



# National Recreation and Park Association

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**WORLD RENOWNED SKATEBOARDING LEGEND, TONY HAWK TO KEYNOTE  
NRPA CONGRESS AND EXPOSITION IN ATLANTA**  
*Congress to Focus on Inspiring Healthy Active Communities through Parks and Recreation*



**ASHBURN, VA – October 24, 2011** – Twelve-time skateboarding world champion and philanthropist Tony Hawk will keynote the National Recreation and Park Association’s (NRPA) 2011 Congress and Exposition General Session, in Atlanta, GA., on Tuesday, November 1 at 11 a.m., the association announced.

Hawk, founder and president of the Tony Hawk Foundation, will discuss the importance of providing youth quality locations in their communities where they can practice their sport, exercise and gain a sense of self-esteem and civic responsibility along with his experiences as a youth and professional skateboarder and mission to give back to the sport of skateboarding.

“I have seen what good can come from working with youth and communities across the country to bring skateparks into neighborhoods,” says Hawk. “Park and recreation professionals and agencies play a critical role in making it all happen and we must ensure we can continue to work together to bring communities, especially youth, ways to be active and healthy.”

“We are honored to have Tony Hawk as our keynote at this year’s Congress because it is all about inspiring and activating communities and fostering healthy active lifestyles,” says Barbra Tulipane, CEO of NRPA. “We also must recognize, now more than ever, preserving our public spaces is crucial so that we can continue to enhance the quality of life for all people and future generations to come.”

The NRPA Congress and Exposition will gather thousands of professionals in the park and recreation field Nov. 1 – 3 in Atlanta, GA. Attendees will have access to hundreds of education sessions, unique social events, and one of the largest trade shows in the field. As a bonus, immediately following the General Session NRPA is hosting a meet and greet with Tony Hawk and 50 Congress attendees that won the chance to participate. More information about the contest is available by visiting <http://www.NRPA.org/congress2011/program/keynote/>.

**The 2011 NRPA Congress and Exposition will be held at the Georgia World Congress Center in Atlanta, GA. For detailed information, and to register go to [www.NRPA.org/Congress2011](http://www.NRPA.org/Congress2011).**

**\*Media/Press Registration:** All accredited media can register for the 2011 Congress by contacting Lauren Hoffmann at 703.858.2151 or [lhoffmann@nrpa.org](mailto:lhoffmann@nrpa.org).

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**The NRPA Congress and Exposition** is the nation's largest annual gathering of the park and recreation community, bringing together thousands of park and recreation professionals, citizens, industry partners and suppliers. The three-day event is highlighted by a keynote presentation, hundreds of educational sessions, a tradeshow of more than 400 exhibitors, the Parks Build Community project, an annual 5K, networking events and more. For more information, go to [www.nrpa.org/congress2011](http://www.nrpa.org/congress2011).

**The National Recreation and Park Association** is a national not-for-profit organization dedicated to advancing park, recreation and conservation efforts that enhance quality of life for all people. Through its network of 20,000 recreation and park professionals and citizens, NRPA encourages the promotion of healthy lifestyles, recreation initiatives, and conservation of natural and cultural resources. For more information, visit [www.NRPA.org](http://www.NRPA.org). For digital access to NRPA's flagship publication, *Parks & Recreation*, visit [www.parksandrec-magazine.org](http://www.parksandrec-magazine.org).

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