



January 22, 2021

MEDIA ONLY PHOTO OP

City of Houston's 35th Annual Arbor Day Planting Celebration Set for the South Acres/Crestmont Park Community

1,000 trees to be planted to help mitigate flooding and improve the City's urban forest canopy

Mayor Sylvester Turner, Apache Corporation, Trees for Houston, Texas A&M Forest Service, City Council Member Carolyn Evans-Shabazz, and the Houston Parks and Recreation Department will kick off the City's 35th Annual Arbor Day Planting Celebration by planting 1,000 trees in the South Acres/Crestmont Park community. The event is scheduled for Saturday, January 23, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. at 5445 East Orem Drive. This is a media only event and is closed to the public. COVID-19 restrictions will be in place and volunteer participation will be limited. This year's planting will target barren esplanades where mowing acreage can be reduced by planting native trees within a street median. The goal is to reduce mowing time, mitigate flooding, and increase Houston's tree canopy.

- WHAT:** 35TH Annual Houston Arbor Day Planting Celebration
- WHEN:** Saturday, January 23, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.
- WHERE:** 5445 E. Orem Drive
Houston, TX 77048
- WHO:** Mayor Sylvester Turner, City of Houston
Carolyn Evans-Shabazz, City Council District D
Kenneth Allen, Interim Director, Houston Parks & Recreation Dept.
Fay Fitzsimmons Walker, Mgr. of Community Partners & Gov. Affairs, Apache Corp.
Dana Jones, Principal, International Leadership of Texas
Matt Weaver, Regional Urban Forester, Texas A&M Forest Service
Barry Ward, Executive Director, Trees for Houston

Arbor Day is celebrated by cities across the nation, with observances often held on the last Friday in April. Houston holds its annual Arbor Day celebration in January because it offers optimal weather for tree planting in this climate.

The Houston Parks and Recreation Department (H.P.A.R.D.) stewards and manage over 39,501 acres of parkland and greenspace for the City of Houston and develops and implements recreational programming for citizens of all ages and abilities. For more information on the Houston Parks and Recreation Department, call (832) 395-7022 or visit www.houstonparks.org.