



NEWS RELEASE

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500 Houstonians Volunteer to Plant 3,000 Trees for Arbor Day 2008

500 Houstonians have shown their commitment to the city's Urban Forest by volunteering to plant 3,000 trees in 4 hours to celebrate Arbor Day 2008! The Houston Parks and Recreation Department is coordinating the effort in conjunction with the Texas Department of Transportation, the Apache Foundation, the Houston Airport System, Metro, New South Parking, and Trees for Houston as part of the Houston Area Freeway Forestation Project, sponsored by Congressman Ted Poe. The new urban forest will take root on the medians along North Shepherd between I-45 and Northew Street. This planting day event will begin at 8:00 a.m. on January 26th, rain or shine.

"Arbor Day would not be complete in Houston without a little rain," said Joe Turner, Director, Houston Parks and Recreation Department. "But Houstonians are willing to weather the precipitation to show the world that our city is committed to its Urban Forest and the environment. We're thankful for their volunteer efforts and for our sponsors especially the Apache Foundation who have donated the 3,000 trees that will be planted on Saturday."

The donation is part of the Apache Foundation Tree Program begun in 2006. The goal is to plant 1 million trees in and around the communities in which Apache operates.

"Apache Foundation is pleased to participate in the city's effort to plant an urban forest," said Obie O'Brien, Apache's Director of Community Outreach. "Apache employees will be among the volunteers Saturday morning, helping in this worthwhile effort. We are also pleased to support U.S. Rep. Ted Poe's Houston Area Freeway Forestation Project."

(more)

As these new trees mature, they will have a positive impact on the city and our environment, both aesthetically and environmentally, by removing CO² from the atmosphere.

“A single tree can remove more than a ton of CO² over its lifetime,” said Victor Cordova, Urban Forester for the Houston Parks and Recreation Department. “That’s just what 1 tree is capable of doing. Just imagine what effect the thousands of trees going in for Arbor Day 2008 will have, over time.”

Individuals, clubs, and corporate teams are all eligible to participate. Children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. All volunteers are asked to bring their own rakes, shovels, gloves, and boots on January 26 and report to their assigned site by 8:00 a.m. Parking will be available at the METRO North Shepherd Park & Ride, 7821 North Shepherd (at Veterans Memorial Drive), with shuttle service from the lot provided courtesy the Houston Airport System and New South Parking.

The Apache Foundation is the philanthropic unit of Apache Corporation, headquartered in Houston. The Foundation’s mission is to leave the world a better place through scientific study, practical application of environmentally-sound principles of land use, planning and tree-planting, and other activities that will improve the human condition around the world, particularly in the areas in which Apache Corporation operates.

For information on Arbor Day or the Houston Parks and Recreation Department, call (713) 845-1135 or visit www.houstonparks.org.