



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Dedication Scheduled for Refurbished Nellie Keyes Park

The Houston Parks and Recreation Department in conjunction with Rice Military Citizens, and the Houston Parks Board will host a "Dedication Ceremony and Day in The Park" to celebrate the renovation of Nellie Keyes Park (801 Lester, Key Map 492G). Celebrations will begin on Saturday, May 6 at 12:30 p.m. with the official dedication ceremony scheduled for 1:00p.m. In case of inclement weather dedication ceremonies will be relocated to the Doris Miller Center (entrance at 5216 Gibson).

Rice Military Citizens spearheaded the renovation of Nellie Keyes Park. "Nellie Keyes is an important part of our community. We use the park on a daily basis and felt that our contribution could help enhance the quality of life for our neighborhood," said Phyllis Thomason Coordinator Rice Military Citizens Group. "So we began with the help of the Houston Parks Board to take a look at what we could do to help the city improve our neighborhood park. The results have been amazing! Not only do we have a much nicer park but it is now much more than just a city park it's part of our community because we were part of the renovation."

Nellie Keyes Park was donated to the City of Houston on November 10, 1944 to be used "for park, playground and recreational purposes." It is named in honor of a 28 year career teacher Ms. Nellie Keyes.

"We're pleased to see Nellie Keyes restored to what Ms. Keyes and her family originally envisioned when they donated the land," remarked Joe Turner, Director Houston Parks and Recreation Department. "We're also thankful for the work this community has invested in their neighborhood park. We hope their leadership will serve as an example to others all over the city who would like to improve their community parks. When people take the time to become interested in their community parks and work to make their dreams a reality the results can be wonderful. "

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Park improvements such as new lighting, cement walking paths, picnic tables, benches, and an exciting new playground have created a safe and healthy environment to enjoy nature. In addition, the Nellie Keyes Community Garden has even taken on a new appearance with a great new wrought iron fence. The fence will provide protection for new plants and allow a cast of active neighborhood volunteers the ability to cultivate and harvest fresh vegetables and fruit more easily.

“The Dedication Ceremony and Day in The Park” promises to be a fun-filled day with many different activities for park visitors to participate in. Activities scheduled for the official dedication ceremony include: The Buffalo Soldiers posting of colors, the reading of a proclamation from Mayor Bill White, and the presentation of the history of Nellie Keyes Park by Ray Miller, noted historian and television personality.

In addition to the official ceremony, the park will be filled with colorful banners and food thanks to neighborhood businesses. Children from the DePelchin Children’s Center under the direction of the Orange Show for Visionary Arts have created colorful banners to celebrate the day.

Neighborhood eateries including Ottos Barbeque, Shandy’s, Cova, the Daily Grind, El Tiempo, and Texadelphia will be on hand to present samples of their menus. A butterfly release courtesy of Karpas Properties will be the highlight of the day.

For more information on the “Dedication Ceremony and Day in The Park” at Nellie Keyes Park, contact Phyllis Thomason at 713-880-4119 or 713-553-1611. For information on the Houston Parks and Recreation Department please call 713-845-1135 or visit our website at www.houstonparks.org.