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NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Suter Enhancement Project Complete
Press Conference
Thursday, May 19, 2011
3 PM
Hans & Pat Suter Wildlife Refuge
Ennis Joslin at Nile Road

(Corpus Christi, Tx) May 19, 2011- Vivid signage, a shade structure, and security cameras are among the improvements nature enthusiasts will see at the Hans & Pat Suter Wildlife Refuge. It's been nearly 20 years since the refuge has had any major improvements. The 22-acre Hans & Pat Suter Wildlife Refuge located at Ennis Joslin at Nile provides a home for many migrating birds along the banks of Oso Bay. The park boasts an impressive birding and butterfly checklist which attracts visitors and locals alike. The refuge also serves as a primary nesting site for herons and other resident and migratory species. The refuge is known for the waterfowl and shorebirds that frequent the Oso and channel outlet.

Both the CVB & City of Corpus Christi Parks & Recreation Department will hold a press conference, Thursday, May 19 at 3 p.m. at Hans & Pat Suter Wildlife Refuge, Ennis Joslin Road at Nile Road, Kiosk area to show the final Enhancement Project Designs and thank Community Partner Sponsorships. The Corpus Christi Convention & Visitors Bureau identified Suter Refuge as a top Nature Park several years ago and placed the park on their list of enhancement projects. "We knew this refuge receives international attention from visitors, and we wanted to find the funding sources to take this park from good to great by improving the signage, security and shade structures," says Keith Arnold, CEO of the Corpus Christi CVB. Through matching funds, grants, and sponsorships raised through the Nature Tourism department at the CVB, \$45,000 in cash and \$28,000 from In-Kind donations will result in a \$73,000 investment in the refuge.

Enhancements include a new shade structure at the end of the pier, a new section of the boardwalk, installation of irrigation system in the bird and butterfly garden, 22 updated interpretive signs, and 3 new security cameras.

The project is being coordinated and administered by the Vice President of Leisure & Nature Travel for the Corpus Christi CVB, Michelle Horine. The park is maintained by the City of Corpus Christi Parks & Recreation Department, Friends of the Park, and Citgo Refinery employees who volunteer at the park. Suter Wildlife Refuge is nurtured through local volunteers led by Pat Suter. The Corpus Christi CVB is committed to improving and enhancing the park to showcase its natural beauty to tourists and the quality of life for residents. The park serves as one of the primary nature refuges in the Corpus Christi area for migratory birds and butterflies.



The Corpus Christi Convention and Visitors Bureau's mission is "to drive overnight visitor\$ to the Corpus Christi Area". For more information about the Corpus Christi Convention and Visitors Bureau or to plan your next trip to Corpus Christi, visit www.VisitCorpusChristiTX.org or call 1-800-766--BEACH.