



## MEDIA ALERT

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

May 14, 2009

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### **Mayor Bill White Joins HPARD For Grand Opening of New Urban Forestry Headquarters**

Mayor Bill White, Council Member Sue Lovell and the Houston Parks and Recreation Department will celebrate the Grand Opening of New Urban Forestry Facility located at 12025 Sowden. The celebration is scheduled for May 15, 2009 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. with a ribbon cutting ceremony scheduled for 11:30 a.m. The new facility is a renovation of a former Public Works Maintenance Facility and is an example of the use of existing city assets to maximize construction funding. Renovations include the conversion of an existing warehouse into staff offices, meeting space, and storage facilities; the conversion of other existing buildings into maintenance shops and garages for maintenance vehicles; the removal and replacement of an existing car wash with a new fueling station; and parking lot improvements, site lighting, security fencing, and landscaping.

**WHO:** The Honorable Bill White, Mayor, City of Houston  
The Honorable Sue Lovell, Mayor Pro Tem  
Joe Turner, Director, HPARD

**WHAT:** Grand Opening Urban Forestry Headquarters

**WHEN:** Friday, May 15, 2009  
11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.  
Ribbon Cutting Ceremony  
11:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

**WHERE:** 12025 Sowden  
Houston, Texas 77055

**WHY:** To celebrate the Grand Opening of the New Urban Forestry Headquarters. The 7.5 acre complex was originally a Public Works Maintenance Facility listed as surplus property and acquired by HPARD through a department to department transfer. This transfer allowed HPARD to maximize funding of \$2.5 million to create a new headquarters for the Urban Forestry Division while providing new offices and equipment storage facilities for greenspace maintenance staff originally housed at Langwood Park. The new facility consolidates staff and equipment operations previously located at Memorial and Langwood Parks and returns 1.6 acres at Langwood Park into public space for recreational use.

For additional information on the Houston Parks and Recreation Department, call (713) 865-4537 or visit our web site at [www.houstonparks.org](http://www.houstonparks.org)