



**BIG THICKET
NATIONAL PRESERVE**



100 YEARS



Thank you for your commitment to help with the reforestation of longleaf pine in the Big Thicket National Preserve.

Come help us celebrate **TEN** years of service to the preserve and to the Southeast Texas community.

January 20, 2020

9:30 am— 3:30 pm

Big Thicket National Preserve

Sandy Creek Unit (see map)

There is very little parking at the planting site so please try to carpool if possible. **Volunteers must wear long pants and closed toe shoes, preferably mud, hiking or work boots.** Please bring a water bottle that can be refilled.

We will be providing water, snacks, and pizza lunch
(if you require a special meal please plan to provide your own food)

RSVP by January 13th

Erika Pelletier, epelletier@npca.org or 214-354-2904(cell)

Make sure to dress for the weather, this is a RAIN OR SHINE EVENT!

No one will be allowed to participate without a signed release for the National Park Service and NPCA. MINORS WILL NEED A SIGNED RELEASE FROM A PARENT/GUARDIAN TO PARTICIPATE AND MUST HAVE A PARENT/GUARDIAN ON SITE.



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Big Thicket National Preserve

6044 FM 420

Kountze, TX 77625



Dear Volunteer,

Thank you for participating in a volunteer service project at Big Thicket National Preserve! Enclosed you will find the forms and information for you or your group to participate in the planting project on Monday, January 20, 2020 starting at 9:30 am. We anticipate work continue until mid-afternoon, so please plan to stay after lunch.

We are excited to have you as volunteers on our Longleaf Pine Restoration project as a Volunteer-In-Park (VIP). Your support of Big Thicket National Preserve and the National Park Service (NPS) demonstrates an inspiring commitment to preserving the natural beauty of SETX. Your collective contributions meet the spirit of the NPS goal to “connect with and create the next generation of National Park Service visitors, supporters, and advocates.”

This project is a great example of a growing community and a committed to ensuring that everyone has a rewarding and educational experience in the preserve. In order to assure maximum safety and accountability, volunteers are required to complete some form(s) BEFORE you do any planting. **ALL** participants **MUST BE** accounted for on a Volunteer Agreement form before participating.

Completing the forms in advance and bringing them with you will make registration run more smoothly. **TURN ALL FORMS IN** to the registration table upon arrival. The volunteer agreement forms are included in this packet. Complete them using the following guidance:

1: ALL PARTICIPANTS (Individuals 18 yrs and older) - Complete a Volunteer Service Agreement (OF-301a).

- a) Complete blocks 1-12, 15-19, of the OF-301a.
- b) Sign & date in blocks 34 (page 2)
- b) The OF-301a is included as a separate attachment with this packet.

2: Parents MUST Sign Volunteer Service Agreement (OF 301a) for minors.

- a) ALL volunteers under the age of 18 **MUST HAVE** a completed Volunteer Service Agreement form signed by a parent or guardian.
- b) Complete blocks 1-12, 15-19, of the OF-301a.
- c) Complete blocks 26-32 of OF-301a.

3: If you are a FAMILY or ORGANIZED GROUP:

- a) Complete the Volunteer Service Agreement (OF 301a) for 1 person (“Mom” or “Dad”)
- b) LIST all other family/ organization members on OF 301b

4: Turn in ALL forms to Big Thicket National Preserve staff upon arrival at the Planting Site.

(Over)

Some things to keep in mind:

1. **What to Wear/Bring.** For all projects, we ask that the volunteers wear long pants, long sleeve shirts, and closed-toed shoes or boots. We also ask that groups come prepared for a day of work by bringing plenty of water, food, a hat and appropriate clothing.

2. **Parents/Chaperons.** Our Project Supervisor will be in charge of the project itself, but parents, group leaders and chaperons need to stay with and work alongside their children & group, and are responsible for discipline. Thanks!

4. **Equipment.** The park staff will provide leadership, tools and equipment for the projects as well as any safety equipment necessary. A short orientation and safety briefing is given prior to your group starting work.

5. **Cancellations.** Cancellations due to weather or other factors will be made 24-hours in advance whenever possible. Notification will be made via telephone, Facebook, website, and visitor center desk.

We're glad you have chosen to volunteer at Big Thicket National Preserve! Our resurging Volunteers-In-Parks program plays a vital role in the preservation and protection of this park, greatly enhancing what park staff can accomplish. You and your group will make a big difference!

Thank you in advance for your contribution. We look forward to working with you!

Sincerely,

Jason A. Ginder
Chief of Interpretation & Education
Big Thicket National Preserve
6102 FM 420 Rd.
Kountze, TX 77625
Phone: 409-951-6700

Attachments:

Volunteer Service Agreement (OF-301a)
Volunteer Group Sign-Up Form (OF-301b)

Welcome to the Longleaf Pine Restoration Project

We hope you are excited about your upcoming trip to Big Thicket National Preserve. On this trip you will work side-by-side with park rangers and foresters to help restore a healthy longleaf pine forest. We will be planting pine seedlings in a special area of the preserve.

Please come dressed in clothing that can get dirty.

We will be outside all day!

What to wear!

- Boots or old sneakers
- Long pants/shirts (*no shorts or skirts*)
- A jacket
- A hat & gloves - if it's cold

What you need to participate!

- An "OF301a" form with blocks 1-12, 15-19, and signature. (Blocks #26 through #32 must be completed in addition to blocks 1-12, and 15-19 by participants under the age of 18 with a parent/guardian signature.)
- Give this completed and signed form to your ranger at the Registration tent on-site.



We Appreciate Your Support!

Website: www.nps.gov/bith

Facebook: [@bigthicketnps](https://www.facebook.com/bigthicketnps)

Instagram: [#bigthicketnps](https://www.instagram.com/bigthicketnps)

Parking & Driving Directions

MLK Jr. Day of Service Site – Big Sandy Creek Unit

This year's planting event is located at the Big Sandy Unit, out by Dallardsville. When traveling to the site, you can follow the directions given in this packet of information or follow the event signs. If you are planning on using your GPS to be directed where to go, make sure you put in 30.641708, -94.660194. The closest town is Dallardsville, Texas.

Step-by-Step Directions

From Beaumont & Other Points South

Travel NORTH on 287/69	(Go approximately 5.5 miles north of Kountze)
Turn LEFT onto FM 1003	(Continue Approx. 1.8 miles)
Turn RIGHT onto FM 943	(Continue approx. 18.5 miles)
Turn RIGHT onto FM 1276	(Continue approx. 6 miles)
Turn LEFT into forested parking area	(Dirt Surface)
A park ranger will assist you in parking	

From Woodville & Other Points North

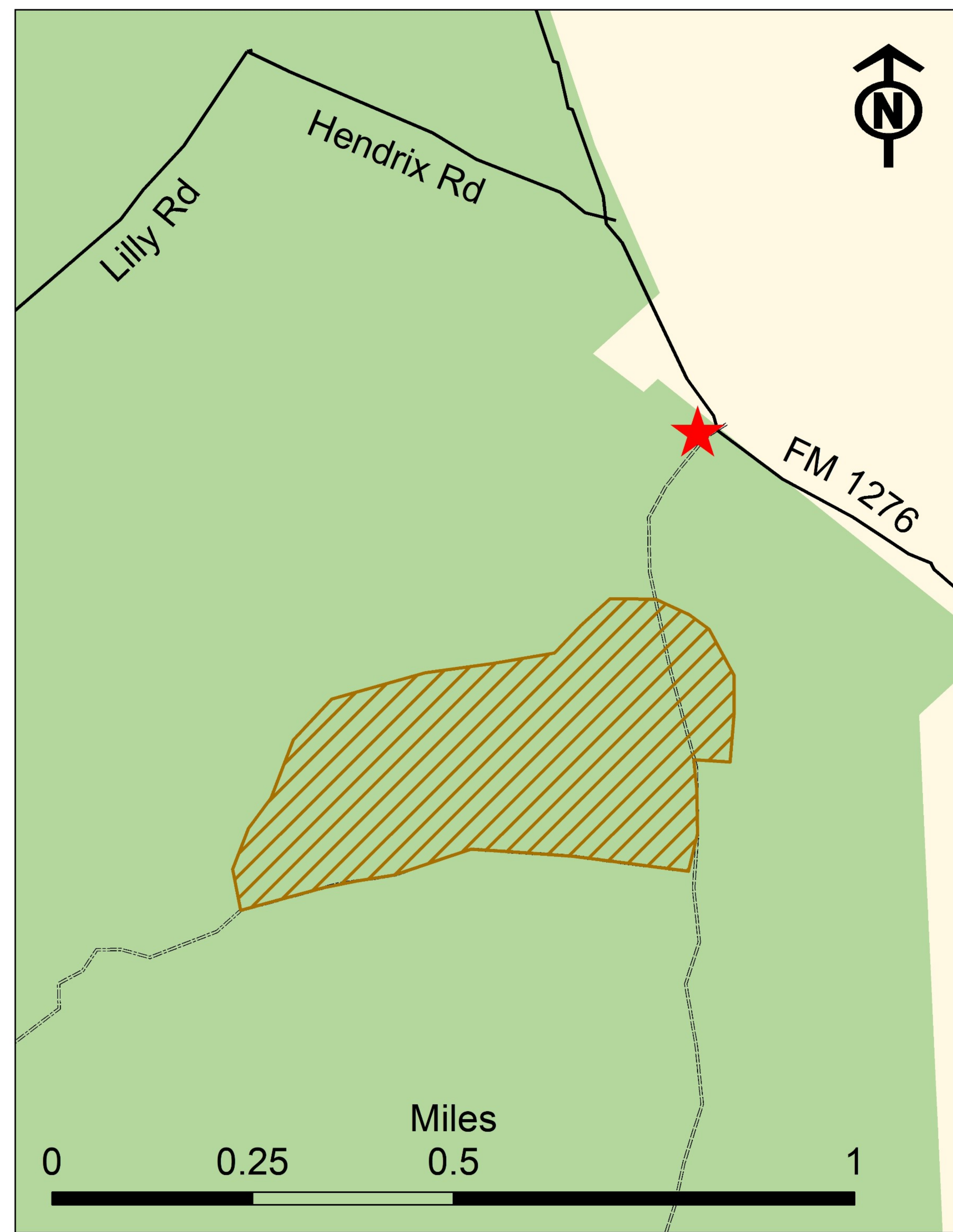
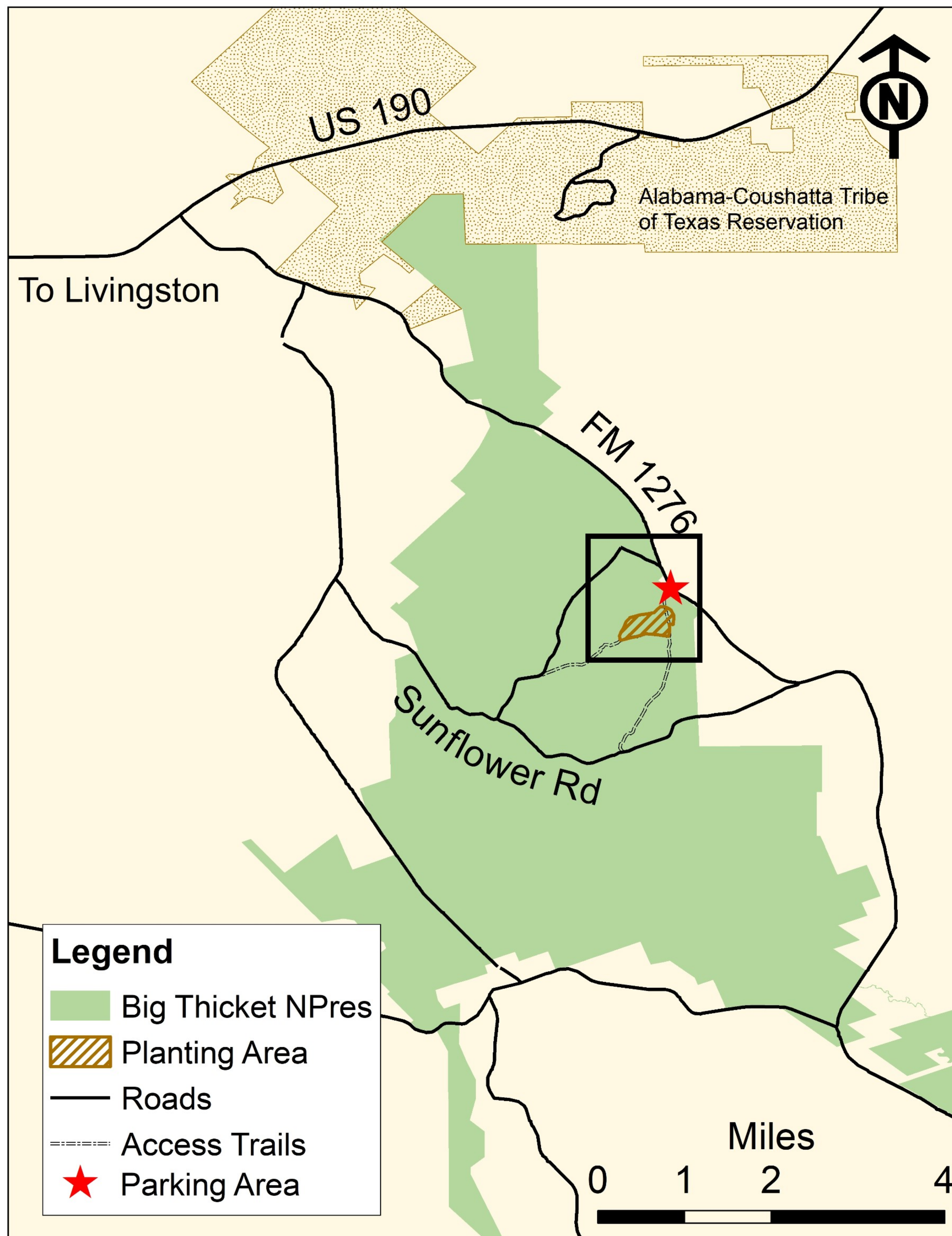
Travel WEST on 190	
Turn RIGHT onto FM 1276	(Continue approx. 6 miles)
Turn RIGHT into forested parking area	(Dirt Surface)
A park ranger will assist you in parking	

Parking

There is limited parking available on-site. We highly encourage everyone to carpool.

Warning: Road surfaces close to the planting site are uneven in places and mostly dirt. They MAY be soft, muddy, or slippery in wet conditions. Plan for self-recovery. The National Park Service cannot provide equipment to help remove a stuck vehicle. Rangers will have contact information for the nearest tow company.

Buses & Small Cars: Look for a ranger to help guide you into special parking zones.





Waiver of NPCA Liability

I, _____ (“Participant”), acknowledge that I am voluntarily participating in the following recreational, educational or public service activities organized by National Parks Conservation Association at:

_____ Big Thicket National Preserve _____ [Identify location].

_____ 2020 Longleaf Pine Planting _____ [Description of activities]

I acknowledge that this activity carries with it risks of injury to body and property, including, but not limited to, risks caused by the nature of the activity, my carelessness or the carelessness of others, water conditions or terrain, facilities or equipment, temperature, weather conditions, my condition or the condition of others, vehicular traffic, and actions or omissions of other people including, but not limited to, National Parks Conservation Association staff or volunteers and/or suppliers or producers of the activity.

I AM VOLUNTARILY PARTICIPATING IN THESE ACTIVITIES WITH KNOWLEDGE OF THE RISKS INVOLVED AND HEREBY AGREE TO ASSUME ALL OF THE RISKS OF BODILY INJURY, DEATH OR PROPERTY DAMAGE, WHETHER THOSE RISKS ARE KNOWN OR UNKNOWN.

As consideration for being permitted to participate in these activities, and for myself, my executors, administrators, heirs, next of kin, guardians, successors, and assigns, I take these actions:

- (A) I FOREVER WAIVE, RELEASE, AND DISCHARGE National Parks Conservation Association and/or its directors, officers, employees, volunteers, representatives, agents, and activity providers or suppliers from any and all liability for claims, suits, demands, expenses and damages arising from my participation in these activities, including my traveling to and from this event, or otherwise arising from the negligent acts or omissions of any such persons in connection with these activities, including claims, suits, demands, expenses or damages for my death, disability, personal injury, property damage, property theft, or any other type of harm. This waiver and release does not waive or release intentional or wantonly reckless acts or omissions.
- (B) I PROMISE NOT TO SUE the entities or persons mentioned above for any liability, claim, suit, demand, expense or damage released hereby.
- (C) I INDEMNIFY AND HOLD HARMLESS each person or entity released hereby for any liability, claim, suit, demand, expense or damage arising from my acts or omissions in connection with these activities.

I agree that if any portion of this release and waiver is held invalid, the balance of it shall nevertheless continue in full legal force and effect.

Photo and Video Release

I hereby give permission to the National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA), its employees and agents and anyone else designated by NPCA to use (including without limitation to reproduce, distribute, display and perform) and to adapt video footage and photographs containing my image, voice, likeness, name and/or statements for any purpose, in any and all manner and media (including without limitation print, video, television, radio and electronic media) and in all forms throughout the world, whether now known or hereafter existing. I grant this right in perpetuity on a nonexclusive basis. I have not granted to anyone else rights inconsistent with the rights that I grant to NPCA in this Release.

I hereby release NPCA, its agents, officers, directors, employees and assigns from and against any and all demands, liabilities, claims, costs and expenses which I have or may have arising in connection with the use of my image, voice, likeness and/or name, including but not limited to claims for invasion of privacy, defamation, or any other cause of action.

The rights I am granting are granted for good and valuable consideration, receipt of which is hereby acknowledged.

This permission constitutes the entire understanding between NPCA and myself with respect to the subjects discussed in this Release, and may not be amended except by a writing signed by both NPCA and myself.

If signed by Parent or Guardian: I verify that the risks of the activities and the significance of this Release and Waiver were explained to the Parent or Guardian and that the Parent or Guardian understood them.

Error! Unknown document property name.

VOLUNTEER SERVICE AGREEMENT—NATURAL & CULTURAL RESOURCES

1. <input type="checkbox"/> INDIVIDUAL		2. <input type="checkbox"/> GROUP	
3. NAME OF AGENCY: DOI- NPS – Big Thicket National Preserve		4. AGREEMENT #	
5. NAME OF VOLUNTEER (First, Last)		6. U.S. CITIZEN OR PERMANENT RESIDENT <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No, list visa type _____	
7. NAME OF GROUP MLK Jr. Day of Service – Jan. 2020 Longleaf Pine Restoration		8. NAME OF GROUP CONTACT (First, Last)	
9. STREET ADDRESS		10. CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE	
11. EMAIL ADDRESS	12. PHONE Home: Mobile:	13. AGE <input type="checkbox"/> Under 15 <input type="checkbox"/> 15 - 18 <input type="checkbox"/> 19 - 25 <input type="checkbox"/> 26 - 35 <input type="checkbox"/> 36 - 54 <input type="checkbox"/> 55 and Older	
14. ETHNICITY & RACE (Optional): Please report both ethnicity and race and tell us if you are a veteran or have a disability. Multiracial respondents may select two or more races. This information will inform our understanding of diversity and inclusion among the volunteer force in the natural and cultural resource areas.			
14a. Ethnicity (Select one): <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic or Latino <input type="checkbox"/> Not Hispanic or Latino	14b. Race (Select one or more, regardless of ethnicity): <input type="checkbox"/> American Indian or Alaskan Native <input type="checkbox"/> Asian <input type="checkbox"/> Black or African American <input type="checkbox"/> White <input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander		14c. Are you a Veteran? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No 14d. Do you have disability? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION			
15. NAME (Last, First)	16. PHONE Home: Mobile:	17. EMAIL ADDRESS	
18. STREET ADDRESS	19. CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE		
GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL COMPLETES THIS SECTION			
20. AGENCY CONTACT NAME (Last, First) Herbert Young, Chief of Resource Management Jason Ginder, Chief of Interpretation & Education Megan Urban, Volunteer Program Manager		21. AGENCY CONTACT EMAIL & PHONE herbert_young_jr@nps.gov 409-951-6821 jason_ginder@nps.gov 409-951-6721 megan_urban@nos.gov 409-951-6725	
22. REIMBURSEMENTS APPROVED: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Type and Rate of Reimbursement:		23. VOLUNTEER POSITION/GROUP PROJECT TITLE: Longleaf Pine Planter	
24. Description of service to be performed. Provide a brief abstract of volunteer or service activity and the location of the volunteer activity, and attach description of service to be performed. Service description should include details such as time and schedule commitment, use of government vehicle, use of personal equipment and/or vehicle, skills required (note certifications if necessary), level of physical activity required, etc. If this is a group agreement, the leader is to provide the group name and attach a complete list of group participants or optional form 301b for each volunteer. VOLUNTEER/SERVICE ACTIVITY ABSTRACT <p>Work Activity Description. Volunteers will engage in tree planting activities as part of the MLK Day of Service and reforestation effort in the Big Sandy Creek Unit of Big Thicket National Preserve. Working in small groups, volunteers will carry dibble bars, planting bags and seedlings, while traveling across uneven terrain, off-trail into a natural unmaintained environment. You will plant tree seedlings into the ground, following the techniques demonstrated during the tree planting training session. Light lifting, some bending and walking on uneven surfaces are required.</p> <p>Safety/Protective Gear. This volunteer work may be physically demanding for some people. Your personal safety is our #1 priority. For your protection, everyone should properly prepare for the environment & daily weather. Wear suitable layered clothing for the unpredictable weather conditions cold, rain, sun). Closed toed shoes and long pants are highly encouraged. It is recommended that you bring gloves. If lightening is observed or thunder heard, all work will cease and all volunteers should calmly but immediately seek shelter. Volunteers should take advantage of the water that is provided, ensuring that they stay hydrated. If any item is or appears to be too heavy, you are not required to handle it. .</p> <p>Medical. All injuries, no matter how minor must be reported immediately to the on-site park personnel. The on-site NPS staff will coordinate the appropriate medical response and any necessary documentation.</p>			
25. Check all that apply: <input type="checkbox"/> Description of service attached <input type="checkbox"/> List of group participants/optional form 301b attached <input type="checkbox"/> Job Hazard Analysis <input type="checkbox"/> Valid Driver's License Verified (if required)			

PARENTAL CONSENT FOR VOLUNTEER UNDER AGE 18

26. PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN (First, Last)	27. PHONE Home: Mobile:	28. EMAIL ADDRESS
29. STREET ADDRESS	30. CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE	

31. I affirm that I am the parent/guardian of the above named volunteer. I understand that the agency volunteer program does not provide compensation, except as otherwise provided by law; and that the service will not confer on the volunteer the status of a Federal employee. I have read the attached description of the service that the volunteer will perform. I give my permission for _____ to participate in the specified volunteer activity.
(NAME OF YOUTH)

32. Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

VOLUNTEER & GROUP LEADER AFFIRMATION

33. I understand that I will not receive any compensation for the above service and that volunteers are NOT considered Federal employees for any purpose other than tort claims and injury compensation. I understand that volunteer service is not creditable for leave accrual or any other employee benefits. I also understand that either the government or I may cancel this agreement at any time by notifying the other party. I understand that my volunteer position may require a reference check, background investigation, and/or a criminal history inquiry in order for me to perform my duties. I understand that all publications, films, slides, videos, artistic or similar endeavors, resulting from my volunteer services as specifically stated in the attached job description, will become the property of the United States, and as such, will be in the public domain and not subject to copyright laws. I understand the health and physical condition requirements for doing the work as described in the job description and at the project location, and certify that the statements I have checked below are true:

- ☐ I know of no medical condition or physical limitation that may adversely affect my or members of the group ability to provide this service.
- ☐ I have a medical condition or physical limitation that may adversely affect my ability to provide this service and have informed the Government Representative.
- ☐ I do not consent to being photographed or to the release of my photographic image.

I do hereby volunteer my services as described above, to assist in authorized activities at Big Thicket National Preserve and I agree to follow all applicable safety guidelines.

34. Signature of Volunteer or Group Leader

Date

The above-named agency agrees, while this arrangement is in effect, to provide such materials, equipment, and facilities that are available and needed to perform the service described above, and to consider you as a Federal employee only for the purposes of tort claims, liability and injury compensation to the extent not covered by your volunteer group, if any.

35. Signature of Government Representative

Date

TERMINATION OF AGREEMENT

36. Agreement Terminated Date:
Tuesday, January 21, 2020

Total Hours Completed:

37. Signature of Government Representative:

PUBLIC BURDEN STATEMENT

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 0596-0080. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 15 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. USDA, DOI, DOC and DOD prohibit discrimination in all programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.

PRIVACY ACT STATEMENT

Collection and use is covered by Privacy Act System of Records OPM/GOVT-1 and USDA/OP-1, and is consistent with the provisions of 5 USC 552a (Privacy Act of 1974), which authorizes acceptance of the information requested on this form. The data will be used to maintain official records of volunteers of the USDA and USDI for the purposes of tort claims and injury compensation. Furnishing this data is voluntary, however if this form is incomplete, enrollment in the program cannot proceed.