



MEDIA ALERT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 25, 2011

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Hurricane Ike Aid & Recovery Program Helps Fund New Million Dollar Greenhouse at Memorial Park

Original Greenhouse Damaged Beyond Repair by Hurricane Ike

Grand Opening Festivities & Tours will accompany the ribbon cutting ceremony for the new HPARD Greenhouse Complex at Memorial Park, on Friday, October 28, 2011. Festivities & tours are scheduled from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. with the ribbon cutting ceremony slated for 10:30 a.m. The new 8,600 square foot greenhouse replaces the original 3,000 square foot greenhouse that was damaged by Hurricane Ike in 2008.

WHO: Joe Turner, Director, Houston Parks and Recreation Department
Oliver Pennington, Council Member, District G
Stephen C. Costello, Council Member, At Large Position 1
Dee Howell, City of Houston Horticulturist

WHAT: Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for Memorial Park Greenhouse and Plaza
Guided Tours of Greenhouse by HPARD Horticulturists & Staff

WHEN: Friday, October 28, 2011
10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Event & Greenhouse Tours
10:30 a.m. Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

WHERE: Memorial Park
6501 Memorial Drive
Houston, TX 77007

WHY: To celebrate the addition of an improved, expanded greenhouse to the operation of H.P.A.R.D.'s horticulture section

The greenhouse replaces the original 3,000 square foot greenhouse that was damaged beyond repair during Hurricane Ike. The project cost was \$1,445,727 of which \$288,147 was funded through the Hurricane Ike Aid and Recovery Program. Costs include design, construction, contingency, testing, and civic art. Amenities include: upgraded site utilities; construction of an outdoor education area with planting beds, seatwalls, a 10,000 gallon cistern for irrigation & detention; the installation of a new pre-fabricated restroom, new concrete driveways, gates & fencing; & modifications to existing headhouse & 2nd greenhouse that was not damaged by hurricane. General Contractor was Times Construction, Inc., Design Consultant Clark Condon Associates, Inc.

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.

