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## PRESS RELEASE

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **1,000 TREES PLANTED DURING HOUSTON'S 35<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL ARBOR DAY PLANTING CEREMONY TO HELP REDUCE STREET FLOODING**

*Trees planted in street medians in the South Acres/Crestmont Park community*

Mayor Sylvester Turner, Apache Corporation, Trees for Houston, Texas A&M Forest Service, City Council Member Carolyn Evans-Shabazz, the Houston Parks and Recreation Department, and a small group of volunteers today celebrated the City's 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Arbor Day Planting Ceremony by planting 1,000 trees. This year's observance was held at 5445 East Orem Drive in the South Acres/Crestmont Park community. The planting targeted barren esplanades where mowing acreage can be reduced by planting native trees within a street median. The goal is to reduce mowing time, reduce flooding, and increase Houston's tree canopy.

"One of the things I love most about Houston is its amazing canopy of beautiful trees. It is why Arbor Day is always a special occasion for me, and to everyone in the City," said Mayor Sylvester Turner. "More trees mean better health and more attractive communities for every Houstonian. Plus, research has shown that improving a city's tree canopy can help fight climate change, clean our air, help clean drinking water, cool surface and air temperatures, along with improving our health."

Apache Corporation has been an active partner of the Houston Parks and Recreation Department and its Urban Forestry program. Since 2007, the company has donated more than 100,000 trees for planting in parks and greenspaces across the City.

"We are excited to again provide trees for Houston's annual Arbor Day celebration. We are thankful for the work of the City and the Parks and Recreation Department to expand and maintain our city's green spaces. And we thank the many volunteers who are making Houston more beautiful by planting these trees," said John J. Christmann IV, Apache's chief executive and officer and president.

This year, Houston was again designated a *Tree City USA* by the National Arbor Day Foundation, which recognizes cities for their commitment to their urban forests. Houston has received the designation each of the past 35 years.

"One of the goals of the Houston Parks and Recreation Department is to make the City of Houston a more livable place," said Kenneth Allen, Interim Director, Houston Parks and Recreation Department.

“Arbor Day is one of our most important opportunities to do that. The collaborative effort between Apache Corporation, Trees for Houston, the Texas A&M Forest Service, and the Parks Department is a special one because of the unified goal of improving the City’s urban forest canopy which benefits all of Houston.”

All the trees planted today will be maintained by the Houston Parks and Recreation Department. Arbor Day celebrations are held by cities across the nation, with observances often held on the last Friday in April. Houston holds its Arbor Day celebration in January because it offers the best weather conditions for tree planting in this climate.

*The Houston Parks and Recreation Department (H.P.A.R.D.) stewards and manages 380 parks and over 39,501 acres of parkland and greenspace for the City of Houston and develops and implements recreational programming for citizens of all ages and abilities. For more information on the Houston Parks and Recreation Department, call (832) 395-7022 or visit [www.houstonparks.org](http://www.houstonparks.org).*