



Media Alert

January 20, 2012

CONTACT: Estella Espinosa
Work: (832) 395-7022
Cell: (832) 465-4782

Volunteers to Celebrate Arbor Day by Planting 25,000 Trees

Re-Plant Houston Effort Begins At 4 Parks Hit By Drought of 2011

The Houston Parks and Recreation Department, the Apache Foundation, the Memorial Park Conservancy, the Hermann Park Conservancy, Trees for Houston and an army of volunteers will begin the multi-year effort to Re-Plant Houston on Saturday, January 21, 2012. The planting effort will begin at 8:00 a.m. at all 4 parks, Memorial Park, Hermann Park, MacGregor Park and Mason Park.

A total of 25,000 trees, donated by the Apache Foundation, Trees for Houston, DRC Emergency Service, and other corporate and non-profit organizations will be planted on Arbor Day. The pre-registration volunteer response by Houstonians for this event has been immense. Those wishing to continue the Re-Plant Houston project beyond Arbor Day are asked to visit www.houstonparks.org for a list and link to non-profit groups working to Re-Plant Houston.

- Who:** The Honorable Annise Parker, Mayor, City of Houston
Joe Turner, Director, Houston Parks and Recreation Department
Roger Plank, President, Apache Corporation
Matt Weaver, Regional Urban Forester, Trees for Houston
Jamie Hendrixson, Chair, Memorial Park Conservancy
- What:** 26th Annual Arbor Day Celebration
25,000 trees to be planted by volunteers in 4 parks
- When:** Saturday, January 21, 2012
7:30 a.m. Volunteer Check-in
8:00 a.m. Planting begins at all 4 parks
10:00 a.m. Arbor Day Ceremony at Memorial Park
- Where:** Memorial Park (across from Tennis Center) - 6501 Memorial Drive, 77007
Hermann Park (near Miller Theatre) – 6001 Fannin, 77030
MacGregor Park (area along MLK Blvd) – 5500 MacGregor, 77021
Mason Park (Ballfield area across street from community center near Brays Bayou) – 541 South 75th, 77023
- Why:** To celebrate Houston's 26th Annual Arbor Day by planting 25,000 trees in 4 City of Houston parks

Re-plant Houston will be a multi-year effort project conducted in conjunction with Trees for Houston, the Hermann Park Conservancy, the Memorial Park Conservancy and the Houston Parks Board. These non-profit groups are working to secure funding for the multi-year Re-Plant Houston project. Their efforts will help secure both trees and watering for future Re-plant Houston tree plantings. Re-Plant Houston's goal is to reforest Houston parks and greenspaces devastated by the drought of 2011.

Pre-registered volunteers are asked to check into their planting sites beginning at 7:30 a.m. Free parking is open to volunteers near the planting sites in the four parks. Please bring your own shovel and gloves. Dress appropriately for planting as you will get dirty. Children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Please remember no pets allowed. We plant rain or shine.

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.