



CITY OF KENNER

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 11, 2010

KENNER AWARDED 245 TREES IN NATIONWIDE COMPETITION

City is one of four groups in New Orleans area honored

The city of Kenner has been awarded 245 trees in a nationwide competition, part of an ongoing strategic effort to establish an urban forest canopy large enough to reap environmental, aesthetic, and quality of life benefits throughout the city's parks and neutral grounds.



Kenner joined only three other groups from throughout the New Orleans metro area, including Friends of City Park, Hike for Katrina and St. Bernard Parish, who received the grant valued at \$2,450 from the Apache Foundation, the philanthropic arm of Apache Corp., an oil and gas exploration company based in Houston.

Apache spokesman Bill Mintz said Kenner had a well-defined program and demonstrated the ability and commitment to care for the trees once planted. The Tree Grant Program was awarded in February.



MICHAEL LANDRY from Recreation Dept. hauls trees donated by Apache Foundation.

"Apache has a long history of operations in Louisiana, and the tree program is one way we support its communities," Mintz said.

The trees will go far in replacing many hurricane-damaged street trees and establish wind resistant landscapes in various Kenner parks, said Scott Broussard, the city's landscape architect, who will oversee the plantings.

"The city's current urban forest has been dissolved in large part due to damage incurred during Hurricanes Katrina and Gustav,"



JOHN VERLANDER from Public Works unloads donated trees.

Broussard said.

Just three years after its launch, the foundation reached its goal of planting 1 million trees to improve wildlife habitats, restore storm damage, and enhance cities and neighborhoods in 14 states. It intends to donate an additional 2 million trees by 2014.

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