

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**GATEWAY HOSPITALITY GROUP ANNOUNCES  
NEW HOTEL COMPLEX IN MISSOULA, MONTANA**

**Groundbreaking Ceremony to Include the Hilton Garden Inn®  
Evolution Solution Express™ Featuring Cutting-Edge Room Amenities**

**Missoula, Montana (February 28, 2005)** – Gateway Hospitality Group today announced plans for the new 147-room Hilton Garden Inn® Missoula hotel, which is currently in construction phase with a projected opening in early 2006. The Hilton Garden Inn® Missoula will be located on North Reserve Street off US I-90 and will serve as the cornerstone of a unique complex with several outstanding hospitality offerings.

The Hilton Garden Inn Missoula is being developed by Western Hospitality Group LP and will be managed by Ohio-based Gateway Hospitality Group.

The day's events will begin with the display of the Hilton Garden Inn Evolution Solution Express (ESE)™, a 72-foot long, 67,000-pound, 26-foot-wide mobile marketing truck that features a full-scale model guestroom showcasing the brand's latest guest offerings in comfort, technology and entertainment, followed by a morning site ceremony under a tent on the hotel's construction site, during which local and national representatives will place their hands in concrete to leave handprints commemorating the occasion. In addition, an evening preview reception is scheduled for local and regional guests to tour the model guestroom, learn more about the project and experience the hospitality that the new Hilton Garden Inn Missoula will offer when it is completed early next year.

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## **Gateway Hospitality Group**

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According to CEO of Gateway Hospitality Group and Managing Partner of Western Hospitality Group LP Robert Voelker, the decision to come to Missoula was inspired by the overwhelming need in the market and an admiration for the area's local culture, art and natural attributes. "Missoula is ideally located in western Montana in close proximity to two national parks and numerous other tourist attractions," said Voelker. "We are excited to be a part of the greater Missoula community and look forward to meeting the growing needs of our leisure and business travelers as well as the needs of our new neighbors – the area's residents and corporate citizens. We are proud that we were awarded the first Hilton Garden Inn franchise agreement in Montana and we are committed to the success of this unique project," added Voelker.

According to Missoula Area Economic Development Corporation President Dick King, the Hilton Garden Inn will play a key role in furthering the community's economic development. "Missoula is thrilled to welcome the new property to town," said King. "We are a growing community with much to offer. Their presence will allow us to attract more meetings and events and larger groups of visitors, further fueling our economy. This truly is a winning situation for us all."

### **Project Construction Details**

The six-story Hilton Garden Inn will offer many business- and leisure-oriented features and services designed to accommodate guests with conveniences, comforts and efficiencies. In addition to the construction of the hotel, the site also will include a beautifully appointed, 14,000-square-foot conference center with flexible meeting space and high-tech capabilities; a unique 4,800-square-foot casual restaurant, Blue Canyon Kitchen & Tavern; and a 1,300-square-foot gaming area, Silver Creek Casino.

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## **Gateway Hospitality Group**

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The exterior of the building will utilize slate, stone and earth-toned surfaces and accents to impart a style in keeping with the landscape and natural elements of Montana. The project team is developing relationships with several local organizations to capture the culture, art and architecture of Montana for use with the interior décor. Gateway Hospitality Group's Director of Design and Procurement Tari DeWille is creating a bold, yet comforting lodge motif using a rugged design style that is sophisticated, relaxed and inspired by the outdoor lifestyle of the residents of Montana. Rich tones of red, soft golds and greens, warming browns and neutrals and a careful combination of vibrant plaids, subtle stripes and detailed checks will be used throughout the complex. Creative accents, such as animal mounts, residential furnishings and unique lighting will add to the charm and comfort of the interior design.

The 147-room Hilton Garden Inn Missoula will feature the 8,400-square-foot Grant Creek Ballroom, the 1,300-square-foot Bitterroot River Room, the 675-square-foot Clark Fork Board Room and additional creative meeting and event space such as a patio, courtyard and rotunda. The property will feature wireless technology, 24-hour complimentary business center, Great American Grill® restaurant, Pavilion Pantry®, a well-appointed public gathering area with a television and fireplace, and complimentary parking. Complimentary airport transportation will be offered to and from the hotel.

Guestroom amenities will include the Garden Sleep System by VSS Sleep Systems, a modified *Mirra* chair by Herman Miller, a 26" Philips flat panel, high-definition television and an innovative Hilton Garden Inn clock allowing travelers to play their MP3 player or portable CD player. Additional features include a hospitality center with a microwave oven, coffeemaker and mini refrigerator; a sitting area with an easy chair and ottoman; a hairdryer; and an iron and ironing board. In-room entertainment and information services will include video-on-demand movies and interactive Hilton guest services.

Business-oriented features include: complimentary high-speed Internet access and secure remote printing to the hotel's 24-hour business center; a spacious work desk and adjustable lighting; electrical outlets at desk height; and two telephones equipped with voice mail and data ports.

A work out facility, indoor swimming pool and whirlpool, and an on-site guest laundry facility or valet laundry services will also be offered for guests' convenience.

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## **Gateway Hospitality Group**

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In addition to the new Hilton Garden Inn Missoula hotel, the complex will showcase the new Blue Canyon Kitchen & Tavern, a 4,800-square-foot casual dining experience. The Blue Canyon restaurant will offer rustic elegance for approximately 200 guests and features the "Creative American Cooking" of Corporate Chef Brandt Evans. Modeled after the successful Blue Canyon Kitchen & Tavern located in Twinsburg, Ohio, the Missoula restaurant structure will combine conventional trusses, cavity cathedral ceilings and handcrafted log rafter systems. Blue Canyon's interior will be divided into several "dining experiences" (The Kitchen, The Great Room and The Tavern) each evoking a different mood and appealing to the preferences of several types of diners. Guests also will have the opportunity to enjoy an outdoor patio and a private dining room. The center of The Kitchen will contain a unique Chef's Table, where guests can observe and enjoy the culinary art created by Chef Evans and his team in an open "exhibition" kitchen. The floor-to-ceiling stone fireplace, with an oversized wood mantle, will divide The Kitchen from The Great Room. Blue Canyon Kitchen & Tavern will be available for private parties and special events.

For more information on Hilton Garden Inn hotels in the U.S., Canada and Mexico or to make reservations, visit the company's web site at [www.hiltongardeninn.com](http://www.hiltongardeninn.com) or call 1-877-STAY-HGI from the U.S. and Canada.

For additional information regarding Hilton Garden Inn Missoula, contact Gateway Hospitality Group at 330-405-9800.

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