



Date: March, 5, 2003
For Release: March, 5, 2003
Contact: Terry Payne
City of Hot Springs
501-321-6806

David Lewis
Entergy Arkansas Corporate Communications
501-377-3560
dlewis1@entergy.com
800 264-2535 Pager #2284

Bobby Pharr
Entergy Hydro Operations
501-620-5674

News Release

Hot Springs to Build City Park on Land Donated by Entergy

Hot Springs, Ark. This summer the city of Hot Springs will begin building a new city environmental park on the shore of Lake Hamilton on 30 acres donated by Entergy. The Hot Springs City Directors on March 3 approved the terms of the gift, which include an obligation to develop the land gradually through 2008.

"Entergy Park" will be the result of the contributions of multiple entities,

- more -

including the City of Hot Springs, the Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism and Entergy.

The park will feature more than two miles of hiking and biking trails, a 1000-foot wildlife conservation trail, a playground and a handicapped-accessible fishing boardwalk. The park will have 17 picnic facilities with grills and tables; three pavilions for group gatherings; several observation points along the lake; a restroom facility; and a small, stocked pond for children's fishing events.

"This is a prime piece of property for recreational use, and we are very pleased that this project, which has been in the works for a couple of years, is now going to be a reality for the people of Hot Springs and the many tourists who visit to this area," said Doug Sikes, manager of Hydro Operations for Entergy.

The land is a peninsula adjacent to Carpenter Dam on the north side of Lake Hamilton. During the construction of the dam in 1932, the land was the site of living quarters for the construction crews building the dam. To minimize environmental impact, the roads used for the dam builders' camp will also be used for the park.

"We are very excited about Entergy Park and are grateful for this opportunity to build a unique lakefront nature park. Entergy Park will be built using the latest natural resource conservation techniques and will be a tremendous asset to Hot Springs. We are very fortunate that Entergy is such a visionary corporate partner. Both Entergy and the City of Hot Springs Board of Directors are to be commended for their commitment to increasing

the quality of life for our community,” said Jean Wallace, Parks & Recreation Director, City of Hot Springs.

The future development cost of the park is estimated at \$625,000. The city agreed to invest approximately \$100,000 a year for five years and the Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism has approved \$125,000 in grant funds towards the project. In addition, the City of Hot Springs will contribute in kind development costs. The value of the land being donated by Entergy is \$1,327,500.

Upon completion in 2008, Entergy Park's monetary value will be well over 2 million dollars. The recreational value of the park will result in tangible benefits such as community health and well being, an increase in property values in the area as well as the conservation of a valuable natural resource.

The Entergy Park site was previously proposed as the location for the Professional Bass Fishing Hall of Fame. However, the Hall of Fame is now being built on a more suitable piece of land just downstream from Carpenter Dam, also on land owned by Entergy.

"Having the Professional Bass Fishing Hall of Fame, Entergy Park and Garvan Woodland Gardens within just a few miles of one another is a combination that will make this area a very attractive destination for a wide range of visitors, ranging from serious anglers to outdoor enthusiasts to families just looking for a beautiful place to spend a day,” said Hot Springs Mayor Mike Bush.

Sikes explained that it was necessary for Entergy to secure approval of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, which oversees Entergy's license to operate Carpenter and

Rommel Dams and to manage the property around Lakes Hamilton and Catherine. That approval was granted November, 2001.

A conceptual master plan for the park has been developed by the firm Tyne & Associates of North Little Rock, which was working under the direction of the Hot Springs Parks and Recreation Department. To protect the natural beauty of the area, new roadway construction will be kept to a minimum, and the 90 parking spaces will be spread throughout the park and 12 separate areas.

"As in the past, Entergy is very interested in working with the city of Hot Springs and others in providing additional recreational opportunities on both Lakes Hamilton and Catherine," said Sikes. "Our goal is to be good stewards of this property and good neighbors, as well, and we are very pleased to play a key role in the addition of a new park on Lake Hamilton."

Details of the conceptual site development plan may be found in the Entergy Park Conceptual Master Plan, a copy of which may be obtained from the city Parks & Recreation Department.



###

Entergy Arkansas's online address is www.entergy-arkansas.com

The City of Hot Springs online address is www.cityhs.net