

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**HOUSTON ZOO CELEBRATES CONSERVATION WITH
WASTE MANAGEMENT EARTH DAY FESTIVAL
Protect Our Planet, Protect Our Kids, Protect Our Future**

(HOUSTON) April 4, 2006 ... The Houston Zoo celebrates conservation with the third annual Waste Management Earth Day Festival, Friday and Saturday, April 21 and 22 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. each day. From the recycling art contest to a demonstration of solar energy, the Waste Management Earth Day Festival is the place to be to say "thank you" to Mother Earth as we protect our planet, protect our kids and protect our future.

The Waste Management Earth Day Festival features a wide variety of entertainment and educational activities focusing on conservation and the importance of local efforts to promote habitat preservation. In addition, Waste Management is providing 5,000 kid's fingerprint and ID kits to help ensure the safety of local children.

Enjoy games, music and special "Keeper Chats." Get creative with recycling crafts for kids and see how the zoo uses recycled items for animal enrichment. The Houston Zoo salutes Waste Management for its generous donation and three-year commitment making the zoo's Earth Day Festival the city's largest Earth Day celebration.

Kids 11 and under can do their part for the planet by simply recycling their aluminum cans, newspapers and old cell phones by bringing them to the zoo on April 21 and 22 to receive a free admission ticket. Funds earned by recycling paper products will go toward the Houston Zoo's Naturally Wild Conservation fund. On average, the Houston Zoo recycles approximately two tons of paper each month saving six cubic yards of landfill space monthly. Over the past two years, the zoo has recycled nearly 1,300 unwanted cell phones and dedicated the funds raised to Bat Conservation International, an Austin-based organization that protects bats and bat habitats worldwide.

The Waste Management Earth Day Festival also includes informational booths staffed by area conservation organizations, free Texas wildflower seeds (while supplies last) and entertainment for children and adults including the exciting drumming of Percussion One. Enjoy animals you can touch and visit with Cycler the Robot, the stars of Kid's WB 39 and the Chick-fil-A® "conservation" cow! For more details, visit us on the Web at www.houstonzoo.org, or call 713-533-6500.

Waste Management, Inc. is its industry's leading provider of comprehensive waste management and environmental services. Based in Houston, Waste Management services municipal, commercial, industrial and residential customers throughout the U.S. and Canada.

Founded in 1922, the Houston Zoo is an exciting live animal adventure that provides a unique educational and conservation resource serving 1.5 million guests annually. Set in a 55-acre lush tropical landscape, the zoo is home to more than 4,500 exotic animals representing more than 800 species. Operated by the not-for-profit Houston Zoo, Inc., the Houston Zoo is dedicated to the conservation of endangered species, the provision of engaging educational opportunities and the creation of stimulating exhibits that broaden the experiences of our guests and encourage their curiosity.

The Houston Zoo is located at 1513 North MacGregor. The zoo is open daily from March through September from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and from October through February from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Regular admission is \$8.50 for adults, \$5 for seniors, \$4 for children ages 2-11 and FREE for children under 2. Zoo memberships start at only \$50. For information on all the great benefits of becoming a Zoo member call 713-533-6713 or visit our Web site at www.houstonzoo.org. Ride METRORail to the Houston Zoo from the Fannin South Park and Ride lot. With frequent service, METRORail is a convenient answer to traffic congestion in the Texas Medical Center/Hermann Park/Museum District corridor. For METRORail information, visit www.ridemetro.org.

The Houston Zoo is accredited by the American Zoo and Aquarium Association (AZA). Look for the AZA logo whenever you visit a zoo or aquarium as your assurance that you are supporting a facility dedicated to providing excellent care for animals, a great experience for you, and a better future for all living things. With its more than 200 accredited members, AZA is a leader in global wildlife conservation, and your link to helping animals in their native habitats. For more information visit www.aza.org.

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