant.

For more information, visit the National Park Trust website at: <u>www.parktrust.org/kids-to-parks-day/</u>.

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