FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
OCTOBER 30, 2026
Contact: Irma Chapa, Director of Communications/ C: 956-995-2815/ E: ichapa@mcallen.net

Hundreds of Athletes are Prepping to Get Active and Go Green

15th Annual Arbor Day Celebration and Inaugural Triathlon Challenge are set!

Looking for something fun to do on the morning of Saturday, Nov. 7, 2026? The City of McAllen Parks and Recreation Department and Keep McAllen Beautiful (KMB) invite you to come out and support athleticism and the environment!

Located at 1921 N. Bicentennial Blvd., the McAllen Municipal Park and McAllen Municipal Pool will serve as the host setting for a morning of fitness, family and environmental stewardship. The community is invited to be part of the first-ever McAllen Triathlon Challenge alongside the 15th Annual Arbor Day Celebration, with activities for athletes and families alike.

Beginning at 7 a.m., 300 athletes will take on a 250-meter swim, a 20-kilometer cycling course and a 5-kilometer run. The top three male and female finishers will receive cash prizes and a Champion Tri Top. And every athlete will receive a commemorative finisher medal.

Once across the finish line, the excitement continues at Athlete Village, where participants and athletic organizations connect with fellow competitors while enjoying music and games.

As the triathlon gets underway, the community can join the free Arbor Day festivities beginning at 8 a.m. at the McAllen Municipal Park, with more than 1,000 people expected to attend. Families can enjoy free tree adoptions, local vendors, educational booths, food and music. Children ages 12 and younger will partake in a Kids Fun Run at 9 a.m., followed by the popular Trashion Show at 10 a.m., featuring original fashion designs made with at least 75% recycled, repurposed or reusable materials. Registration is open through Nov. 2.

“We’re excited to bring residents together through fitness, family and environmental stewardship as we continue building a healthier and greener community where today’s residents can flourish and future generations can thrive,” said Mayor Javier Villalobos.

“I am proud to lead a city where residents understand that the future of their community is something they help create,” said City Manager Isaac J. Tawil. “Every time someone chooses to live a healthier life, takes steps to protect our environment or shows up to make a difference, they are helping shape the kind of city we will become. The McAllen Triathlon Challenge and Arbor Day Celebration may focus on different aspects of our community, but both remind us that progress begins with people who care enough to take action. We are creating a legacy of health, responsibility and community pride for generations to carry forward.”

-MORE-

Whether you're ready to put your endurance to the test or looking to learn more about caring for our environment, there's something for everyone to experience and enjoy on Nov. 7.

For registration and event details, visit McAllenMarathon.com for the McAllen Triathlon Challenge and KeepMcAllenBeautiful.org for the Arbor Day Celebration.

###

About the City of McAllen
Founded in 1904 and incorporated in 1911, the City of McAllen has grown from a small agricultural community into one of the most vibrant and fastest-growing cities along the U.S.–Mexico border. Known as the "City of Palms," McAllen serves as a hub for international trade, retail, tourism, and culture in the Rio Grande Valley. Today, the city employs more than 2,600 dedicated public servants across 41 departments, delivering essential services to a community of more than 150,000 residents. McAllen city leaders remain committed to transparent governance, fiscal responsibility, and enhancing quality of life through innovation, infrastructure, and community engagement. For more information, visit www.mcallen.net and follow us on social media @cityofmcallen