



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Arbor Day Foundation's Community Tree Recovery Program Helps Distribute 505 Trees to Aransas County Residents Affected by Hurricane Harvey

*The trees distributed will offer healing and hope to a community in the process of rebuilding after an impactful natural disaster*

ROCKPORT, Tx (October 21, 2022) – With the support of the Arbor Day Foundation's Community Tree Recovery program, and FedEx, the City of Rockport Parks and Leisure Services Department, and the Texas A&M Forest Service will be distributing 505 trees on October 21, 2022, from 1 p.m. until 5 p.m. at Memorial Park, located at 1601 FM 2165 (Pearl St.) and Enterprise.

The Arbor Day Foundation is the world's largest membership nonprofit dedicated to planting trees. The Foundation's Community Tree Recovery Program identifies and helps communities affected by natural disasters by relying on a vast network of local community tree-planting organizations.

"We plant trees for many different reasons; they clean the air, purify the water, provide a home for wildlife, etc.," said Dan Lambe, chief executive of the Arbor Day Foundation. "We can also plant trees to restore hope to a community that is healing. We believe in the hope planting a tree provides for the future."

According to Special Events Coordinator Brittany Elkins, the give-away will be run as a drive-through, similar to local food distribution programs, and participants will remain in their car. Samples of the trees will be on display as individuals drive into Memorial Park. They will be asked what type of tree they would like, and it will be delivered to their vehicle. This is the fifth consecutive year that the organizations have provided free trees to residents.

The City of Rockport is located on the Live Oak Peninsula, which is renowned for its iconic live oak trees and other natural resources. Having taken a direct hit from Hurricane Harvey in 2017, tens of thousands of trees were devastated, many of which provided much-needed shade and nesting sites for hundreds of local and migratory bird species. "We are extremely grateful to our partners for their generous efforts," noted Elkins. "Planting and establishing trees in our community is a much-needed part of the recovery process."



These new trees will be free of charge and help to replace trees damaged and destroyed by Hurricane Harvey. The Arbor Day Foundation's [Community Tree Recovery program](#), a national program underwritten by FedEx and Foundation members, aims to replace trees in communities affected by natural disasters throughout the United States. The program has held more than 1050 events, distributing more than 5.3 million trees since its inception.

To donate to the recovery efforts supported by this campaign or others across the country please visit [arborday.org/recovery](http://arborday.org/recovery)

### **About the Arbor Day Foundation**

Founded in 1972, the Arbor Day Foundation has grown to become the largest nonprofit membership organization dedicated to planting trees, with more than one million members, supporters, and valued partners. Since 1972, almost 500 million Arbor Day Foundation trees have been planted in neighborhoods, communities, cities and forests throughout the world. Our vision is to lead toward a world where trees are used to solve issues critical to survival.

As one of the world's largest operating conservation foundations, the Arbor Day Foundation, through its members, partners and programs, educates and engages stakeholders and communities across the globe to involve themselves in its mission of planting, nurturing and celebrating trees. More information is available at [arborday.org](http://arborday.org).

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