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## Press Release

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### **New Trees Planted To Replace Developer's Damage From Unlawful Removal of Kirby/North Boulevard Trees**

The Houston Parks and Recreation Department, together with the Houston Parks Board, replaced five of six live oaks along North Boulevard and Kirby Drive this past weekend. The trees and their installation were funded through a \$300,000 damages settlement reached by the City of Houston in connection with the unpermitted removal of oak trees from the public right-of-way at 5003 Kirby Drive.

"We thank Mayor Parker for her unwavering support in reaching the monetary settlement that allowed us to replace the trees," said Joe Turner, Director, Houston Parks and Recreation Department. "Our department works daily to steward and protect city trees planted in city rights-of-way, parks and greenspaces because not only are they valuable city assets, they are valuable aesthetic assets that are a part of our city's Urban Forest. We are happy to see the five new trees lining North Boulevard and look forward to installing the sixth tree this coming weekend."

The original six trees were illegally removed during a construction project near the corner of Kirby and North Boulevard. They were planted by Trees for Houston volunteers acting on behalf of the Boulevard Oaks Civic Association more than a decade ago.

The five trees planted this past weekend are 28-foot to 30-foot live oaks with a tree caliper range between 9.5 inches to 11 inches. They will be watered and monitored for the next 2 years as is standard practice for any new trees planted in H.P.A.R.D. parks, greenspaces and rights-of-way.

*The Houston Parks and Recreation Department (H.P.A.R.D.) stewards and manages over 37,851 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](http://www.houstonparks.org).*