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Keep HOUSTON Beautiful

block TALK

SPRING NEWSLETTER

Keep Houston Beautiful (KHB) is the city's leading environmental public education non-profit that creates vibrant neighborhoods. We bring people together to unlock every neighborhood's potential. We work with volunteers to take action in their neighborhoods through programs that deliver positive and lasting impact.

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It's that time again! Applications for the 29th Annual Mayor's Proud Partner Awards are open.

We are now accepting applications for the 29th Annual Mayor's Proud Partner Awards. If you know of a friend, family member, group or organization that deserves recognition for a beautification or clean-up event, an environmental project or program, or a community improvement initiative, please nominate them today!

CLICK HERE TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION

Keep Houston Beautiful and Public Works and Engineering rock at the Keep Texas Beautiful Conference

On June 17-20, Keep Houston Beautiful (KHB) attended the 46th Annual Keep Texas Beautiful (KTB) Conference. Robin Blut, KHB, and Herbert Payne, Dr. Martin Alcala, and Darryl Flood, Public Works and Engineering (PWE) Street and Bridge Division, presented the U-ROC in an educational session. The presentation was warmly received, and the audience

Thank you to:

City of Houston Texas

PW

Solid Waste Management SWM City of Houston

Department of Neighborhoods

The Scotts Miracle-Gro Company

Marathon Oil Corporation

Sakura Robinson

was very engaged, asking various questions were asked. Some even commented that the U-ROC session was the best at the conference.

The U-ROC curriculum is available for download on the U-ROC Website.

***Teach for America* students use U-ROC curriculum to learn about Storm Water**

On May 22, 2013 Dr. Martin Alcala from the City of Houston Public Works and Engineering Department and Robin Blut, Executive Director of Keep Houston Beautiful, were invited to teach a class at Braeburn Elementary as part of Teach for America Week. Ms. Blut and Dr. Alcala introduced the U-ROC curriculum and website to the students.

The class then went through Lesson 2 of the program. Students learned about different stormwater pollutants. In groups the students discussed why the pollutants are harmful and then brainstormed solutions and suggestions to alleviate the problem.

Students also participated in a filtration activity that is part of Lesson 1 of U-ROC. The objective was for students to develop a filtration procedure to make the polluted water they received cleaner. The water was polluted with oil and glitter, dirt and leaves, grass and shredded paper. The students were given 7 filtration devices to experiment with, including rocks, coffee filters and straws.

After the lesson, students sent thank you letters to Keep Houston Beautiful, Robin Blut, and Dr. Alcala showing their gratitude for the lesson.

Both lessons are available for download on the U-ROC Website.

HP joins Keep Houston Beautiful to enhance Port of Houston

On May 21, 2013 the addition of 72 trees at the Gate 8 entrance to the Port on Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) property was made possible with the volunteer and financial support of Hewlett Packard as part of its Impact Day.

"One of our main goals at Keep Houston Beautiful is provide opportunities for volunteers to participate in community beautification activities," Jim Tates, Keep Houston Beautiful Chairman, said. "The addition of 72 trees at the Gate 8 entrance to the Port on TXDOT property with the volunteer and financial support of Hewlett Packard as part of its Impact Day, equipment resources from Keep Houston Beautiful, and in-kind products from Scotts is an example of the kind of cooperative relationships that KHB develops."

Jim Tates said that Keep Houston Beautiful was looking forward to supporting continued beautification efforts in 2014 as the Port prepares to celebrate its 100 anniversary.

The project was supported by Hewlett Packard, Port of Houston Authority, Scott's Miracle-

Gro, TXDOT, and City of Houston Public Works and Engineering. Walter Hambrick, TxDOT District Vegetation Manager, Dana Cote, TxDOT Houston District's Landscape Architect, and Blossom Breedlove, from Hewlett Packard, joined in the efforts.

Phillips 66 helps beautify Houston by Adopting a Ditch

On May 18, 2013 Keep Houston Beautiful and 33 Phillips 66 volunteers planted 38 trees near the ditch adjacent to Walnut Bend Elementary School and Paul Revere Middle School.

The trees planted along the ditch right-of-way provide an attractive landscape along a trail that caters to predestrians. The project will help restore natural beauty along the ditch with trees that will provide shade, harbor birds and other wildlife, improve air qaulity and reduce noise and soil pollution. The trees will also help slow the flow of runoff water, which will help reduce soil erosion and remove pollutants before the enter the ditch.

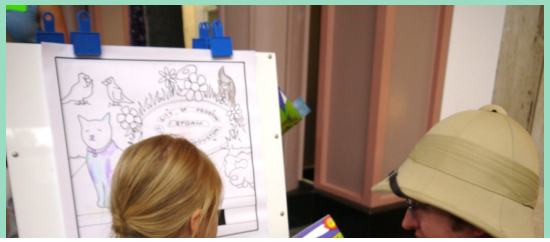
Partners of the project were Keep Houston Beautiful, City of Houston Public Works & Engineering, Harris County Flood Control, and Phillips 66. Susan Cita of TBG-Partners Inc. rendered the landscape design for the ditch. Tim Hansen, ASLA, was on the on-site volunteer supervisor. Herbert Payne, City of Houston Public Works, deployed crews to help volunteers.

Keep Houston Beautiful helps celebrate Water Week with U-ROC curriculum

Keep Houston Beautiful participated in WaterWeek at The WaterWorks Education Center, April 29 – May 03, 2013. The week was coordinated by the City of Houston Department of Public Works and Engineering in collaboration with other agencies and organizations committed to protecting our regional water resources and habitats.

WaterWeek is a five-day educational opportunity for elementary and middle school students to learn about their regional water resources, averaging 350 visitors/students per day. Students were able to learn about storm water runoff and teachers were introduced to the new U-ROC curriculum.

U-ROC teaches students about water conservation activities on Earth Day



On April 27, 2013 Keep Houston Beautiful partnered with the Houston Museum of Natural Science (HMNS) Energy Conservation Club to celebrate Earth Day 2013. This year's focus was water conservation activities. Parents were encouraged to bring children of all ages to the

Keep Houston Beautiful Street and Bridge Division booth to participate in coloring large panels displaying the U-ROC curriculum artwork by April Murphy. The event was free for everyone.

The event was made possible by HMNS Energy Conservation Club, Keep Houston Beautiful, The City of Houston Urban Runoff Challenge and was generously supported by Marathon Oil Corporation and City of Houston Public Works.

Keep Houston Beautiful Day helps kick off the Great American Clean Up in 9 different sites

On April 6, 2013, we celebrated Keep Houston Beautiful (KHB) Day. KHB Day is part of the Great American Cleanup, which continued through May 30. This year, KHB Day was joined by the Texas Department of Transportation and its "Don't Mess with Texas" Trash-Off.

Volunteers paricipated in projects to clean up and beautify their communites. Trees were planted, ditches cleaned, esplanades beautified and litter picked up. There were nine projects in total, including Congressman Gene Green's North Channel Cleanup, City Council District D Day of Caring with the OST/South Union GO Neighborhood Community Cleanup, and Keep Council District K Beautiful activities.

Mayor Annise Parker joined volunteers planting trees along Almeda Plaza Drive.

"One of the things that makes Houston such a special city is that Houstonians are willing to roll up their sleeves and get their hands dirty to make this a better place to live, work and raise a family," Mayor Parker said.

Keep Houston Beautiful Chairman Jim Tates also praised the many volunteers working to beautify the city.

"Volunteers come from all walks of life: students, business leaders, civic and non-profit organizations, individuals, families and community groups," Tates said.

Keep Houston Beautiful thanks the volunteers who worked Saturday to help plants trees and paint the bridges along Almeda Plaza Drive: Almeda Plaza Drive Civic Club members, ARI Fleet Management's TRC Call Center partners, Scotts Miracle-Gro Company, Dupont Company, University of Houston students, Goodwill Industries, Houston Asian Junior Chamber of Commerce (Jaycees) and Iota Phi Theta fraternity members.

Chamber of Commerce (Jaycees) and Iota Phi Theta fraternity members.

Keep Houston Beautiful Day 2013 partners included District K Council Member Larry Green and his Chief of Staff Donald Perkins, who had seven cleanup and beautification projects in District K; the City of Houston's Public Works Department's Engineering, Street and Drainage Division, which improved the flow of the water in the centerline ditch on Almeda Plaza Drive by re-grading and de-silting the buildup of sand and other materials in the ditch; the Department of Neighborhoods, Inspections and Public Services; the Parks and Recreation Department; the Office of council Member Wanda Adams; OST/South Union Go Neighborhoods; the office of Congressman Gene Green; the Department of Solid Waste Management; and Margaret Robinson, ASLA, LEED AP, Principal at Asakura Robinson Company, who created the Landscape design.

The Houston Rockets give back by planting fruit tree at an HISD Elementary

On March 28, 2013 Keep Houston Beautiful joined forces with the Houston Rockets to plant trees at Ernest McGowen Sr. Elementary. There were 20 fruit trees trees planted consisting of fig, pomegranate, pear, key lime, and orange trees. Children were engaged with the fruit trees, and were able to see were some of the fruits they eat come from. KHB also left watering buckets so that the children could continue to maintain the trees. This was just one of many of the projects completed during the Houston Rockets Green Week which ended with the Enviromental Awareness Game. KHB was a vendor at the game, which was an opportunity to reach out to fans at the game. A Rockets game averages 16,672 fans.

City Council member Jerry Davis joined the students for an early morning rally. HLS Enterprises provided rice hull ash to help the trees with water retention and helped predig some holes.

***U-ROC* piloted at Yellowstone Academy**

On Monday March 4, Keep Houston Beautiful kicked off the U-Roc.org pilot program with a training workshop at Yellowstone Academy. Science teachers of varying levels were introduced to the City of Houston Stormwater Challenge Curriculum brought to you by The City of Houston Public Works and Engineering, Keep Houston Beautiful and Univeristy of Houston Kappa Delta Pi. Teachers were also provided with materials to run

hands-on experiments in their classrooms, outlined in the U-ROC curriculum.

The lesson are available to the public on the U-ROC Website.

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