

Press Release

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Hurricane Ike Aid & Recovery Program Helps Fund 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 am to 1:00 pm, with the ribbon cutting ceremony slated for 10:30 am. The new 8,600 square foot greenhouse replaces the original 3,000 square foot greenhouse that was damaged by Hurricane Ike in 2008.

"We are very happy to be able to get this new greenhouse on line," said Joe Turner, Director, Houston Parks and Recreation Department. "We'd been struggling ever since Ike to be able to work in the one remaining greenhouse that was left after Hurricane Ike in 2008. Now, this new, state of the art greenhouse will not only allow us to grow the plants we need for the gardens that we have in our parks, but we will be able to use it as an environmentally friendly teaching tool."

Located in Memorial Park, the new 8,600 square foot 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, seat walls, a 10,000 gallon cistern for irrigation & detention; the installation of a new pre-fabricated restroom, new concrete driveways, gates & fencing; & modifications to the existing headhouse & 2nd greenhouse that was not damaged by the hurricane. General Contractor was Times Construction, Inc.; Design Consultant was Clark Condon Associates, Inc.

The new greenhouse will be used to grow plants for City of Houston park & greenspace gardens operated by the Houston Parks and Recreation Department. The area also serves as the office for HPARD's Memorial Park maintenance staff and their equipment.

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.

