



NEWS RELEASE

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Thousands of Volunteers To Plant 35,000 Trees on Will Clayton Parkway Largest Volunteer Event in HPARD History Scheduled for Arbor Day

The Houston Parks and Recreation Department, TxDOT, Trees for Houston and the Houston Airport System will begin Phase II of a 3 part project to transform the esplanades on Will Clayton Parkway into a new forest of 35,000 trees. On Saturday, January 27, 2007 at 8:00 a.m., thousands of volunteers will roll up their sleeves, grab their shovels and begin planting along with Mayor Bill White and Congressman Ted Poe.

“This is the biggest tree planting event in the history of our department,” said Joe Turner, Director, Houston Parks and Recreation Department. “Needless to say we are excited about the event and about the volunteers, both individuals and corporate teams, who are taking shovel in hand and planting trees with us to celebrate Arbor Day.”

When this new forest matures it will not only make a great first impression on visitors arriving by plane to Houston but every tree planted will have a positive impact on our environment. Victor Cordova, City Forester, HPARD explains. “As trees grow, they remove CO2 from the atmosphere. A single tree can remove more than a ton of CO2 over its lifetime.” Cordova continues, “That’s just what 1 tree is capable of doing in its lifetime. When we complete all 3 phases of this project we’ll have planted 35,000 trees. Just imagine what affect that will make.”

Some of the benefits that will be derived from the Will Clayton Reforestation Project on a yearly basis include:

- The removal of an estimated 2800 pounds (1270 kilograms) of air pollutant (ozone, sulfur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide, and carbon monoxide). Estimate calculated from a statistical summary of benefits of other area as determined on a per acre basis by the City Green Model.
- The reduction in emissions from grass mower emissions is estimated at 1120 pounds (507 kilograms) of air pollutant (non methane hydrocarbons, oxides of nitrogen, particulate matter and carbon monoxide).

The Will Clayton Parkway Forest Facelift is part of the Houston Area Freeway Forestation Project sponsored by Congressman Ted Poe. This massive tree planting event will take place rain or shine.

For information on Arbor Day and the Will Clayton Parkway Forest Facelift, or the Houston Parks and Recreation Department, call (713) 845-1135 or visit www.houstonparks.org.