



Corporate/Group Volunteer Large-Scale Native Tree Plantings Policy

General Purpose: HW's guidelines for scheduling and size of volunteers for large-scale native tree plantings or native grass, forbs or milkweed plantings related to HW's programming

Scheduling:

During the annual tree and grass planting season (generally Sept – March), HW staff schedules specific dates and times for large-scale native tree plantings or other activities related to HW's programming. These plantings involve corporate groups, other private groups and occasionally are also open to any interested individuals of the public. The planting dates and times are published on the website with delineation on what type of group each respective planting will include. The specific dates and times are **NOT** subject to change unless done so due to weather or other HW staff-requested accommodation.

HW cannot accommodate requests for large-scale native tree plantings or other activities related to HW's programming outside of the annual tree and grass planting season (generally Sept – March) because the region's weather would be detrimental to the planting(s) and are a heat risk for volunteers.

Private events (tree or grass plantings under HW's programming) policy:

For HW staff to facilitate a private large-scale native tree planting or other activities during an upcoming annual planting season, the **request must be made between May-August for a fall planting event and between May-October for a Spring planting**. If the request is made outside of these months, respectively, then the private planting will need to take place on one of HW's already scheduled dates/times for the upcoming season. The event can be changed from hosting whatever group is listed to CLOSED for your private group.

Private planting events are generally sponsored through existing grant support, as are all of HW's program plantings, but HW is always glad to accept additional donations for a tree planting event.

Number of Volunteer Groups:

HW's large-scale native tree plantings and other activities related to HW's programming involve large numbers of plant species planted on specific dates and times so there is a need for a large number of volunteers to assist with the plantings.

For this reason, HW staff must be able to accommodate multiple volunteer groups for each scheduled planting event. By partnering volunteer groups together, we are able to plant trees in the thousands (seedlings) and encourage networking across groups.

For a private events, the requesting group needs to commit at least 35 volunteers for the requested scheduled date.

Houston Wilderness does not offer private plantings for groups smaller than 35 people. For groups of 35 or more, you may request a private event however, we do not guarantee availability.

Private planting events are sponsored through our grants and do not require a fee.

Volunteer Groups under 35 people:

For all volunteer groups under the private event minimum, you may join any one of our combined group efforts throughout the year. By partnering volunteer groups together, we are able to plant trees in the thousands (seedlings) and encourage networking across groups.

Brand/Promotional material at plantings/events:

All marketing and/or promoting of material related to an organization outside of HW must be pre approved by HW staff. The outside group must also become co-hosts of the event which entails bringing a minimum of 20 volunteers to the event and helping to setup/breakdown. There is no cost associated as events are generally sponsored through existing grant support, as are all of HW's program plantings, but HW is always glad to accept additional donations for a tree planting event.