



NEWS RELEASE

JEFFERSON PARISH, LOUISIANA

December 21, 2011

CHRISTMAS TREE COLLECTION DATES

Jefferson Parish is preparing for its 22nd Annual Christmas Tree Marsh Restoration Project. All Jefferson Parish residents, including unincorporated areas, the Town of Jean Lafitte, Gretna, Harahan, Kenner and Westwego, wishing to participate in the program are asked to remove all lights, tinsel, garland, ornaments, tree stands and plastic bags from their Christmas trees and leave them on the curb for collection. *Artificial, flocked or painted trees are not eligible for the program.*

Residents are advised to place trees curbside on the evening of Wednesday, January 11, 2012, whereas in years' past, trees were typically collected on the second scheduled garbage collection day. Garbage trucks will make one pass through each neighborhood to collect trees within the dates of January 12, 13, and 14, 2012.

The Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office and the Fire Departments of the West Bank Presidents and Chiefs Association will again this year offer the use of their boats and personnel, and the 24th Judicial District Court, State Probation and Parole as well as other parish-related justice programs are assigning court-ordered community service workers to participate in supporting coastal restoration.

The New Orleans Fire Department is also supporting the Tree Marsh Restoration Project as will several Jefferson Parish municipal Police Departments. Fire Department and law enforcement personnel will use boats to transport recyclable Christmas trees, using this as a training exercise for maneuvering shallow-draft boats in tight quarters to specific GPS coordinates, while court-ordered community service workers will load trees into boats. Court-ordered participants will have their service hours tracked and submitted to the appropriate justice program by employees of the Operations division of the Parish President's Office.

"The Louisiana Department of Natural Resources eliminated funding for Christmas tree marsh restoration programs throughout the state, but because of the generosity and cooperation of the 24th Judicial District Court, Sheriff Normand, and our Fire Fighters, we are continuing the vital work of saving our coastline," said Jefferson Parish President John Young.

Trees will be placed into pre-constructed shoreline fences in Goose Bayou, near the town of Jean Lafitte. Project Coordinator Jason Smith added that "A monitoring study by Louisiana State University found that these tree fences dramatically reduce the rate of shoreline retreat and, by effectively trapping sediments, result in higher accretion rates in nearby marshes. Sediments carried over and through the fences by wave action are slowly accreting and building land between the shoreline and the fences."

For more information contact Marnie Winter, Director, Jefferson Parish Department of Environmental Affairs at 731-4612.

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