



OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

NEWS RELEASE

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City of Houston Public Works and Keep Houston Beautiful Expand Acres Home Adopt-A-Ditch Project to two new locations

The City of Houston and Keep Houston Beautiful partnership comes together again for another Adopt-A-Ditch project in the Acres Home area on **Saturday, April 2, 2011 at 8 am between the 700 and 900 Block of Ferguson Way (KM 412-P)**. The overall scope of this *award winning and nationally acclaimed project* is to keep ditches free of litter and debris while improving the quality of the storm water, transforming the areas into a cleaner, more environmentally pleasant place.

Volunteers will meet at Progressive Missionary Baptist Church located 944 Reverend B J Lewis Drive.

Administered by Keep Houston Beautiful and the City of Houston's Department of Public Works and Engineering Right-of-Way and Fleet Maintenance Division, this effort will landscape two sections; the first area covers 345' x 80', which includes tree planting along the edge and installation of yellow flag irises in the ditch. Second covers 750' x 180' and will include tree planting and installation of bollards to help prevent illegal dumping and parking. Volunteers cleaning the ditches will place clean recyclables in Greenstars Purple recycling carts.

Hundreds of community volunteers such as the Acres Homes Super Neighborhood, Progressive Missionary Baptist Church members, Greenstar Recycling, Kohls, the Chavez and Memorial High School students will lend a hand at planting Shumard Oaks and Bald Cypress Trees, which are used to filter the storm water.

Professional landscape architect Keiji Asakura of Asakura Robison Company LLC, will provide direction and guidance to ensure the programs success. Drought tolerate plants native to Texas temperatures will be used, reducing the need for frequent watering. Trees have been donated by Home Depot and irises from TreeSearch Farms will also be planted.

Financial underwriters for the Adopt-A-Ditch program and Keep Houston Beautiful Day include Greenstar Recycling, Kohl, and Marathon Oil Corporation. In-kind contributors includes: Living Earth Technology for mulch, Home Depot for trees, Shipley's for donuts and Nestle Clear Water for water.

Adopt-A-Ditch is an expansion of the successful Adopt-A-Block program that is a partnership between the City of Houston's Public Works and Engineering and Solid Waste Management Departments, Neighborhood Protection Corps, Keep Houston Beautiful, local merchants, volunteers, and residents. The goal of the effort is to raise the quality of life by transforming the adopted areas into cleaner, more environmentally pleasant places to live and work.