

**4 June 2009**

**ECO-PARK GRAND OPENING  
IN ALSANCAK / KARAVAS  
on World Environment Day – June 5, 2009**

The Supporting Activities that Value the Environment (SAVE) Project is pleased to announce the opening of a model Eco-Park in the heart of Alsancak/Karavas on Friday, June 5, 2009 to coincide with World Environment Day. Every element of the park has been designed to protect Cyprus' precious natural resources. The Eco-Park features xeriscape landscaping, otherwise known as water-wise gardening, solar power and efficient irrigation techniques. Complete with playground equipment and benches, it is a destination for the whole family. The design for this model Eco-Park was created by Asli Özgürün, the winner of SAVE's Xeriscape Park Design Contest.

Embodying a shared commitment to better protect Cyprus' environment and natural resources, the community, local business leaders and SAVE have come together to create this innovative park that showcases many possibilities for environmentally responsible landscaping and is a beautiful place for the entire community to enjoy. The Eco-Park features indigenous plants which are well-adapted to arid climates and require minimal watering. An efficient drip irrigation system is installed in the park that is calibrated precisely to the varying water needs of each planting area. Compost and mulch are used throughout the plant beds to help retain water in the soil and reduce evaporation. Only solar lighting is used which eliminates the need for electricity.

This park would not be possible without the generous support of many local business sponsors. Mediterranean Gardener and Green Gardens have provided the low-water-use plants and trees. Ecochip has provided the mulch and K. PARALIK donated a water tank. In addition, EVSU has generously provided the bulk of the prize money for the park design contest. Alsancak/Karavas has provided the benches, paving and playground equipment incorporated into the design as well as many dedicated hours of labor in order to create this beautiful park in such a short time and maintain it in future.

**The opening ceremony will take place at 10:00am on June 5, 2009 in Alsancak/Karavas.** The ceremony will include presentations by SAVE, USAID and Dr. Yücel Atakara and the award of Ms. Özgürün's design contest prize. This will be followed by a ribbon-cutting and tour of the park. The park is located on Sakarya Street in the town center. For further directions to the site, please call +90 533 869 9522.

SAVE works to build local capacity to better protect and manage Cyprus' valuable natural and cultural resources. This campaign is part of SAVE's ongoing efforts to address important environmental issues on the island. SAVE is an important part of the overall U.S. assistance program in Cyprus funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

**For more information please contact:**

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