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## PRESS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **City of Houston's 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Arbor Day Celebration set for Glenshire Park**

*Apache Corporation, Accenture, and Texas A&M Forest Service partner in celebration.*

Mayor Sylvester Turner, Apache Corporation, Accenture, Texas A&M Forest Service, and the Houston Parks and Recreation Department (HPARD) will join volunteers from across the City for the **37<sup>th</sup> Annual Arbor Day** tree planting celebration. The event will take place on **Saturday, February 4, 2023, at 9 a.m. at Glenshire Park, 12100 Riceville School Road**. Following a ceremony, partners and volunteers will plant and mulch 1,000 native trees donated by Apache Corporation and Accenture throughout the park.

“As an official Tree City USA, Houston recognizes the important role trees play in making our communities more sustainable and resilient,” said Mayor Sylvester Turner. “Our tree canopy beautifies the City’s landscape. It helps fight climate change, improves our air quality, cleans our drinking water, and helps reduce stress. Arbor Day is a unique opportunity for Houstonians to come together to celebrate the many benefits of trees. I look forward to joining partners and volunteers this weekend at Glenshire Park for the City’s 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Arbor Day celebration.”

The National Arbor Day Foundation, in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service and National Association of State Foresters, recognizes the City’s commitment to its urban forest with the official designation of Houston as a Tree City USA. This is the 37<sup>th</sup> consecutive year Houston has earned the distinguished honor.

“Trees play a vital role in the quality of life for everyone,” said Kenneth Allen, Director, Houston Parks and Recreation Department. “Trees provide tremendous health benefits, and it’s extremely important that as many Houston neighborhoods as possible enjoy the healthful advantages trees provide. Thank you to all of our partners on working toward this important goal.”

Apache Corporation has been an active partner of the Houston Parks and Recreation Department and its Urban Forestry program since 2007. The company is committed to helping improve Houston’s tree canopy and enhance the city’s green spaces.

“We are honored to provide trees for the City of Houston’s annual Arbor Day Celebration,” said John J. Christmann IV, Apache Corporation’s CEO and president. “We are thankful for our long-term partnership with the City of

Houston and the Parks and Recreation Department. We look forward to planting trees with our fellow Houstonians that will have a lasting positive impact for current and future generations.”

The global professional services company Accenture is another valued corporate citizen volunteering in this reforestation effort.

“At Accenture, we are committed to positively impacting the communities in which our people live and work, and we are proud to take part in this project here in Houston,” said Mary Beth Gracy, Houston office managing director. “We hope the trees our people help plant at Glenshire Park will leave a lasting benefit for many generations to enjoy.”

Since 2021, the Houston Parks and Recreation Department, with partners’ assistance, has planted over 21,726 trees on public property. HPARC thanks all of its partners for their assistance and support of the City’s urban forest. Volunteers for Houston’s 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Arbor Day celebration must have registered prior to the event. For more information about the Houston Parks and Recreation Department, visit [www.houstonparks.org](http://www.houstonparks.org).

**About the Houston Parks and Recreation Department**

*The Houston Parks and Recreation Department (H.P.A.R.D.) stewards and manages 382 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).*