



For Immediate Release

Contact for more information:
Melanie Fahey
713-895-8021
713-398-1136 (cell)

**ARBOR DAY TREE PLANTING FIRST STEP IN CREATING LIVABLE
CENTER IN WHITE OAK COMMUNITY**

Houston, January 20, 2012 – The Near Northwest Management District and Forged Products are commemorating Arbor Day with a planting of 10 trees at the White Oak Conference Center. The new trees will be planted in and around a stand of pine trees including the historic Inwood Pine to create The Grove, a wooded area of native trees that are the first step in creating the Botanical Gardens outlined in the Livable Centers Plan for the Antoine Corridor.

The new trees will be celebrated in a brief ceremony on **Monday, January 23 at 12:30 p.m.** at the **White Oak Conference Center, 7603 Antoine**, which will include remarks by Wayne Norden of the Near Northwest Management District as well as representatives from Forged Products and Treeseach Farms and visioning tours of the conference center grounds for interested community members.

“The District is changing thanks to business owners like Forged Products and Treeseach Farms who have a passion for making our community a better place to live,” said Wayne Norden, president/CEO of the Near Northwest Management District. “Their commitment and vision is helping the communities along White Oak Bayou to once again become a place in which we can all be proud to live and work.”

The creation of The Grove is the first step to create a public greenspace that can be enjoyed by all Houstonians. Future additions to the complex include a butterfly garden, a demonstration garden, the addition of native grass prairie areas and hike and bike trails. The improvement of the White Oak Conference Center grounds is the first step in changes to transform the Antoine Corridor and is being supervised by Heidi Sheesley of Treeseach Farms, a long-time business owner in the area who is passionate about sustainable, usable public gardens.

Livable Centers Plan

The Livable Centers Plan includes recommendations to improve the Antoine Corridor, rechristened the White Oak Quarter, into a walkable mixed-use place that provides multimodal transportation options, improves environmental quality, and promotes economic development.

A copy of the Livable Centers Plan is available on the District Web Site at www.nearnorthwestdistrict.com/programs/livablecenters .

About the District

The Near Northwest Management District was created by the Texas Legislature to promote and coordinate economic growth for businesses and improve the quality of life for everyone in Northwest Houston. The District, which covers an area bounded by T.C. Jester Boulevard on the east, Pinemont Drive on the south, Hollister Drive projected to State Highway 249 on the west and 249 on the north, has developed a detailed service plan to address issues important to commercial property owners in the area including security and public safety, planning and urban design and development.

For more information, go to www.nearnorthwestdistrict.com or become a fan of our Facebook page.

About Forged Products

Forged Products Inc. (FPI) was founded in 1963 as a forging producer and supplier for the oil tool and industrial markets. More information is available at www.fpitx.com.

Near Northwest Management District

5300 Hollister, Suite 100; Houston, TX 77040; 713-895-8021
www.nearnorthwestdistrict.com