



Press Release

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Last Call For Arbor Day Volunteers!

2,500 Volunteers Needed to Plant 25,000 Trees for Arbor Day 2011!

2,500 Volunteers are still needed to plant 25,000 trees during Houston's 25th Annual Arbor Day. Individuals, families, groups, and businesses are invited to register for this fun filled event scheduled for Saturday, January 22, 2011 at 7:00 am.

"We encourage everyone to register today to be a part of this great family event," said Joe Turner, Director Houston Parks and Recreation Department. "For 25 years Houstonians have come out and planted trees to help make our city a greener city. We thank them and the many sponsors who make this event possible and hope to see everyone come out once again this year to help us plant 25,000 trees, donated by the Apache Foundation, in celebration of Arbor Day 2011."

The 25,000 trees planted will have a positive impact on the environment for generations to come by helping to clean the air and drinking water, providing a habitat for wildlife and creating a more beautiful landscape. A single tree can remove more than a ton of carbon dioxide over its lifetime. In addition, the trees will help our urban environment by shading ground and pavement that would otherwise store heat and radiate it back into the air. The new forest will also replace grass, thus cutting down on pollutant emissions from lawn mowers and sizable city expenditure on gasoline.

2,500 volunteers are needed to plant the 25,000 trees in designated esplanades on Wallisville Road (between 610. loop and Mercury Drive) and at the 610 and I-10 Interchange. Individuals, clubs, and corporate teams are encouraged to volunteer. Children are welcome but must be accompanied by a responsible adult or guardian. **The tree planting event will take place rain or shine. Pre-registration is necessary and no pets are allowed.** Online Registration for individuals is available at www.houstonparks.org. Groups of 10 or more, please contact Oneika McCarthy at oneika.mccarthy@houstontx.gov or (832) 395-7030.

Volunteers should park at HCC Northeast, 555 Community College Drive Houston, TX 77013, where FREE parking is available. Participants are asked to arrive at 7:00 am. They will be shuttled to the planting locations. They should wear work clothes and closed-toed shoes, bring work gloves, sunscreen, shovels and insect repellent. Some shovels will be available, but participants should bring their own, if possible.

Following the tree planting, an Arbor Day Celebration will take place at Herman Brown Park for all volunteers. Food, fun, music and festivities will be provided.

The 25th Annual Arbor Day Celebration is made possible with the help of our sponsors including the Apache Foundation, CenterPoint Energy, Freebirds World Burrito, Green Team America, Keep Houston Beautiful, HCC Northeast, Houston Area Urban Forestry Council, Houston Parks Board, Marathon Oil Corporation, Metro, Scotts Miracle-Gro Company, Texas Department of Transportation, Texas Forest Service, Trees for Houston, and Texas Urban Forestry Council.

The Houston Parks and Recreation Department stewards and manages over 38,992 acres of parkland and greenspace for the City of Houston and develops and implements recreational programming for citizens of all abilities. For more information on the Houston Parks and Recreation Department, call (832) 395-7022 or visit www.houstonparks.org.