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## Press Release

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### H.P.A.R.D.'s Summer Programming Kicks Off June 4

As temperatures rise & school lets out for the summer, the Houston Parks & Recreation Department offers a wide range of programs & activities for all ages & abilities! Check out all the activities, programs & facilities available for you to keep active this summer at [www.houstonparks.org](http://www.houstonparks.org). Some program offerings include:

#### Summer Enrichment Program

The Summer Enrichment Program is a 10-week day-camp style program offered at 47 H.P.A.R.D. Community Centers from June 4 through August 17 for youth ages 6 to 13. Program activities include: arts & crafts, sports, field trips, special events, & water fun. The cost is \$30 per child per week. Program information is at <http://www.houstontx.gov/parks/recreationprograms.html>. **Please Note:** Due to renovations, the Sagemont Community Center will offer Summer Enrichment Programming Registration from June 13 to June 15th with programming beginning on June 18.

#### Summer Swim Season

H.P.A.R.D.'s pools are opening in two phases. Phase I, which occurred during the Memorial Day weekend, May 26 through May 28, included the opening of 20 pools. Phase II begins on June 5 & runs through Labor Day, September 3. During this time, an additional 18 pools will be opened to bring the total pools under operation to 38. Pools are open from 1:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday. All H.P.A.R.D. pools are closed on Mondays for routine maintenance. For more information & site locations, visit <http://www.houstontx.gov/parks/aquatics/index.html>.

#### Summer Food Service Program

The Summer Food Service Program offers FREE lunches & snacks for children ages 1 – 18 at 460 locations across the city. No registration is required. To find a Summer Food Service Program site near you, call 2-1-1 & give the operator your zip code. They will locate a site near you. H.P.A.R.D. has sponsored the Summer Food Service Program since 1980. The Summer Food Service Program is administered by the Texas Department of Agriculture Food & Nutrition Division. For program information, visit <http://www.houstontx.gov/parks/summerfood.html>.

#### Summer Youth Tennis Program

The Youth Tennis Program is a FREE program offered at public parks throughout the year by H.P.A.R.D. in partnership with the Houston Tennis Association, Inc.-NJTL. The program is designed to provide young people, ages 4 to 18, with the fundamentals of the game of tennis & educational components that develop life skills. Equipment is available for use during class. For more information, visit <http://www.houstontx.gov/parks/youthtennis.html>.

#### Summer Youth Golf Program

The First Tee of Houston at F.M. Law Park offers FREE golf lessons for youth ages 7 to 18. The program's mission is to positively impact the lives of young people in the greater Houston area by "promoting character development & life-enhancing values through the game of golf." The First Tee of Houston at F.M. Law Park is an affiliate of the national First Tee Program. For registration information, visit <http://www.thefirstteehoustonfmlawpark.org/Club/Scripts/Home/home.asp>.

#### Adult Sports Leagues

Adult Sports Leagues are offered year-round in a variety of sports, including: basketball, kickball, softball, & volleyball. League play is open to adults ages 18 & over. Team registration fees are required. To register your team for a sports league, visit <http://www.houstontx.gov/parks/adultsports/index.html>.

#### Senior Sports Leagues & Recreational Activities

Seniors can find plenty to do to stay busy this summer! Classes & activities are scheduled at H.P.A.R.D. community centers & include programming like: exercise & walking clubs, pickleball & table tennis, arts & crafts classes, scrapbooking, quilting, jewelry making & more. Contact your Community Center for more information. For a listing of H.P.A.R.D. Community Centers, visit:

<http://www.houstontx.gov/parks/pdfs/2012/2012SummerCatalog.pdf>.

### **Adaptive Sports & Recreation**

H.P.A.R.D. provides access to year-round activities for youth & adults with disabilities through the Adaptive Recreation Section housed in the Metropolitan Multi-Service Center, 1475 West Gray. Sports & recreational opportunities are available for all ages. Some programs include: Wheelchair Tennis, Wheelchair Rugby, Wheelchair Soccer, Adaptive Aquatics, & much more. For more information, visit

<http://www.houstontx.gov/parks/adaptivesports.html>.

### **Lake Houston Wilderness Park**

Lake Houston Wilderness Park is a 5,000 acre park located 30 minutes from downtown Houston near New Caney. It is the only park in the department's inventory where overnight camping is available. Most of the park is heavily forested. Beautiful trails & proximity to Caney Creek & Peach Creek provide visitors with a perfect setting for photography, nature study, hiking, biking, horseback riding, bird watching, kayaking & canoeing. The Lake Houston Wilderness Park Nature Center offers programming & presentations for all ages, as well. For more information on events at Lake Houston Wilderness Park, visit

<http://www.lakehoustonwildernesspark.org>.

*The Houston Parks & Recreation Department (H.P.A.R.D.) stewards & manages over 39,752 acres of parkland & greenspace for the City of Houston & develops & implements recreational programming for citizens of all abilities. For more information on the Houston Parks & Recreation Department, call (832) 395-7022 or visit [www.houstonparks.org](http://www.houstonparks.org).*