



PRESS RELEASE

May 30, 2014

Contact: Estella Espinosa
Work: (832) 395-7022
Cell: (832) 465-4782
estella.espinosa@houstontx.gov

Houston Parks and Recreation Department Plans an Exciting Summer of Outdoor Fun and Games

The Houston Parks and Recreation Department kicks off the 2014 summer season this weekend with activities and classes for all ages and abilities.

"We're excited that summer is here. It's one of our busiest seasons," said Joe Turner, Director, Houston Parks and Recreation Department. "We welcome visitors to our 360 plus parks and encourage them to check out H.P.A.R.D.'s 2014 summer catalog to see all the programs we have to offer during the summer."

H.P.A.R.D.'s 2014 Summer Activities and Class Catalog offers a complete list of summer programming offered by the department with dates, fees and information numbers for the public to download. The catalog is available for download at www.houstonparks.org.

Some activities and program listed in the catalog and offered by the Houston Parks and Recreation Department this summer include:

Pools

Offers: 37 pool sites provide cool relief from Houston's heat. Swim classes are also offered.
Fee: Free
Ages: Open to all ages. Youth under 8 years of age must be accompanied by parent/guardian
Locations: www.houstonparks.org
Days: May 31 – August 17; Tuesday – Sunday (closed on Mondays)
August 18 – Sept 1; Saturday and Sunday only (closed Mon – Fri)

Learn to Swim – H2O Safe

Offers: Three levels of Swim Instruction at 33 pool sites across the city. Registration is required and 30 minute classes are offered between the hours of 4:00 pm – 8:00 pm. Schedules vary by site. Call us or visit website www.houstonparks.org for more information.
Fee: Free
Ages: 6 - 13
Locations: www.houstonparks.org

Summer Food Service Program

Offers: Lunches and snacks at over 400 sites across the city for children ages 1 – 18 to replace meals provided during the school year. No registration is required. H.P.A.R.D. has sponsored this program since 1980.
Fee: FREE
Ages: 1-18
Locations: Over 400 sites across Houston and Harris County
Days: June 2 – Aug 15 (Mon – Fri only)
Time: Lunch 11:00 am – 1:00 pm
Snack 3:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Information: 2-1-1 (give operator your zip code for closest site to you)

Summer Enrichment Program

Offers: A day camp-style program for youth ages 6 – 13. The program operates under “Texas Standards of Care” as defined by the Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services. Activities include crafts, nutrition education, fitness, track and field, junior golf, nature exploration, recycling awareness, hiking and fishing excursions, and computer literacy.

Fee: Tuition is \$30 per week per child

Ages: 6-13

Locations: 49 H.P.A.R.D. sites across Houston

Days: June 2 – Aug 8 (Mon – Fri only)

Time: 8:00 am – 6:00 pm (parents responsible for transportation to and from site)

Registration: Online Only www.houstonparks.org

Golf Courses

Offers: 7 Locations across the city. A wide variety of amenities ensure that H.P.A.R.D. golf courses offer something for everyone at all skill levels. All sites are non-metal spike courses.

Fees: Vary; consult website for each golf course www.houstonparks.org

Locations: www.houstonparks.org

Lake Houston Wilderness Park

Offers: 4,786.6 acres of wooded parkland, approximately 30 minutes north of downtown Houston off of Highway 59 near the town of New Caney. It is the only park in the H.P.A.R.D. system where overnight camping is available. Cabins (both lakeside and wooded sites), lakeside tent platforms, screen shelters, backpack campsites, and dining hall are available for rental. Activities include hiking and biking on 12 miles of hike and bike trails, kayaking on tree-lined creeks, and horseback riding on 8 miles of equestrian trails. (Bring your own bikes, watercraft, and horses).

Fee: \$3.00 daily admission fee; other fees apply and vary depending on cabin rental.

Hershey Track & Field

Offers: A FREE exciting track & field event for children ages 6 – 14. The program is open to all track & field clubs and school team members and individuals, and no experience is necessary. The meet takes place from 9:00 – 2:00 June 10 and July 9 at the Barnett Sports Complex, and features dashes, runs, relays, broad jumps, and softball throw. The Jacob & Therese Hershey Foundation is a partial sponsor for the event.

Fee: Free

Registration: May 2 – July 3 (ongoing through those time periods)

Meets/Ages: June 10 (ages 9-14) and July 9 (ages 6 – 14)

Houston Teens Outside With Nature (HTOWN)

Offers: A FREE year-round program that offers youth ages 14 – 18 opportunities to build confidence and self-esteem through mentoring and H.P.A.R.D. programs and special events. Activities include community and volunteer projects, teen forums and workshops, field trips and tours, hands-on outdoor activities, and sports.

Fee: Free

Registration: Ongoing

Ages: 14-18

Locations: H.P.A.R.D. Community Centers

Opening Doors Teen Mentoring Workshop

Offers: Youth ages 14 – 18 have the opportunity to perform community service during the summer. Teens develop character and self-worth and prepare for the job market with interview and resume training. They take part in community projects, field trips,

workshops, and a team-building camping experience at Lake Houston Wilderness Park. The 8-week summer program meets at the Judson Robinson, Jr., Community Center.

Fee: \$30 per week, (Monday – Thursday only)
Ages: 14-18
Locations: Judson Robinson, Jr., Community Center, 2020 Hermann Drive

Teen Adventure Caravan

Offers: Programs, field trips, mentoring, and special teen events for youth Ages 14 – 18 at H.P.A.R.D. community centers across town. Activities include motivational speakers, essay and talent competitions, nature and camping activities, and college campus tours.
Fee: Free
Ages: 14-18
Locations: Select H.P.A.R.D. Community Centers (call for Locations)

Athletes Seeking Knowledge

Offers: FREE educational support, resources, and scholarship opportunities to youth
Ages: 13 – 18 in H.P.A.R.D.'s Summer Enrichment or other recreational programs.
Fee: Free
Ages: 13 - 18
Locations: H.P.A.R.D. Community Centers (call for Locations)

D-Tag Tattoo Removal

Offers: Tattoo removal service upon completion of 6 hours of community service. D-Tag is co-sponsored by the Harris County Medical Society.
Ages: Young people 10 – 24
Fee: Free with completion of 6 hours of community service to be performed prior to tattoo removal procedure
Locations: Judson Robinson, Jr., Community Center, 2020 Hermann Drive

Summer Youth Tennis

Offers: Through a partnership with the Houston Tennis Association, Inc/NJTL, tennis lessons for children teach them the fundamentals of the game of tennis along with invaluable life skills. Summer classes meet in the morning or afternoon, and no pre-registration is required, although class enrollment closes 2 weeks after classes start.
Fee: Free
Ages: 4 - 18
Locations: 37 H.P.A.R.D. tennis courts across Houston Area

Skateparks

Offers: 5 above ground skatepark sites across the city, and 1 in-ground skatepark, the Lee & Joe Jamail Skatepark for skateboarders to use.
Fee: Free
Ages: 6 - Up
Locations: www.houstonparks.org

Parks Online Master Plan Survey

The Houston Parks and Recreation Department is in the process of evaluating and adjusting its Parks Master Plan, last published in 2008. The plan gives direction for the growth of the city's park system for the next twenty years. Since 2007, the City of Houston has been divided into 21 Park Sectors and park need analysis at this level is currently underway. H.P.A.R.D. is requesting park users take the Online Master Plan Survey and provide their input on park priorities that need to be addressed first with available funding. The Online Master Plan Survey is available in both English and Spanish at [Master Plan Survey English Version](#) [Master Plan Survey Spanish Version](#).

The Houston Parks and Recreation Department (H.P.A.R.D.) stewards and manages over 38,752 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.