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## PRESS RELEASE

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 23, 2019

### CONTACT: Estella Espinosa

Work: (832) 395-7022

Cell: (832) 465-4782

### **33RD ANNUAL CITY OF HOUSTON ARBOR DAY CELEBRATION**

*1,000 Free Trees to be Given Away to Public by Texas Forest Service and Arbor Day Foundation*

**HOUSTON** – Mayor Sylvester Turner, Apache Corporation, Trees for Houston, Texas A&M Forest Service and volunteers from across the City will join the Houston Parks and Recreation Department on **Saturday, January 26, 2019**, to celebrate **Houston’s 33rd Annual Arbor Day**. The **Arbor Day program begins at 8:00 a.m.** Following the program, partners and volunteers will plant 1,000 trees **along the bayou at MacGregor Park**. The site was chosen to showcase one of the City’s efforts to mitigate flooding, improve air quality, and rebuild the riparian forest in the Houston area.

“This glorious collaboration among the city, the private sector, the non-profit sector and volunteers is a showcase for how we get things done in Houston,” Mayor Sylvester Turner said. “Plus, we should all celebrate the fact that planting new trees improves air quality and flood mitigation.”

The Apache Corporation is donating 500 of the 1,000 five-gallon trees for this year’s Arbor Day celebration planting. Apache has been an active partner of the Houston Parks and Recreation Department and its Urban Forestry program since 2007. Apache continues to support the department’s Urban Forestry program and the annual Arbor Day celebration. It also sponsors the Tour de Houston Bike Ride and Bayou City Classic Fun Run which benefit the Department’s efforts to reforest the city.

“We’re proud to have donated tens of thousands of trees in the Houston area since 2007 and thrilled to provide 500 trees for the city’s Arbor Day celebration this year,” said John J. Christmann IV, Apache’s chief executive officer and president. “Our Tree Grant Program is

part of our ongoing commitment to give where we live and work, and we are thankful for outstanding partners like the City of Houston.”

As part of the celebration the Texas A&M Forest Service will give away an additional 1,000 FREE trees (3-gallon) to the public. Species include Live oak, Shumard oak, Bur oak, and Red Maple.

“We are thankful to all of our partners for their support and commitment to our parks and the trees that make Houston the beautiful city we all know and love,” said Steve Wright, Director, Houston Parks and Recreation Department. “We thank the Arbor Day Foundation for recognizing the efforts of, not only our partners, but also the many volunteers who work to promote and protect our city’s Urban Forest.”

The Arbor Day Foundation will present the City of Houston with an official designation as a *Tree City USA* for its commitment to stewardship and efforts to increase the city’s tree canopy.

Additional partners and volunteers joining in the 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Arbor Day Celebration include: The Friends of MacGregor Park, the Zina Garrison Tennis Academy, the Greater Southeast Management District, Yates High School, Beatrice Mayes Institute, Gallagher Risk Management, ILM Academy, Wheeler Avenue Baptist Church, Crossroads Alternative and Elsik GOE Step Team, Filipino American Chamber of Commerce, and the Vietnamese Eucharistic Youth Society.

The Arbor Day Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that exists to inspire people to plant, nurture and celebrate trees. Tree City USA has been a program of the Arbor Day Foundation since 1976.

*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](http://www.houstonparks.org).*