



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Houston Parks Cleanup Begins

Concerned citizen's phone calls spark volunteer clean-up effort at Houston's Parks.

"We always knew that Houstonians cared about their park system but we did not expect the outpouring of concern we've received following Ike," said Joe Turner, Director, Houston Parks and Recreation Department. "In response to the many phone calls we've received, we are coordinating a volunteer effort to Clean-Up Our City Parks beginning with Hermann Park and Memorial Park and continuing from there to our other 350 parks throughout Houston."

The clean-up effort at Hermann Park will be coordinated by the Hermann Park Conservancy, while the clean-up at Memorial Park will be handled by the Memorial Park Conservancy.

"We know this is a hard time for families, but if you have any extra time we are asking kids to volunteer. We'd love your help at our parks," said First Lady Andrea White. "Come join our family and pitch in."

Citizens who would like to volunteer to clean their neighborhood parks are also needed. Volunteer groups are asked to clear small branches and debris to the exterior perimeter of neighborhood parks for removal. Register your volunteer activity with the Houston Parks and Recreation Department by calling Onekia McCarthy, Volunteer Coordinator at (713) 222-5052 or by email onekia.mccarthy@cityofhouston.net.

Volunteers should wear appropriate clothing, including gloves and sturdy shoes. Bring your own tools, such as rakes and trash bags. Do not attempt to remove large fallen trees and stay away from downed power lines. Pay attention to safety first and do not attempt to remove or clean an area that may have downed power lines or involves large fallen trees. Report downed power lines or large trees needing removal to 311. In addition, be aware that wildlife, including snakes, may have been displaced from their natural habitat so approach large piles of debris with caution.

For more information on Cleaning Houston's Parks or on the Houston Parks and Recreation Department, call (713) 865-4537 or visit www.houstonparks.org.

