



Press Release

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Apache Corporation Sponsors Trees for Houston's 31st Annual Arbor Day at Herman Brown Park *Celebration Marks Another Successful Arbor Day Season of Tree Plantings*

Mayor Sylvester Turner, Apache Corporation, and volunteers from across the City will join the Houston Parks and Recreation Department on Saturday, January 21, 2017, to celebrate Houston's 31st Annual Arbor Day. **The official Arbor Day Program begins at 9:00 a.m.** and will be followed by the planting of 1,000 trees in the park. **Volunteers should check in at 8:30 a.m. at 200 Mercury Drive and the corner of Hwy 90.** Please note that the 31st Annual Arbor Day Celebration will continue rain or shine and that the area is expected to be muddy due to the recent rainfall. Volunteers are asked to wear boots and prepare for a muddy planting site.

"We are excited to celebrate Houston's 31st Annual Arbor Day Celebration with our partners and volunteers whose support helps us all improve our neighborhood parks across the city," said Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner. "This public private partnership working to improve neighborhood parks speaks volumes about how Houstonians working together make our city great."

The Apache Corporation has been an active partner with the Houston Parks and Recreation Department in its commitment to the City's Urban Forest. Since 2012, they have donated nearly 100,000 trees to be planted by the department in neighborhood parks across the city.

"We are delighted to participate in this ceremony as part of our trees program. With over 4 million trees delivered since 2005, we're excited about partnering with the City of Houston for Arbor Day," said Wendy Craven, Apache's Manager of Outreach.

"We are thankful to The Apache Corporation for their continuing support of Houston's Urban forest. They are a valued partner to our department both through tree donations and their sponsorship of the Bayou City Classic and Tour de Houston," said Joe Turner, Director, Houston Parks and

Recreation Department. "Their support improves the quality of life for park and greenspace users across the city. We thank them for their support and look forward to planting trees with Apache and the many citizen volunteers who will be joining us this Saturday."

In addition to the 31st Annual Arbor Day tree planting event, the department will also celebrate the receipt of its 31st Tree City USA award from the National Arbor Day Foundation. The Tree City USA designation is awarded to cities by the foundation for its commitment to stewardship and increase of the city's tree canopy. The Arbor Day Foundation is a 501c3 non-profit organization that exists to inspire people to plant, nurture, and celebrate trees. Its starting point was an 1872 statewide tree-planting day in Nebraska, which resulted in an estimated 1,000,000 new trees. Tree City USA has been a program of the Arbor Day Foundation since 1976. Houston has consistently met the standards of the program for the past 31 years.

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.