News Release

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HPARD & AmeriCorps NCCC Unite to Improve Park Facilities

July 12th Ribbon Cutting Ceremony Celebrates 4.5 Miles of New Trail at Lake Houston Wilderness Park

The Houston Parks and Recreation Department in partnership with AmeriCorps N.C.C.C. will celebrate the opening of a new 4.5-mile trail in Lake Houston Wilderness Park (L.H.W.P.) on **Monday, July 12, 2010, at 11:00am**. The new trail adds to L.H.W.P.'s 20 miles of existing hike and bike trails. The public is invited to the ribbon-cutting ceremony and the days festivities which included a day of exploring the new trail and other park areas.

Over the past year three teams of AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps (N.C.C.C.) have worked with H.P.A.R.D. on the construction of this trail. The trail will open up new segments of LHWP to visitors as it crosses heavily forested areas alongside Caney Creek and winds past a cypress bog. The most recent AmeriCorps NCCC team to work on the trail will be on site during the celebration.

Lake Houston Wilderness Park is a 4,986 acre park located approximately 30 minutes north of downtown Houston off of Highway 59 near the town of New Caney at 22031 Baptist Encampment Road. Activities include hiking, biking, canoeing, kayaking, and horseback riding. Visitors must bring your own bikes, watercraft, and horses. Cabins, walk-in campsites, and screened shelters are available for rental. The public is encouraged to plan ahead if they would like to camp out for the evening. To book a campsite, call (281) 354-6881.

About AmeriCorps NCCC

AmeriCorps NCCC is a full-time, residential, national service program in which 1,100 young adults serve nationwide each year. During their 10-month term, Corps Members – all 18 to 24 years old – work on teams of eight to 12 on projects that address compelling, self-identified community needs. These projects, usually lasting six to eight weeks each, support the environment, infrastructure improvement, energy conservation, urban and rural development, and immediate and continuing disaster response. AmeriCorps NCCC has responded to every national disaster since the program began in 1994. The Southwest Region campus in Denver is one of five regional hubs in the United States and serves eight states in the southwest part of the country. The other campuses are located in Perry Point, Md., Vicksburg, Miss., Vinton, Iowa, and Sacramento, Calif. In exchange for their service, Corps Members receive $5,350 to help pay for college, or to pay back existing student loans. Other benefits include a small living stipend, room and board, leadership development, increased self-confidence, and the knowledge that, through active citizenship, people can indeed make a difference. AmeriCorps NCCC is administered by the Corporation for National and Community Service. For more information about AmeriCorps NCCC, visit the website at www.americorps.gov/nccc.

For information on AmeriCorps NCCC, call Abigail DeHart, AmeriCorps NCCC Team Media Representative, at (989) 860-8921.

About The Houston Parks and Recreation Department

The Houston Parks and Recreation Department oversees the management and stewardship of the city's 350 developed parks and provides programming and recreational opportunities for people of all abilities. For more information on the Houston Parks and Recreation Department visit www.houstonparks.org

For information on Lake Houston Wilderness Park and the Houston Parks and Recreation Department, call (832) 395-7022 or visit www.houstontx.gov/parks/lakehoustonpark.html.