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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Balboa Park Celebrates Arbor Day**

### ***Friends of Balboa Park Plant Trees along Park Boulevard***

On Tuesday, March 11, Friends of Balboa Park celebrated Arbor Day by planting trees along Park Boulevard and Zoo Drive. Forty children from School in the Park helped Friend's volunteers dig wells around the trees which had been donated by the Friends. Over 21 California Sycamores, Western Cottonwoods, and Coastal Redwoods were planted. Noted Park Horticulturist Crystal Ritchie: "The tree varieties will bring a new element of life to the area: shade for pedestrians and park visitors in the peak of summer, and fall color to add much needed seasonal interest here in San Diego."

Park Ranger Kim Duclo was on hand to illuminate the history of Arbor Day in Balboa Park going back to 1905 when Kate Sessions and hundreds of school children planted thousands of trees. Deputy Chief of Community Services Elmer Heap encouraged the children to come back in the future with their children and grand children to take pride in the legacy they would be leaving behind.

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### **PHOTOS AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST**

The Friends of Balboa Park (FOBP) preserve Balboa Park's Legacy for future generations through park-wide projects. For more information about [the Arbor Day Project](#) or the Friends of Balboa Park, contact the FOBP office at 619.232.2282 or e-mail: info@friendsofbalboapark.org