



For Immediate Release
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POSITIONING PARKS AND RECREATION PROGRAMS AS ESSENTIAL COMMUNITY SERVICES IS FOCUS OF CITIZENS SUMMIT

More than 30 Workshops Will Highlight Ways Citizens Can Become Advocates for Dallas Parks

(DALLAS) – Building strong citizen alliances and partnerships is what the Dallas Park and Recreation Board hopes will happen when it convenes a forum to educate stakeholders about the benefits of parks and recreation programs within their communities.

The Park Board joins with the Dallas Park and Recreation Department and Dallas Parks Foundation to host the first-ever *Dallas Parks Stakeholders' Summit* from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 6 at Fair Park. Thirty-six citizen-focused breakout sessions will address the indispensable role of parks and recreation programs in shaping Dallas' economic, social, health and environmental vitality. Individuals and stakeholder groups interested in becoming parks advocates can attend the summit at no cost, thanks to the financial support of the Dallas Parks Foundation and several area sponsors.

"Advocates are people and groups who are passionate about our city's parks and recreation services. We want citizens to speak in support of increased parks and recreation funding and make their elected officials, friends and neighbors aware of the critical need to invest in urban parks and recreation programs," said Lee Kleinman, event organizer and Park Board member.

Kleinman said he anticipates the summit will attract members of established and newly organized friends groups, sports and athletic clubs, homeowners and neighborhood associations, environmental coalitions, and community social and civic organizations. Attendance is limited to 500 participants, he added.

A keynote address by Mayor Tom Leppert and the opportunity for participants to visit with their respective City Council members will highlight the daylong event. Workshops led by nationally and locally acclaimed park and recreation experts will examine issues crucial to the parks and recreation field. Topics will include creating successful public-private partnerships, launching effective friends groups, increasing citizen advocacy, and working with the City of Dallas to initiate innovative programs and services development.

To attend the summit, register at <http://dallasparkssummit.eventbrite.com> by Oct. 1.

Call Fair Park at (214) 670-8400 or visit www.dallasparks.org or dallascityhall.com for more information.

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