

## **BAHÍA BEACH TAKES MAJOR STEPS TO PROTECT SITE'S**

### **REMARKABLE ECOLOGICAL DIVERSITY**

BAHÍA BEACH, Puerto Rico (May 14, 2008) – The first guests and residents of Bahía Beach Resort & Golf Club, a new resort community under development a short drive from San Juan, are finding well-established neighborhoods already thriving here.

The community's 483 acres are home to pristine maritime and riverine ecosystems that date back centuries. The community's developers, BBP Partners LLC are taking major steps to protect the natural environment and to restore some of the original lowland coastal ecosystems. Over 65% of the property has been preserved as green areas, sanctuaries and nature trails.

Every aspect of the new golf course has been diligently guided by Audubon International to ensure minimum impact on the environment. After three years under their auspices, the Bahía Beach Golf Course is Puerto Rico's first to become a Certified Audubon International Silver Signature Sanctuary.

In addition, the community's team of landscape architects, naturalists and marine biologists has instituted steps such as transplanting more than 4,000 trees within the property. The developers also support plans vivify the large coral reef system located just offshore.

"We are committed to the principles of sustainable development and preserving the natural wonders of Bahía Beach," said Federico J. Sánchez-Ortiz, president of Interlink Group, the development managers of Bahía Beach. "Not because it keeps the community beautiful – because it's the right thing to do."

Alexis Molinares, Bahía Beach's professional environmental consultant, has conducted inventories and quantified every species of plant and animal on the property. He has also developed construction protocols and made specific recommendations on how best to protect the community's natural environment and original residents.

His environmental survey identified more than one hundred different species of trees and plants, including *Roystonea borinquena*, the indigenous Puerto Rican royal palm and other native species such as cocoplum, Maria trees, four species of mangroves and the colorful flamboyán tree.

Once fully open in 2010, Bahía Beach will have a naturalist on staff to lead nature walks through the community, conduct nature workshops and camps for children and organize special events to commemorate Earth Day.

Bahía Beach is being built on two miles of scenic beach surrounded by patches of coastal forests, within view of El Yunque National Rainforest, the only tropical rainforest in the U.S. Forest system. The community is home to a variety of animal inhabitants including fish such as snook and tarpon, frigate birds, pelicans, stately palm trees, delicate golden leather ferns, West Indian whistling ducks, iguanas, amphibians and many species of songbirds. The Espiritu Santo River, which borders the property to the east, originates in the majestic El Yunque Rainforest and ends at Bahía Beach. The slow-moving river, much of which is a nature reserve, offers wonderful opportunities for kayaking and canoeing excursions. El Yunque provides the perfect location for hikes and glimpses of the endangered Puerto Rican parrot.

World-renowned St. Regis® Hotels & Resorts will operate the intimate St. Regis Resort, Bahía Beach, Puerto Rico, which will include an ultra-luxurious hotel and residences scheduled to open in Fall 2010. Amenities will include the recently completed Robert Trent Jones, Jr. golf course, an oceanfront clubhouse opening later this year, a boathouse offering kayak rentals, nature trails and Bahia Village, offering a world-class Remède Spa and Fitness Center, fine and casual dining restaurants and oceanfront swimming pools.

For more information, please contact Heidi Souffront, Sales Director of Bahía Beach Resort & Golf Club at (787) 957-5800 or (787) 533-9191, email [info@bahiabeachpuertorico.com](mailto:info@bahiabeachpuertorico.com) or visit [www.bahiabeachpuertorico.com](http://www.bahiabeachpuertorico.com).

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