



## RED MOUNTAIN COMMISSION APPOINTED

The 15 member Red Mountain Park Commission, a state agency created by the Alabama Legislature to administer the proposed Red Mountain Park and Greenway Project, has been fully appointed. The 1,108-acre Red Mountain Park will span 4.5 miles along the mountain crest where U.S. Steel mined iron ore for its Alabama plants in the early 1900s. A master plan for the outdoor recreational area was recently completed by Wallace, Roberts and Todd, an environmental planning and landscape architectural firm located in Philadelphia as part of a public process involving hundreds of individuals. Upon completion, the park will help make Birmingham one of the leading cities in the country in total acreage set aside for hiking and green space activities.

Stephen A. Jones has been named chairman of the new Red Mountain Park Commission. Jones, who works in the Environmental Affairs department for Alabama Power, is the former chairman of the Freshwater Land Trust.

Plans for the facility grew out of an offer by U.S. Steel Corporation to make the property available for park purposes as part of the largest philanthropic gift in its history. The steelmaker, which is celebrating its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in the Birmingham District this year, agreed to sell the site, valued at \$16 million, for \$7 million and then return \$1 million as a gift.

The 15 member Commission members, selected by 8 appointing agencies, represent a diversity of experience and backgrounds. In addition to Jones, they include Temple W. Tutwiler III, president of the Tutwiler Investment Company; Jim Bennett, commissioner, Alabama Department of Labor; Dalton Smith, executive director of Regions 2020; Fred L. Keith, president of HKW Associates, PC; Cameron Vowell, Ph.D, civic leader; Mark T. Waggoner, attorney with Hand Arendall, LLC; Rob Fowler, attorney with Balch and Bingham, LLP; Renee Carter, executive assistant to County Commissioner Jim Carns; Dr. Perry Ward, president of Lawson State Community College; Robert Green recently retired from Regions Bank; Tom Howard of the U.S. Steel Realty Division; Ervin Batain, a former employee of the U.S. Steel Mining Division; Vestavia Mayor Charles McCallum and Midfield Mayor Gary Richardson.

Dr. Ward will serve as vice chairman of the Commission and Dr. Vowell as secretary. As chair of the Finance Committee, Mr. Tutwiler will act as treasurer.

Appointing authorities included Gov. Bob Riley, the Jefferson County House and Senate Delegations, the Jefferson County Mayors Association, the Jefferson County Commission, the City of Birmingham, U.S. Steel Realty Division and the Freshwater Land Trust.

The park board is currently engaged in a \$12 million fundraising campaign for the first phase of the project including land acquisition, site preparation and trail development.

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