

Press Release

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Houston Parks and Recreation Department Stops Illegal Plant Removal at Woodland Park *Friends of Woodland Park Alert City to Problem*

On Monday, June 10, 2013, the Houston Parks and Recreation Department (H.P.A.R.D.) was notified by the Friends of Woodland Park of the removal of vegetation from Woodland Park property. The party responsible has agreed to stop work on the grounds of the park, and has agreed to comply with H.P.A.R.D. requirements. H.P.A.R.D. will work with the responsible party to mitigate the damage to city property.

District H Council Member Ed Gonzalez has been communicating with the impacted community and is supportive of the efforts being coordinated by H.P.A.R.D. and the City.

Assessment of the damage to park property is underway. Preliminary findings are that vegetation has been damaged or removed from approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ of an acre, including some healthy trees, and replanting and reforestation will be necessary. Erosion control and possible regrading of the site may be required. H.P.A.R.D. will coordinate with the Houston Public Works and Engineering Department and the Harris County Flood Control District to correct whatever problems have been caused by these actions. In addition, a debris pile resulting from the illegal removal of park plants and trees will require removal.

Removal of plants from city parks is forbidden by H.P.A.R.D. rules and regulations, as described in the City of Houston Code of Ordinances, Chapter 32. Destruction of public property is prohibited by Title 19, Chapter 191 of the Government Code of Texas.

Woodland Park, located at 212 Parkview, 77009, consists of 19.67 acres near White Oak Bayou and the Woodland Heights neighborhood. It has been a city park since 1914.

About the Houston Parks and Recreation Department

The Houston Parks and Recreation Department (H.P.A.R.D.) stewards and manages over 37,832 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) 395-7016 or visit www.houstonparks.org.