

## Executive Summary

The Urban and Community Forestry (U&CF) Program addresses the stewardship needs of urban natural resources where 80 percent of the Nation lives. Because important connections exist between the quality of life in metropolitan areas and land consumption associated with sprawl, there is a strong economic and environmental case for conservation and management of green space to guide growth and revitalize city centers and older suburbs. The U&CF Program responds to these needs for more than 70 million acres of America's urban and community forest resources.

Administered through the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service regional offices and the Northeastern Area, the U&CF Program provides technical assistance and funding to State forestry agencies and other partners to maintain, restore, and improve the health of urban trees, forests, greenspaces, and sustainable forest ecosystems. This document includes program overview reports of accomplishments by these organizations, as well as specific reports of

how State forestry agencies and other partners leveraged funds to achieve program goals and objectives.

Through these efforts, the program encourages and promotes the creation of healthier, more livable urban environments across the Nation. In administering the program, the USDA Forest Service will continue to expand partnerships with many organizations to restore natural resources in older, declining cities and towns.

### U&CF Program Objectives:

- Provide technical and financial assistance
- Strengthen USDA Forest Service and State leadership in the care of urban and community forest resources
- Increase transfer of technical information
- Increase awareness and education about the importance of healthy urban forest resources
- Promote volunteerism and citizen participation
- Ensure urban greening efforts are biologically sound and sustainable

