



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Contact: Katie Sullivan, Red Mountain Park (205) 202.6043
Shaina Berry, Freshwater Land Trust (205) 417.2777

Red Mountain Park Receives New Raimund Mine Property
Freshwater Land Trust contributes 53 acres to Birmingham's Red Mountain Park

Birmingham, Alabama September 12, 2013 – Red Mountain Park increased its green space by 53 acres today with the announcement of the donation of the Raimund Mines property from the Freshwater Land Trust. The announcement was made today at 2PM by Freshwater Land Trust Executive Director, Wendy Jackson, who helped spearhead the creation of Red Mountain Park in 2007. She shared her excitement with the crowd that was gathered at the Park to hear the announcement by saying, “Thanks to the generosity of the J.K. Edwards’ estate, we are honored to announce during this very important week the donation of 53 very historical acres to Red Mountain Park. We felt this gift was a fitting acknowledgement to honor this important time in our community’s history when we are reflecting on the moments that changed the world. The Industrial Era of Birmingham played an important role in the Civil Rights Movement and like the rest of Red Mountain Park, this property can help tell that important story to future generations.”

The Raimund Mine property will mean Red Mountain Park mining sites now include 3 of the “Big Four” mining outfitters that were vital to Birmingham’s establishment and the industrial boom. The Park will now have representative properties from TCI, Woodward Iron, and Republic Steel.

The Raimund property is located on Red Mountain, approximately 4 miles West of Red Mountain Park. It was an iron ore mining site that began production in 1896 by the Pioneer Mining and Manufacturing Company (later part of Republic Steel) and ended in 1960. There were three Raimund main slopes, two of which are on the donated property. In 1938 an average of 550 men worked at Raimund and in 1942 the highest production number was reported: 823, 430 tons of red ore was mined that year.

“We are so pleased to enhance the Park’s Master Plan with a piece of property as special as Raimund and especially happy to share it with everyone during Birmingham’s Empowerment Week”, said Red Mountain Park Executive Director David Dionne. “The Freshwater Land Trust’s donation means that the Park can now tell more of the mining history that played such an important part in Birmingham’s history. Empowerment week is a time to reflect back and to also imagine the future. Red Mountain Park encompasses both of those at once.”

PHOTOS: Historic Photos Courtesy of Kate Harbin, Modern-day shots taken by Eric McFerrin

About the Freshwater Land Trust

The Freshwater Land Trust acquires, conserves, and connects open spaces that are critical for the protection of rivers and streams and that provide recreational opportunities for the community. They are accredited by the Land Trust Accreditation Commission which recognizes land conservation organizations that meet national standards for excellence, uphold the public trust, and ensure that conservation efforts are permanent. The Freshwater Land Trust protects land through numerous conservation tools, including land acquisition and conservation easements. Some of their most successful projects are secured not through acquisition or easements, but through partnerships.

About Red Mountain Park

Red Mountain Park’s 1,200 acre wooded site is located 3 miles west from Birmingham’s I-65 Lakeshore Parkway exit. Visitors enjoy 11 miles of walking, hiking and mountain biking trails, the *Red Ore Zip Tour* (a 1 ½ hour zip line adventure through the trees) and the *Hugh Kaul Beanstalk Forest* (a treetop course with 20 unique rope and cable challenges). Beautiful destination sites – the historic ‘Redding Hoist House’, the ‘SkyHy Treehouse’ and glimpses of iron ore mine entrances – both surprise and delight Park guests. Upon completion of Phase 2 Development in 2015, the Park will deliver 30 miles of trails; the 6-acre off-leash *Remy’s Dog Park*; picnic pavilions; playgrounds; and a dedicated bike park. www.redmountainpark.org.

###