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For immediate release

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Make a Long-term Contribution, Help Plant Native Texas Trees in Exploration Green

Fast growing native Texas trees including Cedar Elm, Bald Cypress, Red Drummond Maple, Burr Oak, Swamp Chestnut Oak, Nuttall Oak, Overcup Oak, and Green Ash at the Exploration Green Tree Nursery are departing the Exploration Green tree nursery to be planted in the real dirt at Clear Lake's own 200 acre green space.

Volunteers are needed to join others to plant about 50 of the native trees on the green space section behind the Clear Lake City Community Recreation Center at 16511 Diana Lane. Spend a few hours Sat. and Sun., Feb. 14 and 15 between 8:00 a.m. and noon to make a difference that will last many generations.

"These trees are growing so fast they're begging to get replanted," said Doug Peterson, vice-chair of Exploration Green Conservancy. "An energetic group of volunteers have been nurturing them for many months and now they've moved the trees about a mile into position onsite for more volunteers to plant them this coming weekend. Volunteers should bring work gloves, boots, shovels and hand cultivators or garden claws."

In the growing set of volunteer activities, local citizens are applying elbow grease to turn Exploration Green into a more natural retreat for walking, birdwatching, running, playing or even meditation. Last week about 20 volunteers moved the trees in 30-gallon pots from the nursery to the Phase I development site where they were prepared for planting. Local Boy Scouts working on Eagle projects dug, placed, filled and watered an initial group of trees Sunday. While at the same time a crew of volunteers were doing trails maintenance and upkeep. According to Peterson, "Exploration Green needs all kinds of volunteers, from these outdoor activities to fundraising, public relations, community outreach and event planning."

Exploration Green Conservancy, a newly established non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, is now accepting tax deductible donations for trees, shrubs and grasses; park and landscaping equipment such as benches, nursery and irrigation systems. For more information about contributing to Exploration Green visit <http://www.ExplorationGreen.org> and click on "Donate Now."

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