



NEWS RELEASE

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National Civilian Community Corps To Celebrate National Trails Day in Memorial Park

On Saturday, June 6, 2009, the Houston Parks and Recreation Department and the National Civilian Community Corps will celebrate the NCCC's fifteenth anniversary and National Trails Day by building and repairing trails in Memorial Park. The crew, made up of AmeriCorps NCCC members and staff and volunteers from the Memorial Park Conservancy, will improve five miles of recently flooded mountain bike trails, remove unwanted trails, and improve erosion control in the 1,431-acre park west of Downtown Houston.

"We are delighted to have the help of this fine organization as they work with us to improve this magnificent park," said Joe Turner, Director, Houston Parks and Recreation Department. "Today's NCCC crews do a phenomenal job as they undertake public works, and do honor to the CCC workers who did such great work three generations ago."

AmeriCorps NCCC came into being fifteen years ago, although its roots go back to the Civilian Conservation Corps created by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in response to the Great Depression. Founded to put armies of unemployed young people to work, the CCC made a lasting impression on the face of the United States through road construction and other public works projects, state and national park development, and wildfire suppression. Since its creation in 1994, the National Civilian Community Corps has carried on this tradition of team-based service. Some 15,000 young people have taken part in the program, working as part of an 8 – 12 person team to address compelling, community-defined public works needs. They work for a modest stipend, health benefits, travel expenses, student loan forbearance, and room and board. Members receive a \$5,350 education award at the end of a full-time AmeriCorps program. Over fifteen years, 22.3 million hours of service on more than 7,900 projects have been completed.

For more information on the Houston Parks and Recreation Department call (713) 865-4537 or visit www.houstonparks.org.