

# Parks Relocate Eight Large Oak Trees

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Eight large pin oaks, 25 to 30 feet high, were recently moved from Henderson Park to Cofer Park. The trees were located in an area of Henderson Park where youth soccer fields are being developed.

The DeKalb County Recreation, Parks and Cultural Affairs Department (RPCA) hired Native Tree of Atlanta to move the trees. Native Tree used a 90-inch tree spade to transport the trees and counseled RPCA how to prepare the trees for the move to increase the rate of

survival. RPCA's parks maintenance crew used a smaller in-house tree spade to move three Dogwood trees from Henderson to Cofer, also.

"It's wonderful that we've been able to save these beautiful trees and RPCA recognizes that there are alternatives to cutting them and losing them forever," said RPCA Project Coordinator Sherry Wheat.

The cost to relocate the trees was approximately \$2,800 compared to the cost of replacing the pin oaks which cost \$600 to \$800

each. RPCA plans to relocate more trees in other parks being developed through the Parks For People bond project.

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# Blazing A Trail

## American-Saudi Oil Company Helping Deliver 'Outdoor Experience' To DeKalb

Star Enterprise, a joint venture partnership owned by Texaco and Saudi Refining Inc., will lend leadership and manpower to build trails in Henderson Park near Tucker.

It's part of what is described as a new trail-building effort between DeKalb businesses/community groups and the county's Recreation, Parks and Cultural Affairs Dept.

"This is a perfect example of 'Think Globally, Act Locally,'" said Peggy Lehmberg, organizer of the department's trails program.

"Corporations and other community groups can make a personal investment in local parks by helping us build trails for passive recreation," she said.

Star Enterprise's coordinator, John Lancaster, said, "This program allows our company the opportunity to give something back to the community."

"Our employees are excited about adopting the Henderson Park trails and are looking forward to maintaining them for everyone's enjoyment. We chose Henderson Park because of its exceptionally beautiful land."

The park "contains wildlife, wild flowers, water, wetlands, beaver ruins, pine groves, hardwoods - everything to enrich one's outdoor experience," he said.

Star Enterprise employess will begin work this fall on the five-to-six mile trail, he said.

relate to the needs of the community and to help the citizens develop a personal ownership in their parks," said Jim Cone, department director.

"Working together to build trails allows us to meet this goal."

It's not really such a new concept, said Mr. Cone, pointing to the long-time operation of DeKalb all-volunteer athletic associations which work to maintain and improve athletic fields.

"The pople can make these trails their own as the youth associations have done with the athletic fields," commented Ms. Lehmberg.

She says that department land-

scape architects are identifying and marking trees, flora and greenery and are consulting with state experts to protect wetlands and preserve wildlife.

County government is looking for business and citizen groups to head up People For Parks Committees in DeKalb.

Already, besides Star Enterprises in Henderson, the Tucker Boy Scouts has Kelley C. Cofer Park as a project, and Shallowford Presbyterian Church Youth Group has targeted McDaniel/Heritage Park.

Information on the trail-builders program can be obtained by calling Ms. Lehmberg at 493-1334.

**PARKS OFFICIALS** said they first encountered the public's desire for trails while developing master plans for park development that was being funded by a 1987, \$33 million bond project.

They found that citizens wanted "everything from long nature trails for running and walking to short circular trails with park benches."

The bond money did allow DeKalb County to construct a "tremendous park infrastructure for active recreation," said a spokesman.

But, although trails were included in many park master plans under the bond-financed improvements, they weren't completed because work was too labor-intensive and costly, said the county spokesman.

So, the call now goes out for public assistance.

**"OUR GOAL** is to organize People For Park Committees for all of our parks to help (the department)