
Media Alert

January 21, 2011

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2,500 Volunteers to Celebrate Arbor Day By Planting 25,000 Trees!

H.P.A.R.D. to Fill Empty Space with Extended Urban Forest

The Houston Parks and Recreation Department and an army of volunteers will plant 25,000 trees, donated by the Apache Foundation, on January 22, 2011, in celebration of 25 years of Arbor Day observations in Houston. The trees will fill be planted on Wallisville Road between 610 and Maxey Road and at the 610 and I-10 interchange. Volunteers will arrive at 7:00 am with planting beginning at 8:00 am. A celebration event for volunteers will be held following the planting at Herman Brown Park.

- Who:** Joe Turner, Director, Houston Parks and Recreation Department
Houston City Council Member James Rodriguez, District I
Dana Cote, Texas Department of Transportation
Castlyn Kennedy, Apache Corporation
Victor Cordova, City Forester Houston Parks and Recreation Department
Mickey Merritt, Regional Urban Forestry Coordinator Texas Forest Service
- What:** 25th Annual Arbor Day Tree Planting. 25,000 trees will be planted by 2,500 volunteers
- When:** January 22, 2011 – 7:00 am
- Where:** Wallisville Road between 610 and
Maxey Road & the I-10 and 610 interchange
- Why:** To increase Houston's Urban Forest for it's positive environmental and aesthetic impact. Environmental benefits include: reducing carbon dioxide; reduce heat buildup by decreasing paved areas in city; provide wildlife habitat for local/migratory birds, insects; and reduce pollution caused by mowing of esplanades.

The Arbor Day tree planting event is open to individuals, families, groups and businesses. Pre-registration for this event is required online at www.houstonparks.org or by contacting H.P.A.R.D. at (832) 395-7030 or oneika.mccarthy@houstontx.gov. Planting will take place rain or shine. Free parking is open to volunteers at Houston Community College Northeast, 555 Community College Drive, Houston, TX, 77013, with transportation provided to the planting sites. Following the tree planting, an Arbor Day Celebration will take place at Herman Brown Park for all volunteers. 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 (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.