



Press Release

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Houston Parks and Recreation Department Receives \$53,200 Grant To Promote the Summer Food Service Program

The Houston Parks and Recreation Department has received a \$53,200 contribution to assist with the Summer Food Service Program. The grant was awarded to the department through the Walmart Foundation's State Giving Program and the National Recreation and Park Association. In addition, N.R.P.A. will contribute \$6,800 in training materials as an in-kind contribution to implement the nutrition education program, OrganWise Guys.

"With this generous grant, H.P.A.R.D.'s Summer Food Service Program will be able to reach more families with information about free lunches for hungry children," said Joe Turner, Director, Houston Parks and Recreation Department. "We appreciate the generosity of the Walmart Foundation and the National Recreation and Park Association, and look forward to a great summer for all of Houston's children."

The Summer Food Service Program is funded by the United States Department of Agriculture, administered through the Texas Department of Agriculture, and has been sponsored by the Houston Parks and Recreation Department since 1984. Between June 4 and August 17, 2012, a period when children will lose access to free meals supplied by their schools, the program will distribute free lunches and snacks to children ages 1 – 18 at more than 400 locations across the city.

The grant from the Walmart Foundation and the N.R.P.A. will fund efforts to increase participation rates for the Summer Food Service Program. In addition, the OrganWise Guys program will be set up at multiple Summer Food Service Program sites to promote nutrition education.

About Philanthropy at Walmart

Walmart and the Walmart Foundation are proud to support initiatives that are helping people live better around the globe. In May 2010, Walmart and its Foundation made a historic pledge of \$2 billion through 2015 to fight hunger in the U.S. The Walmart Foundation also supports education, workforce development, environmental sustainability, and health and wellness initiatives. To learn more, visit www.walmartfoundation.org.

About the National Recreation and Park Association

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 20,000 recreation and park professionals and citizens, N.R.P.A. encourages the promotion of healthy lifestyles, recreation initiatives, and conservation of natural and cultural resources. For more information, visit www.NRPA.org. For digital access to N.R.P.A.'s flagship publication, *Parks & Recreation*, visit www.parksandrec-magazine.org.

About the Houston Parks and Recreation Department

The Houston Parks and Recreation Department (H.P.A.R.D.) stewards and manages over 38,992 acres of parkland and greenspace for the City of Houston and develops and implements recreational programming for citizens of all abilities. For more information on the Houston Parks and Recreation Department, call (832) 395-7022 or visit www.houstonparks.org.

