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**PARA PARTNERING WITH LOCAL YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS FOR
CATCH AND RELEASE FISHING EXPERIENCE**

Tuscaloosa, Ala. - The Tuscaloosa County Park & Recreation Authority is partnering with several local youth organizations to sponsor a catfish fishing experience on March 20 at the Tuscaloosa Police Firing Range pond below the Lake Tuscaloosa dam.

“PARA is happy to share this fishing event with hundreds of youth from several different organizations,” says Gary Minor, superintendent of recreation. “With all the waterways in Alabama fishing is a natural outdoor experience,” he says.

The event is made possible through a “Take Me Fishing” grant provided PARA by the National Recreation and Parks Association. “The fishing event will be “catch and release” with 1,500 pounds of $\frac{3}{4}$ - 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ pound catfish released in the pond earlier in the week. The fish were made available through funds from the grant by South Fresh Fingerlings in Newbern, Ala.,” Minor reported.

Area youth will be out of school for a weather day holiday. The fishing schedule will be as follows for youth participating in the following programs:

Police Athletic League	9 a.m.
PARAkids Day Camp	11 a.m.
Northport Housing Authority	1 p.m.
Barnes Branch YMCA	2 p.m.
Boys & Girls Club	3 p.m.

The kids will be fishing with rods and reels and using chicken livers and worms for bait. “This should be a fun experience for several hundred area youth,” says Minor. “PARA’s staff is looking forward to sharing and facilitating this fun and educational experience.”

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Live, Learn, Play! PARA. The Tuscaloosa County Park & Recreation Authority is a county wide non-profit agency funded by the city of Tuscaloosa, the city of Northport and Tuscaloosa County. PARA's mission is to provide safe, clean, and beautiful facilities, parks and open space, along with professionally managed leisure activities for all people and to enrich the quality of life, provide economic value, and encourage long-term community stability and growth. Through strong partnerships, we achieve exceptional services and foster an atmosphere of cooperation, trust, and innovation to better serve our community.