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U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reopens portions of Rocky Creek Park as part of an \$8.9 million ARRA-funded project

FORT WORTH, TEXAS - The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers announces the completion major renovations and upgrades with American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds at Rocky Creek Park with a re-opening slated for July 18.

According to Somerville Lake officials, 83 of 192 sites will be open for use on a first come, first serve basis. Major renovations include improved service roads, new American Disabilities Act compliant restrooms and shower facilities, 50 amp electric outlets at individual campsites and sewerage and water upgrades.

“We considered public input regarding restrooms and increased power needs, along with the need to upgrade our major infrastructure items such as sewerage and water systems and roads when making decisions to determine major repair work and we have delivered based off input from the community,” said the Capital Region Operations Project Manager, Ron Miller.

Somerville Lake had three ARRA packages that were approved and funded. They include park modernization, sanitation and sewerage, and a project office. Project funds were designated as non-transferring, expiring funds where the Corps has to expend the funds within designated categories and has to expend the funds by a certain date or risk losing them.

“ARRA projects must be completed by the end of September and we are well on our way to complete our projects well within this suspense because of the diligence of our contractors, having an executable plan in place and teamwork from within the Corps and our partners,” said Somerville Lake Manager Ernest Eberle.

With the completion of work at Rocky Creek Park, the Corps will now concentrate its efforts to Yegua Creek Park where similar work will be conducted. Once all ARRA funded work is complete, the Corps will continue to provide upgrades to its lake facilities to address other areas.

Other upgrades the Somerville staff will focus on are its boat ramps and improvements to individual campsites such as concrete slabs, tent pads, and shelters.

“Additional renovations and upgrades at our parks is a work in progress and work will be completed as operational and maintenance funds are available,” said Miller. “We will also seek out other innovative and creative ways to keep our facilities safe and enjoyable for our visitors.”

-30-

EDITOR's NOTE: Interested media should show up at Rocky Creek Park on July 18, from 9 to 11 a.m. A site tour of the park will be made available highlighting recently completed work along with media availability with Corps representatives. Please contact the Public Affairs Office at 817-291-2953, no later than noon on July 15, if interested in attending.

About the Fort Worth District: The Fort Worth District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers was established in 1950. The District is responsible for water resources development in two-thirds of Texas, and design and construction at military installations in Texas and parts of Louisiana and New Mexico. Visit the Fort Worth District Web site at: www.swf.usace.army.mil.

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