

## NEWS RELEASE

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### **HPARD Targets Environmental 4'Rs During Earth Day Houston**

The Houston Parks and Recreation Department will take part in Earth Day Houston, Saturday, April 11, 2009 at Discovery Green Park, located across Avenida de las Americas from the George R. Brown Convention Center and the Hilton Americas Hotel. The festival will take place from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. HPARD will be staffing the Land Zone with information regarding specific green department initiatives, including the Urban Gardening Program, the Linear Forest Program and Adopt-A-Park Program. The Recreational and Wellness Division will also be on hand with fun-filled activities that highlight the department's year-round programming opportunities for youth and adults of all ages and abilities.

"We hope everyone will participate in Earth Day and learn how to be a part of protecting our environment and our planet," said Joe Turner, Director, Houston Parks and Recreation Department. "As stewards of Houston's parks and greenspaces, HPARD recognizes the impact parks play in our quality of life and in our environment. That is why we work to increase the city's tree canopy with programs and events like Neighborwoods, the Linear Forest Program and Arbor Day. We know that if we focus our energies to reduce, reuse, recycle and respect the Earth, we will reap the benefits for ourselves and for future generations to come."

Youth, teens and parents can celebrate Earth Day with HPARD in the Land Zone by exploring interactive activities designed to highlight the importance of taking care of the Earth. Activities will include information on composting, the Urban Garden Program, the Linear Forest Program and Park/Esplanade Adoption Programs, FREE Earth Day Seedlings, an Earth Day Maze, Rockwall climbing and other FREE giveaways and incentives.

(more)

Earth Day Houston will be held at Discovery Green on Saturday, April 11, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. The festivities kick off with the Mothers for Clean Air Earth Day 5K at 8 a.m., followed by a daylong celebration with family entertainment, environmental education, and much more.

**About Earth Day Houston**

Earth Day Houston was developed by the Galveston-Houston Association for Smog Prevention and Mothers for Clean Air. It is a collaboration with the City of Houston, Discovery Green and various green non-profit agencies. Event proceeds benefit Galveston-Houston Association for Smog Prevention/Mothers for Clean Air, a non-profit whose mission is to improve Houston's air quality and educate the public about the hazards of air pollution.

**About The Houston Parks and Recreation Department**

The Houston Parks and Recreation Department oversees the management and stewardship of the city's 350 developed parks and provides programming and recreational opportunities for people of all abilities. For more information on the Houston Parks and Recreation Department, call (713) 865-4537 or visit [www.houstonparks.org](http://www.houstonparks.org).