

# For Immediate Release

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## New Hours for City of Memphis Parks Aimed at Increasing Safety

MEMPHIS, TN (October 24, 2007) – The City of Memphis has established new park hours which went into effect on October 16<sup>th</sup>. Parks will still open at 6:00 a.m. year long, but will close at 6:00 p.m. November 1<sup>st</sup> through March 14<sup>th</sup> and at 8:00 p.m. March 15<sup>th</sup> through October 31<sup>st</sup>.

The recommendation to modify park hours from the previous 6:00 a.m. to midnight was made to better align hours of operation with daylight use of City parks. Historically, the City of Memphis has not allowed activities in parks after dark. A review of peer cities' park hours by the Park Services Division found that most cities follow a "daylight hours" operating schedule. In 2001, the City of Memphis piloted daylight operating hours at Overton Park. Both the Memphis Police Division and the Park Friends Non-Profit Group supported this change and the new hours have helped police reduce unwanted activity in the park.

"With the success of the change to Overton Park hours, Park Services recommended changing all park hours to better serve our park patrons. The change in hours should result in cleaner and more enjoyable places for the community." - Park Services Director Cindy Buchanan

"After dark, unlit and secluded areas can present problems. The City Parks' new hours will enhance safety for all our citizens." – Police Director Larry Godwin

Downtown parks, managed by the Riverfront Development Corporation (RDC), are exempt as downtown is a 24 hour environment and most parks are lighted. Also exempt from the new hours are any museum, facility or institution maintained on park grounds. Authorized sports, festivals and events taking place in parks will not be affected.

For more information on City parks please visit <http://parks.memphistn.gov>. To reserve space for a function please call (901) 576-4200.

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