

Press Release

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29th Annual Arbor Day Celebrates Completion of All Super Neighborhood Action Plan (SNAP) Tree Requests

The Houston Parks and Recreation Department (H.P.A.R.D.) will hold the city's 29th Annual Arbor Day Celebration on Saturday, January 24, 2015, from 8:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. with an official ceremony and tree planting event. The ceremony will be held at 4315 W. Fuqua, 77045, in the parking lot of the New Faith Church. Trees will be planted in the esplanades of Hiram-Clark Road, West Orem Drive, and Buffalo Speedway.

"For 29 years, Houston and its citizens have celebrated our city's Urban Forest through an annual Arbor Day Celebration," said Joe Turner, Director, Houston Parks and Recreation Department. "Following the 2011 drought, we have expanded that effort to coincide with the optimum time to plant trees in Houston, from October through February. This year, our focus has been to fulfill all SNAP requests for trees that have been submitted by citizens from all across the city."

Upon completion of Houston's 29th Arbor Day season, October 2014 through February 2015, the department, volunteers and partners will have planted 10,552 trees in parks and median locations across the city.

H.P.A.R.D. Arbor Day Season partners include: the Apache Corporation, Trees For Houston, The Texas A&M Forest Service, TXU Energy, the Scotts Miracle Grow Company and Keep Houston Beautiful.

H.P.A.R.D. tree plantings have been performed by the following partners:

- Trees For Houston - 2,839 trees planted
- Hermann Park Conservancy – 400 trees planted
- TXU – 153 trees planted
- Apache - 2,500 trees planted
- H.P.A.R.D. Greenspace Staff and/or Tree Contractor - 4,660 Trees
(H.P.A.R.D. Greenspace Staff- 250 trees/Bio Landscape Maintenance, Inc - 4,410 trees)

This Arbor Day celebration will also mark the 29th Year that Houston will be honored with the designation of "Tree City USA" by the National Arbor Day Foundation for its commitment to its Urban Forest.

“Houston’s commitment to our city’s tree canopy has grown over the years,” said Victor Cordova, Houston Parks and Recreation Department Urban Forester. “This commitment is one that will improve the quality of life for all Houstonians, today and in the future. We thank all our partners for their continued dedication to Houston and its trees.”

The Houston Parks and Recreation Department (H.P.A.R.D.) stewards and manages over 37,851 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.