

NEWS RELEASE

March 31, 2009

CONTACT: Estella Espinosa
Work (713) 865-4537
Cell (832) 465-4782

2013 NRPA Congress and Expo To Generate Millions for Houston Economy

The Houston Parks and Recreation Department, in conjunction with the Greater Houston Convention and Visitors Bureau, will be hosting the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) Annual Congress and Exposition, October 8-11, 2013.

"We are honored and excited to host the NRPA in 2013," said Houston Mayor Bill White. "We're looking forward to showing off and sharing Houston's great and growing parks environment and, of course, visiting with and learning from the parks experts from around the country."

The NRPA Congress and Exposition is the largest annual gathering of parks and recreation professionals and citizen advocates and attracts approximately 8,000 participants.

"This is a wonderful event for Houston," said Greg Ortale, President and CEO, Greater Houston Convention and Visitors Bureau. "We estimate that the NRPA Congress and Expo will generate approximately \$7.8 million to the city of Houston."

The Houston Parks and Recreation Department will work in conjunction with the Greater Houston Convention and Visitors Bureau and the NRPA to welcome the 2013 Congress and Expo to Houston and the George R. Brown Convention Center.

"Houston has a rich tradition of successfully supporting and integrating parks, green space and recreation systems within its infrastructure," said NRPA Chief Executive Officer Barbara Tulipane, CAE. "By holding the NRPA Congress and Exposition in a city that is clearly advancing the parks and recreation movement, we are destined to enhance the overall NRPA Congress experience for all of our attendees."

(more)

The NRPA Congress and Exposition attendees represent all regions of the United States and abroad. The annual event features over 100 education sessions, renowned keynote speakers, a business exposition, courses, workshops, award presentations, and networking events and provides park professionals and citizen advocates an opportunity to meet and confer on the condition of parks across the country.

“The NRPA Conference in 2013 will be a great opportunity for all our park systems across Texas to give a big Texas Welcome to our visitors,” said Joe Turner, Houston Parks and Recreation Department. “We’ve worked with our neighboring park systems over the years to create and preserve parks, greenspaces and recreational opportunities to attack the nature deficit disorder that currently exists. The NRPA Conference will allow us to highlight those partnerships and create new ones on a national level that will benefit all of us.”

About the NRPA

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 more than 21,000 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.

About the Houston Parks and Recreation Department

The Houston Parks and Recreation Department oversees the management and stewardship of 38,945.42 acres of parkland for the city. For more information on the Houston Parks and Recreation Department, call (713) 865-4537 or visit www.houstonparks.org