



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Martin Luther King, Jr.
National Historic Site
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National Park Service News Release

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Atlanta Youth, City Officials Celebrate 17th Annual National Public Lands Day at MLK Jr. Historic Site

Event will join more than 2,000 volunteer projects nationwide this Saturday

ATLANTA– Young volunteers, joined by members of Atlanta’s city council, officials from the National Park Service, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and representatives of civic organizations, will host a volunteer event on Saturday, September 25, 2010, as part of National Public Lands Day.

Volunteers weeding, planting and improving the Martin Luther King Jr. Historical Site will join more than 170,000 Americans taking part in the 17th Annual National Public Lands Day (NPLD), the nation’s largest outdoor volunteer event for public lands. A project of the National Environmental Education Foundation, NPLD features volunteer events at more than 2,000 locations in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and U.S. territories.

Volunteers at the King Historic Site, which is a unit of the National Park Service, will tackle a number of projects, including helping to restore historic houses near the King Birth Home, as well as weeding, mulching and planting around the site.

“We are excited to host a second National Public Lands Day event and welcome community volunteers and others to Martin Luther King Jr. National Historic Site. Accomplishing these projects is significant and will positively benefit the site in many ways.” said Judy Forte, superintendent of the site. “Their contributions of time, energy, and resources parallel the extraordinary work of Dr. King, whose life was defined by unselfish service to others.”

“This is the second year hosting a special NPLD event at the Martin Luther King Jr. Historical Site. The enthusiasm among our young volunteers, officials at the King Historic Site, and the City of Atlanta has made this into an annual tradition,” said Robb Hampton, director of the National Public Lands Day program. “The volunteers’ efforts will help preserve this critically important site for generations to come.”

Among the volunteers will be volunteers from the Greening Youth Foundation, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, neighbors and others. Ceremonies will feature Judy Forte, Superintendent, Martin Luther King Jr. National Historic Site, Stan Meiburg, EPA Deputy Regional Administrator for the Southeast, Atlanta City Councilmember Kwanza Hall (District 2), Faye Hammonds of the Boy Scouts of America, a representative from the Greening Youth Foundation and others.

“EPA is honored to be a part of this youth-led volunteer initiative dedicated to preserving our environment and public lands.” Meiburg said. “Shared stewardship of treasured resources like the MLK, Jr. Historic Site enables us to showcase the tremendous results that can be obtained through goodwill, cooperation, and the active support of citizens, business and community leaders, and state and federal officials.”

"This is an important site not only for the district and the community, but for the entire country," said Councilmember Kwanza Hall. "National Public Lands Day is a chance for us to preserve Dr. King's legacy – and with it, a vital part of our country's history – through service to the neighborhood that raised him."

NPLD marks more than an outdoor volunteer event. It supports the goals of the America's Great Outdoors and Let's Move Outside initiatives, both of which aim to reconnect Americans with the outdoors and encourage physical activity to improve health.

It annually draws tens of thousands of volunteers whose one-day efforts will equate to more than \$15 million in improvements to America's public lands. It is sponsored nationally by Toyota Motor Sales USA Inc. and is held in partnership with eight federal agencies, state and local park offices and hundreds of local volunteer organizations.

To learn more about National Public Lands Day, visit <http://publiclandsday.org/>. To learn about NPLD activities at 36 sites in Georgia, [click here](#).

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