

Press Release

October 17, 2011

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\$4.5 Million Hazardous Tree Removal Process

Begins With Removal of Dead Street Trees

All City Trees Removed To Be Beneficially Reused And Will Not Be Buried In Landfills

The Houston Parks and Recreation Department (H.P.A.R.D.) will coordinate and oversee DRC Emergency Services Company's removal of hazardous city trees killed by the continuing drought conditions in Houston. The removal process began the week of October 17th. Hazardous trees will be removed in the following order:

- 1) Dead street trees and right-of-way trees that could pose a hazard to traffic and the public
- 2) Dead park trees that could pose a hazard to people using parks, park trails, and facilities
- 3) Dead trees within forested parks which could pose a fire danger

"Safety First" is our approach to the removal of all hazardous trees," said Joe Turner, Director, Houston Parks and Recreation Department. "As stewards of the city's greenspace, it is our responsibility to insure that the removal of any city tree is done properly and with the safety of the public in mind. To that end, our foresters and monitors will work in tandem with DRC to remove dead trees. Once those trees have been removed, we will work within our large forested parks to remove dead trees that could fuel fires.

"Our staff has divided the city into 10 zones. DRC crews will be working across the city in all 10 zones to remove hazardous trees in all our communities. We want to make sure that we are addressing the needs of all our citizens and ask the public to report any hazardous **tree on city property** to us by calling 3-1-1 and reporting its location."

A map showing the 10 zones is attached or you can download a pdf version by the following link: [Tree Removal Zones.pdf](#).

The contract with DRC was accomplished through a partnership between H.P.A.R.D. and the Solid Waste Management Department. "We're doing everything we can to make sure that this process goes as smoothly as possible for the safety of Houston's citizens," said Harry J. Hayes, Director, Solid Waste Management.

H.P.A.R.D. Forestry staff has already begun the process of marking hazardous trees along city streets and right-of-ways for removal. DRC expects to field 10 crews for the removal process by October 21st. These crews will be increased, if needed, to insure that the removals are completed in a timely manner.

The hazardous tree debris will be recycled, with the city benefiting through the use and sale of the wood products resulting from tree removal, and by keeping this enormous amount of organic material out of landfills. Four different products could be produced from the debris, including:

- 1) Lumber
- 2) Pulp wood
- 3) Paper mill chips
- 4) Biomass – this would produce compost or boiler fuel

All tree removal information will be collected in accordance with F.E.M.A. guidelines in case the opportunity for filing for retrieval of disaster recovery funding becomes available. In addition, DRC will donate 20,000 seedlings at a future date to begin the process of reforesting city greenspace and parkland.

About DRC Emergency Services

DRC Emergency Services is an over 20-year-old disaster response company that has done work all over the world, including Haiti and Iraq, as well as the recent Joplin tornados and Nashville floods. After Hurricane Ike, DRC ES operated over twenty contracts in Texas, with the City of Houston being the largest. That project broke F.E.M.A. records for the amount of debris removed in one day (223,000 cubic yards) and received national recognition for the speed in which the job was completed.

About the Solid Waste Management Department

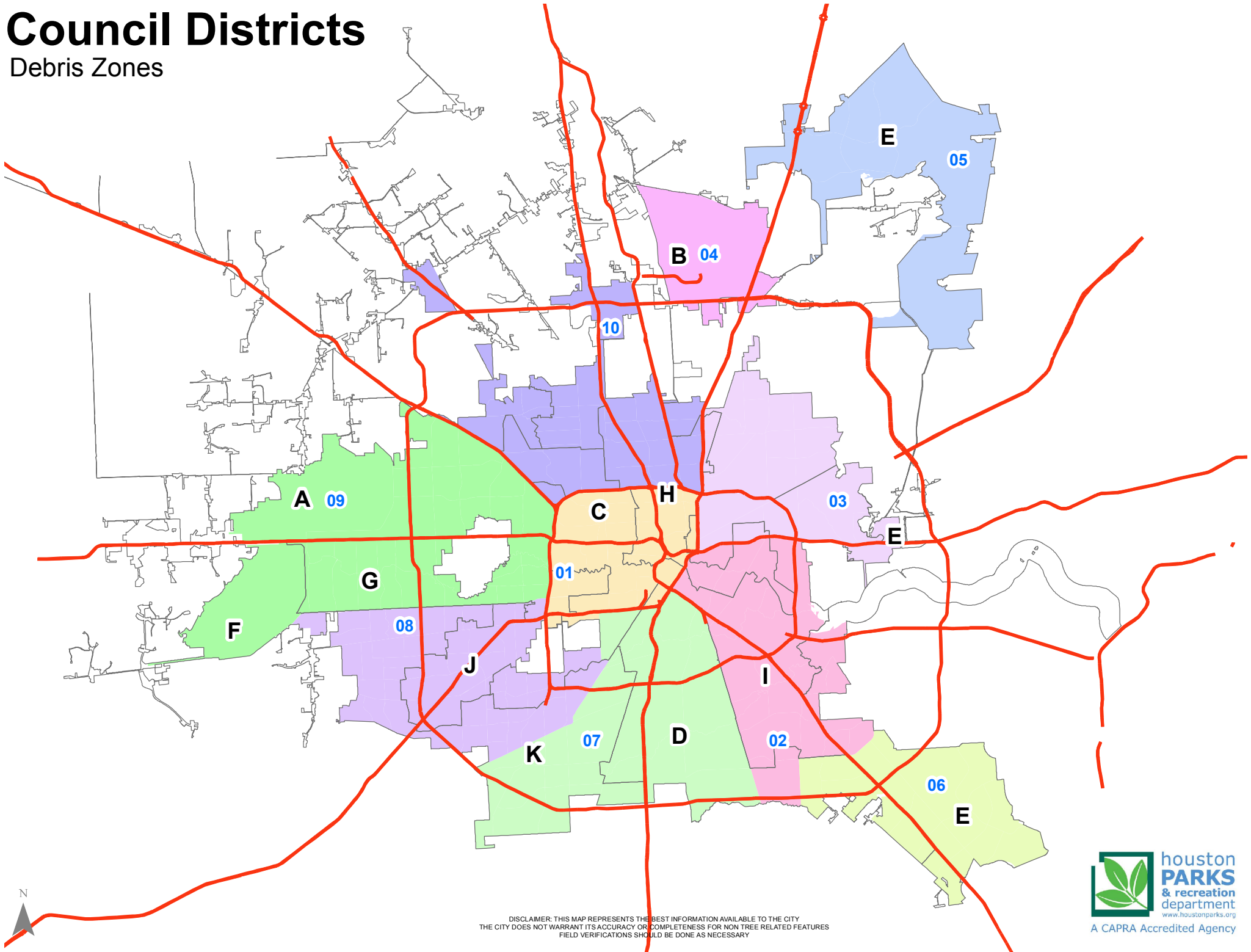
The Solid Waste Management Department provides solid waste services to the citizens of Houston through the collection, disposal and recycling of discarded material in a manner that is safe, efficient, environmentally sound and cost-effective.

About the Houston Parks and Recreation Department

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.

Council Districts

Debris Zones



DISCLAIMER: THIS MAP REPRESENTS THE BEST INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO THE CITY. THE CITY DOES NOT WARRANT ITS ACCURACY OR COMPLETENESS FOR NON TREE RELATED FEATURES. FIELD VERIFICATIONS SHOULD BE DONE AS NECESSARY.