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CELEBRATE EARTH DAY AT THE AUDUBON CENTER AT DEBS PARK
Have Fun Caring for Mother Earth on Saturday, April 22, 2006

LOS ANGELES, March 28, 2006 – Learn how you can become a “world custodian” and help take care of the earth we all share. Bring the family and join us at the Audubon Center at Debs Park, 4700 North Griffin Avenue in East Los Angeles on Saturday, April 22 from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. Admission is free and if you ride the Metro (Gold Line, Southwest Museum Exit), you will be eligible to win prizes.

The event will be held at one of the “greenest” facilities in the country. Activities will include solar car racing, arts and crafts, organic food demonstrations, wilderness workshops and a bird identification treasure hunt. There will be lots of entertainment provided by Native American dancers, gospel singers and other cultural dance troops and musicians. Learn about green technology and how you can practice it at home. If you’re a movie buff, bring the family to enjoy the Eco-Film Festival. For more information and detail on the day’s events, visit: www.earthdayaudubon.org

In 2004, the Audubon Center at Debs Park in Los Angeles was certified as the nation’s most environmentally friendly building. The Audubon Center received a Platinum Rating – the highest possible – from the U.S. Green Building Council, the nation’s leading authority on sustainable building practices.

The design of the Audubon Center at Debs Park focuses on a number of key environmental issues that are at the heart of sustainable building, including renewable energy sources, water conservation, recycled building materials, and native landscaping. The 5,023 square-foot building is the first in the city of Los Angeles to be entirely powered by on-site solar systems – functioning entirely “off the grid.” The building also uses significantly less water than a conventional building of its size.

While energy and water conservation are major green features of the building, Audubon's commitment extended way beyond those requirements of the U.S. Green Building Council's LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Green Building Rating System. Recycled materials were used wherever possible, included melted down handguns and scrap metal in the rebar that strengthens concrete blocks and floors. The use of organic materials was also key, and is demonstrated in everything from the carpeting of Mexican agave plant, to wheat board and sunflower board cabinets and desks.

Located just ten minutes northeast of downtown Los Angeles, Ernest E. Debs Regional Park is 282-acres of urban wilderness. Debs Park hosts coyotes and 138 species of birds, yet is surrounded by some of the city's densest urban neighborhoods. For more information on the Audubon Center at Debs Park, visit http://ca.audubon.org/debs_park.htm

Audubon is dedicated to protecting birds and other wildlife and the habitat that supports them. Our national network of community-based nature centers and chapters, scientific and educational programs, and advocacy on behalf of areas sustaining important bird populations, engage millions of people of all ages and backgrounds in conservation.

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