



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Chehaw to Close January 16 – 27

Nature's Playground temporarily closes for forestry management

(Albany, Ga.)- Chehaw Park will be closed January 16 – 27, 2012 to safely and effectively thin and maintain pine trees in the public areas of the park such as picnic, camping and play areas. January is the park's lowest traffic season for and therefore is the perfect time to close for this type of maintenance program.

In late 2011, the Chehaw Park Authority received its Certified Forest Steward designation from the Georgia Department of Natural Resources and the Georgia Forestry Commission. The park was commended for displaying the importance of quality forest management through the use of prescribed burning, thinning, and other activities in the mature pine stands. Chehaw Park functions as an important natural green space for the local urban and suburban communities in Dougherty and Lee County. The continued maintenance and enhancement of the forested landscape within the park provides an important refuge for numerous animals and plants.

"The Chehaw Park Authority takes its commitment to preserving the resource that is Chehaw Park seriously," says the park's Executive Director, Doug Porter. "By closing for a few days and maintaining our timber, we will be preserving our assets for future generations."

ABOUT THE PARKS AT CHEHAW

Featuring one of only two zoos in Georgia accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA), Chehaw also includes a BMX bicycle race track, 18-hole disc golf course, Wild Trail for walkers and runners and one of the largest playgrounds in the state. Chehaw hosts special events throughout the year, like the Native American Cultural Festival in the spring, Swamp Stomp Summer Camps in the summer and Festival of Lights during the holidays. Chehaw offers one of the area's finest facilities for events such as weddings, family reunions and birthday parties. Come visit Nature's Playground today and make it home to your next special occasion. For more information, visit www.chehaw.org or become a Facebook fan at www.facebook.com/chehaw.