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## Media Availability

January 5, 2012

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### Re-Plant Houston Kicks Off With Planting Of 17 Foot Tall Live Oak At Memorial Park

*HPARD Calls for Volunteers To Help Plant 25,000 Trees In 4 Parks Devastated By 2011 Drought*

The Houston Parks and Recreation Department, Trees for Houston and the Memorial Park Conservancy will be planting a 17 foot Live Oak, donated by Trees for Houston, on Friday, January 6th at 10:00 am as a call for volunteers to participate in the 26th Annual Arbor Day Celebration. The 17 foot Live Oak weighs 1,600 pounds with its attached root ball. Environmental Designs will deliver and plant the tree in a 6 foot deep and 8 foot wide planting hole at 10:00 am on the corner of East Memorial Loop Drive and Memorial Drive adjacent to the Seymour Lieberman Trail. The tree will replace a loblolly pine which served as an iconic landmark for runners and predated the creation of the Seymour Lieberman Trail.

The 26th Annual Arbor Day celebration will focus on the reforestation of COH parks and greenspaces which have lost thousands of trees due to the 2011 drought.

Representatives from Houston Parks and Recreation Department and Trees for Houston will be on hand to answer questions from the media.

**WHO:** Joe Turner, Director Houston Parks and Recreation Department  
Victor Cordova, City Forester Houston Parks and Recreation Department  
Barry Ward, Executive Director Trees for Houston  
Nancy Sullivan, Executive Director Memorial Park Conservancy

**WHAT:** Planting of 17' Live Oak in Memorial Park

**WHEN:** 10:00 am – 11:00 am

**WHERE:** Memorial Park  
6501 Memorial Drive  
(Corner of East Memorial Loop Drive and Memorial Drive)

Arbor Day 2012 is scheduled for Saturday, January 21<sup>st</sup>. Its focus is to kick off a multi-year effort called Re-Plant Houston dedicated to reforesting Houston parks devastated by the drought of 2011. This year's Arbor Day event will plant 25,000 trees in four parks most heavily affected by the drought: Hermann Park, Memorial Park, Mason Park, and MacGregor Park. HPARD continues to seek other sponsors interested in adopting parks or greenspaces for tree planting. Interested sponsors should be advised that a 2 year watering commitment for any new trees planted is a requirement of all adoptions.

Re-Plant Houston partners include: the Memorial Park Conservancy, the Hermann Park Conservancy, the Houston Parks Board, Trees for Houston, and the Apache Foundation. For information on how volunteers and organizations can take part in Re-Plant Houston, please contact H.P.A.R.D.'s Volunteer Coordinator at [Oneika.mccarthy@houstontx.gov](mailto:Oneika.mccarthy@houstontx.gov) or call (832) 395-7030.

*The Houston Parks and Recreation Department (H.P.A.R.D.) 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](http://www.houstonparks.org).*