



# NEWS RELEASE

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

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## Corps to celebrate National Public Lands Day with project cleanup

**WALLISVILLE, Texas** – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Galveston District's Wallisville Lake Project Office invites volunteers to participate in a project cleanup, Saturday, Oct. 23, 2010, to celebrate the 17th annual National Public Lands Day, the largest annual volunteer hands-on restoration activity of its kind.

Volunteers should meet at the Wallisville Lake Project Office, located at 20020 IH-10 East Feeder Road, in Wallisville, Texas, at 9 a.m. Cleanup events will last through noon.

"This year's National Public Lands Day occurred on Sept. 25, 2010; however, the Wallisville Lake Project cleanup was rescheduled because of weather concerns due to the active hurricane season," said Ruth Millsaps, a park ranger with the Corps' Galveston District. "This year's celebration will include planting trees, building and placing purple martin houses, shoreline cleanup and trail maintenance."

Eight trees were lost on the Trinity River Island Recreation Area as a result of Hurricane Ike, according to Millsaps.

"These trees will be replaced with bald cypress, Choctaw pecan and Shumard red oak trees," said Millsaps. "The new trees will provide area wildlife with food and habitat as well as shade to picnic tables along the river bank."

"The purple martin population is on the rise around Wallisville," said Millsaps. "In order to accommodate these mosquito-eating friends, more houses will be placed on existing poles and a new pole with houses will be added."

"There are also a few other sites along the river to remove manmade debris left from Hurricane Ike," said Millsaps. "The autumn season is a good time to pick up a few small tree limbs that have come down across the trails at Cedar Hill Park, which can be placed off to the side to keep the trails safe and easy to use."

The Corps has been involved with National Public Lands Day since its inception in 1994 and has consistently been one of the event's largest providers of sites and volunteers. This is the Galveston District's 10th year participating in the event. As the nation's leading federal provider of outdoor and water-based recreation, the Corps manages more than 400 lake and river projects in 43 states. With a majority of these projects located within 50 miles of metropolitan areas, Corps sites provide a wide range of safe, affordable outdoor recreation opportunities close to home.

For more information about the Wallisville Lake Project cleanup, please call Park Ranger Ruth Millsaps at (409) 389-2285, extension 315. To learn more about the Corps' Galveston District, visit [www.swg.usace.army.mil](http://www.swg.usace.army.mil) or find us on Facebook, [www.facebook.com/GalvestonDistrict](http://www.facebook.com/GalvestonDistrict).

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