



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 22, 2006

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HPARD Kicks-off 2006 Summer Swim Season With the On Time Opening of All City Pools

The Houston Parks and Recreation Department is preparing for "Splashdown" as it once again proudly announces the on-time, coordinated opening of all Municipal swimming pools and aquatics centers for the 2006 Summer Swim Season. HPARD Director Joe Turner and Council Member Addie Wiseman, District E will be on hand to kick-off the 2006 swim season with Opening Day Ceremonies at Greenwood Pool (602 Beresford) on Saturday, May 27th at 12:30 p.m. with a ribbon cutting marking the openings of all City pools at 1 p.m.

"Three words describe Houston summers: Hot, Hot and Hot," remarked Turner. "As temperatures rise, so too will Houstonians' need and desire to cool off. Community pools are the perfect place to do just that. We have worked hard to ensure the on-time opening of all Municipal pools for the second year in a row, and this year we are proud to introduce four "beach entry" pools located throughout the City. We definitely have the answer for the sweltering days ahead and invite everyone to come down and splash into summer!"

HPARD currently operates thirty-nine pools across the City. Four municipal pools will feature newly added "beach entry" functions allowing for zero-depth water entry; a feature that increases accessibility for all who wish to swim. The Municipal pools that will feature beach entry include Sagemont located at 11507 Hughes, Northline located at 6911 Nordling, Reveille located at 7700 Oak Vista and the host pool for the Opening Day Ceremonies, Greenwood.

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"I am proud of both our Parks Department and members of our community, who together, along with me, maintained a commitment to see this project to fruition," Wiseman said. "I am thrilled that I will have the opportunity to share in our community's celebration of Summer Swim Season."

Pool season runs this year from Memorial Day Weekend beginning May 27th through Labor Day. For additional information regarding HPARD's pool hours, programs and operations or to register for swimming programs, please call the Aquatics Office at (713) 845-1009 or visit the Houston Parks and Recreation website at www.houstonparks.org.