NEWS RELEASE

Galveston Island Tree Conservancy Receives $50,000 Grant from McGovern Foundation

Galveston Island Texas, December 30, 2011 -- The Galveston Island Tree Conservancy (GITC) recently received a $50,000 from the John P. McGovern Foundation. The funds will help to replant Broadway.

The grant was announced by Katherine G. McGovern on December 23. “We are extremely grateful to Mrs. McGovern and her colleagues at the Foundation,” said GITC President Jackie Cole. “This is the second major donation we’ve received from the Foundation.”

The funds will be used as part of a larger effort to replant the esplanades and right-of-way areas along nearly 60 blocks of Galveston’s most important thoroughfare.

The first replanting of Broadway took place in 2009 with a grant from Apache Corporation when two test blocks were established on either side of the Rosenberg Monument. In 2011, an additional five blocks were planted between 20th and 15th Street with funds from the Kempner family and the McGovern Foundation.

The McGovern Foundation’s 2011 grant is particularly timely as the Conservancy and the City of Galveston recently received a detailed replanting plan from the consulting firm of AECOM Technical Services. The plan meets the historical, infrastructural and horticultural requirements required by TxDOT, the Texas Historical Foundation and other entities with jurisdiction over Broadway.

Broadway is not only a state highway it is also registered as a place of historical interest by the U.S. Department of the Interior, Cole notes. In addition, it serves a major conduit for a variety of public and private utilities, including water, power and communications. “The plan will make it possible to restore Broadway without major disruption to our citizens,” she says

The Tree Conservancy, founded in 2009, works closely with the City of Galveston and a variety of local non-profits to restore the island’s forest canopy. Galveston lost an estimated 40,000 trees as a result of salt water flooding from Hurricane Ike. Since then, the all-volunteer organization has spearheaded a variety of popular tree-planting initiatives in association with
local neighborhood associations, businesses, foundations and civic groups. Thus far, it has helped plant over 8,000 trees, including scores of large oaks on city streets and parks.

GITC’s five-year plan calls for the planting of 25,000 trees by the end of 2014. The organization was honored earlier this year by the National Arbor Day Association for its collaborative work with the Texas Forest Service.

For more information about GITC and its 2012 planting priorities, please visit www.galvestonislandtreeconservancy.org