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## Press Release

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### **2013 Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo To Support Memorial Park With \$250,000 Grant *Funds Will Be Used to Help Re-Plant Memorial Park's Urban Forest***

Mayor Annise Parker, the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo™, the Memorial Park Conservancy (MPC) and the Houston Parks and Recreation Department (HPARD) announced a \$250,000 grant to the Memorial Park Conservancy on Monday, November 19, 2012. The funds will be used to help Re-Plant Memorial Park's urban forest following the 2011 drought.

"The Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo is as much a part of the heart and soul of our city as Memorial Park is," said Mayor Annise Parker. "Every year thousands of trail riders camp here beneath the park's trees in remembrance of the pioneer spirit that every Texan shares. We thank the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo for their support of our city and of Memorial Park."

For nearly 60 years thousands of Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo™ trail riders travel from all across Texas, parts of Louisiana and near the Texas border with Mexico to reach their final encampment - Memorial Park. In recognition of these long standing ties the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo™ has made this unprecedented decision to support the efforts to Re-Plant Memorial Park.

"On behalf of nearly 28,000 volunteers and a committed year-round staff, we're honored to be a part of this worthwhile project," said Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo Chairman of the Board R.H. "Steve" Stevens. "It will literally be a growing symbol of our commitment to our community."

The grant funds will be used to help implement the Memorial Park Forestry Plan.

"We are thrilled with the support from the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo," said Jim Porter, Chairman of the Board of Memorial Park Conservancy. "This very generous donation will allow the Conservancy to continue our reforestation efforts and further our Mission to restore, preserve and enhance Memorial Park for the enjoyment of all Houstonians, today and tomorrow."

The MPC Forestry Plan is a multi-year managed forestry plan developed by the Memorial Park Conservancy in coordination with the Houston Parks and Recreation Department. Its goal is to reforest the park in a manner that will create a diversity of species and ages of trees.

"Memorial Park is one of the most visible and loved parks in our city," said Joe Turner, Director Houston Parks and Recreation Department. "We are thankful to the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo and the Memorial Park Conservancy for their commitment to the

park and to the Re-Planting of its forests. We share that commitment and invite everyone to circle January 26, 2013 on their calendar and join us as we celebrate Arbor Day in Houston."

For more information on Arbor Day 2013 visit the Houston Parks and Recreation Department's website at [www.houstonparks.org](http://www.houstonparks.org).

***About The Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo***

*Since its beginning in 1932, the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo has committed more than \$330 million to scholarships, research, endowments, calf scramble participants, junior show exhibitors, School Art participants, and other educational youth programs.*

***About The Memorial Park Conservancy***

*Memorial Park Conservancy (MPC) is a 501c3 citizens group whose mission is to preserve, restore and enhance Memorial Park for the enjoyment of all Houstonians, today and tomorrow. The MPC works in conjunction with the Houston Parks and Recreation Department.*

***About The Houston Parks and Recreation Department***

*The Houston Parks & Recreation Department (H.P.A.R.D.) stewards & manages over 38,752 acres of parkland & greenspace for the City of Houston & develops & implements recreational programming for citizens of all abilities. For more information on the Houston Parks & Recreation Department, call (832) 395-7022 or visit [www.houstonparks.org](http://www.houstonparks.org).*