



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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1,500 Volunteers Needed! To Plant 12,500 Trees for Arbor Day 2009

The Houston Parks and Recreation Department, in conjunction with the Apache Foundation and Trees for Houston, will celebrate Arbor Day 2009 by planting over 12,500 trees in only 4 hours! One thousand five hundred volunteers are needed to plant this urban forest on the medians along Clay Road between Gessner and Blalock. This planting day event will begin at 8:00 a.m. on January 24th rain or shine.

"We're asking Houstonians to come out, roll up their sleeves, and celebrate Arbor Day by planting a tree," said Joe Turner, Director, Houston Parks and Recreation Department. "For several years now we have had a great time on Arbor Day and made a positive impact on our city's environment. It is wonderful to see how many people are willing to help us plant. We're hoping for a similar response again this year to show the world that Houston is committed to its Urban Forest."

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

"As trees grow, they remove CO² from the atmosphere. A single tree can remove more than a ton of CO² over its lifetime," said Victor Cordova, Houston City Forester. "That's just what 1 tree is capable of doing. Just imagine what effect the thousands of trees going in for Arbor Day 2009 will have, over time."

(more)

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 24 and report to their assigned site by 7:30 a.m. Parking will be available at the Korean Christian Church of Houston, 10410 Clay Road at Shadowdale, with shuttle service provided to the planting site. To volunteer for Arbor Day 2009, call Gary Woods with Trees for Houston at (281) 474-4507 or (281) 224-8162 or email garykwoods@sbcglobal.net.

Houston's 2009 Arbor Day celebration is sponsored by the Houston Parks and Recreation Department, Apache Foundation, and Trees for Houston.

For information on Arbor Day or the Houston Parks and Recreation Department, call (713) 865-4537 or visit www.houstonparks.org.