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## NEWS RELEASE

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### **PRIVATE PARKS IN KANSAS ARE INVESTING IN NEW CAMPSITES, CABINS AND OTHER UPGRADES THIS YEAR**

TOPEKA, Kan., May 4, 2009 – The economy may be mired in recession, but that hasn't stopped private campground owners in Kansas from investing in new campsites, park model cabins and other upgrades for the upcoming camping season.

"The recession is temporary, and most campground and RV park operators believe that it behooves them to move forward with their improvement plans to remain competitive with other travel and tourism options," said Linda Profaizer, president and CEO of the National Association of RV Parks and Campgrounds in Larkspur, Colo., which represents the more than 8,000 private parks across the country.

As a result, she said, many private park operators are investing in new facilities and amenities this year, which include everything from new campsites and park model cabins to pizzerias, jumping pillows and tractors for hay rides. Consider these examples:

- **Capital City KOA in Topeka:** This park has invested about \$60,000 in numerous improvements this year, including the addition of a large playground and the paving of its entry road with new asphalt. The park has also refurbished a 1947 Farmall Tractor and Hay Trailer, which it plans to use for weekend and special event hay rides around the campground and through the park's several acres of native tall grass and ponds. The park is also investing in new activities and entertainment, including pancake breakfasts, bingo, movies, tie dye T-shirt classes and ice cream socials.

- **High Plains Camping in Oakley:** This park has invested more than \$45,000 in various improvements this year. The money has been used to provide 50 amp service to eight more campsites, provide shower renovations, the installation of new windows and doors and roofing and the refurbishing of the park's mini golf course with new grass, additional flowers and fresh paint on the structures. The park has also purchased new games for its Rec & Relaxation Sunflower Barn and bought pet agility equipment for its dog run.
- **Lawrence / Kansas City KOA in Lawrence:** This 78-site park has spent roughly \$100,000 in various improvements this year, such as adding a new park model Kamping Lodge, building a new playground with a jumping pillow, remodeling the camp store and adding a fudge counter and pizzeria. The park has also purchased a tractor for use with hay rides for the kids and added other outdoor activities, including outdoor movie nights. The park also plans to plant a cornfield and pumpkins for its new Halloween activities later this year.

The push by private RV park and campground operators to improve their facilities has been going on for many years. In fact, three quarters of private park owners made an average of \$147,508 in improvements to their parks in 2007, according to the National Operations & Economic Survey of RV Parks & Campgrounds, which was sponsored by the ARVC Foundation and conducted by the Arizona Hospitality Research & Resource Center at Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff.

Profaizer cautioned that not every park is investing in capital improvements this year, and some may hold off on projects until later this year until they get a better sense of where the economy is going and how their business is doing.

For additional commentary, statistics and sources on the latest camping trends in campgrounds, RV parks and resorts or for leads on parks in your news coverage area that are making improvements this year, please contact Linda Profaizer at the National Association of RV Parks and Campgrounds at (303) 681-0401 and Harold Hays of the Kansas Association of RV Parks and Campgrounds at (785) 842-3877.

Listings of private campgrounds, online reservation requests and other camping-related information is available at [www.GoCampingAmerica.com](http://www.GoCampingAmerica.com). Contact information for the parks referenced in this release is as follows:

- Capital City KOA, Charlie Reaser, (785) 221-4275 or [office@capitalcityrvpark.com](mailto:office@capitalcityrvpark.com)
- High Plains Camping, Mary Arlington, (785) 672-3538 or [office@highplainscamping.com](mailto:office@highplainscamping.com)

- Lawrence KOA, Harold Hays, (785) 842-3877 or [lawrencekoa@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lawrencekoa@sbcglobal.net)