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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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HENNEPIN PARKS RECRUITING PARK PATROL VOLUNTEERS

Hennepin Parks is recruiting year-round Park Patrol volunteers for the 2001-2002 winter and summer season.

Park patrollers monitor trails throughout the Park District to help ensure the safety and enjoyment of park guests.

They provide trail users with information and offer first aid and emergency assistance when needed. Volunteers interested in becoming park patrollers should contact the Hennepin Parks Volunteer Office at 763/559-6706.

Park patrollers are needed for a full year commitment, must be 16 years or older, physically fit, and intermediately skilled in either cross-country skiing or horseback riding for winter patrolling and at least one summer activity, such as biking, hiking, in-line skating or horseback riding. Volunteers donate about 60 hours a year, with 30 hours of service during the winter and 30 hours during the summer. Volunteers also must complete a training program offered each fall. The training program includes CPR, first aid, trail rescue and patrol meetings. Because of the cost of CPR and first aid instruction, nominal fees are charged for the program. Volunteers may be eligible for reimbursement. Classes, taught by experts in the field, begin in mid-October; the last training class starts in mid-November.

In winter, park patrollers cross-country ski in eight different parks, including four with lighted trails, covering 70 miles of trails; or horseback ride at two parks, covering 4.5 miles. In summer, park patrollers assist at nine different parks plus regional trails on bike/hike, mountain bike, and in-line skating trails, covering more than 110 miles of trails; horseback ride at six locations, covering 58 miles of trails; and help at races and special events. Volunteers choose the parks and trails they patrol. Volunteers on horseback must own their own horses and be 18 years or older.

For more information about the volunteer Park Patrol or other volunteer opportunities in Hennepin Parks, contact the Volunteer Office at 763/559-6706. View volunteer opportunities at www.hennepinparks.org/volunteer.