



Keep Irving Beautiful Newsletter



It's All About the Trees

Keep Irving Beautiful has long been an advocate of protecting and enhancing our tree population, but when Irving set a goal to become a "Tree City USA" (which it did in 2010), things really took off. Since then, trees have been a vital part of KIB programs :

- **UPS Grants:** Through a partnership with Keep America Beautiful, the UPS Foundation awards Community Planting Grants to affiliates. KIB has won this award four years in a row, for a total of \$20,000, and with the funds have planted trees at the city's tree farm twice and at Bird's Fort Trail. The 2017 grant will be used to plant trees at Sam Houston and T.W. Richardson Grove Parks, to replace trees lost to high winds and flooding.
- **Governor's Community Achievement Award (GCAA):** Through a partnership with Keep Texas Beautiful and Texas Department of Transportation, this prestigious award is given to a community which displays exemplary performance in environmental areas. KIB has submitted an award-winning GCAA application three times (1997, 2010 and 2014). The most recent award was a landscaping grant of \$310,000, which was used to plant trees and install irrigation along Irving Boulevard between Story and MacArthur.
- **Arbor Day:** KIB works with the Parks Department and the Irving Independent School District (IISD) to hold an Arbor Day celebration each November. The IISD school with the best paper recycling



These UPS volunteers replaced trees which had been destroyed by the floods at Bird's Fort Trail Park, thanks to a UPS Foundation grant through Keep America Beautiful.

- results has the honor of hosting the Arbor Day event, and receives a mayoral proclamation, a trophy and a tree planted on the school grounds
- **Special Planting Days:** KIB has been involved in creative events like the "SuperGrow XLV - Touchdown for Trees," a collaboration with the NFL prior to Super Bowl XLV, and the JFK Groves project, planting trees at Jefferson Park in honor of President Kennedy's legacy, as well as corporate days of service with companies like ADT, Contech, and Land Design. None of our projects could be accomplished without our outstanding Parks Department staff members who prepare the planting areas, dig the holes, instruct the volunteers, and work along side them throughout the day.

26th Annual Trash Bash More than a Cleanup

Save the date - Saturday, September 30 - when KIB will host its 26th annual Trash Bash, which is also National Public Lands Day. We will be back at T.W. Richardson Grove Park for a cleanup of the Campion Trails, starting at 9 a.m. and ending at noon. KIB will provide the cleanup supplies, such as litter pickers, gloves and trash bags. But this event will be much more than just picking up litter. After the groups return with their bags of trash and recyclables, they will be treated to a hot dog lunch served by City of Irving employee volunteers. They will also have the opportunity to learn about reptiles, fossils and water conservation at various tables set up on the grounds.

This will be the fourth year we will also hold a canned food drive at the Trash Bash, with donations going to the Baptist Benevolent Ministries of Irving (BBMOI) Crisis Food Pantry in downtown Irving. To encourage volunteers to participate, event T-shirts will only be given to those who bring a canned food item to donate.

Register online by September 22 at this link: www.cityofirving.org/2223/Annual-Trash-Bash, or scan the QR code below.



See you at the Trash Bash!

Volume 7, Issue 8
August 2017

Did You Know?

Here's a look at what e-commerce has meant to saving our trees. Earth 911 calculated what would be involved if Amazon were to print its catalog: the old-fashioned way:

- The 562 million products would fill up a 5.2 million-page catalog that would weigh more than 28,000 pounds.
- Each catalog would use 35.7 pine trees.
- With approximately 100 million unique visitors, printing a catalog for each person would cost almost 4 billion trees
- Those trees represent 8.75 million acres of land (that's larger than the acreage of New Jersey, Connecticut and Rhode Island combined).



KIB's very first tree planting project at the Tree Farm was back in 2013, when we started Phase 1 with ADT employee volunteers and their families. The little guy above shows that you're never too young to start volunteering with KIB!



KIB hope to make this year's Trash Bash the best one yet, and with the help of our volunteers (like this group above from last year's event), we will. Join us on September 30!

