

URBAN AND COMMUNITY FORESTRY

■ **Budget History:**

Year: 1990 1991 1992 1993 1994 1995 1996 1997 1998 1999 2000 2001
Amount(millions): **2.7 21.0 23.8 24.7 27.0 28.3 25.4 25.5 26.8 30.5 31.3 40.0 (proposed)**

■ **Key Points:**

- The U&CF program provides technical and financial assistance to plan, protect, establish, and manage trees, forests, and related resources in and adjacent to cities and towns to improve urban livability.
- The U&CF program involves a partnership between the Forest Service and State Forestry agencies and serves as an effective link with local governments and grass roots volunteer tree and natural resource related nonprofit organizations.
- The U&CF program is delivered through local offices of State Forestry Agencies in all 50 states and territories and provides technical support and grants to communities and nonprofit groups.
- The U&CF program supports USDA's Urban Resources Partnership Initiative in 13 major U.S. cities to support outreach efforts into underserved audiences and technical support for Brownfields efforts (Atlanta, Boston, Buffalo, Chicago, Denver, East St. Louis, New York, Las Vegas, Los Angeles, Philadelphia, Seattle, San Francisco, and South Florida).
- The U&CF program has established partnerships with national conservation and professional societies including the Society of Municipal Arborists, National Association of Local Government Environmental Professionals, Association of Landscape Architects, National Association of State Conservation Corps, National Association of State Foresters, The National Alliance for Community Trees, American Forests/Global ReLeaf, National Arbor Day Foundation, National Association of Conservation Districts, ICMA, International Society of Arboriculture, The National Tree Trust and many others.
- In FY 1999, the U&CF program provided direct assistance to **10,663** communities. States reported that **3,801** communities now have sustainable urban forestry programs (700 more than reported in FY 1997). Over **1,450,000** training hours were delivered to local governments and grassroots organizations, and over **1,000,000** hours of volunteer assistance were generated; for every federal program dollar allocated, **\$2.40** is leveraged in cash or in-kind services.

■ **Major U&CF Emphasis Areas:**

- Creating awareness and educating people on the importance of sustaining the natural environment in communities working with National Arbor Day Foundation's Tree City USA recognition program, American Forests Urban Forestry and Global ReLeaf programs, TreePeople with their T.R.E.E.S. Landscapes for Sustainable Living project, the Society of Municipal Arborists, National Association of Conservation Districts, the National Alliance For Community Trees and member affiliates in 35 major cities, and an educational partnership with the International Society of Arboriculture.
- Engaging citizens in active volunteer work to protect, establish, and care for trees, forests, and greenspace through American Forests Global ReLeaf program, the National Tree Trust community tree planting grants program, and a grassroots focus with the National Alliance for Community Trees.
- Employing state-of-the-art GIS technology to assist communities in conducting urban ecosystem assessments. Most recent were the Puget Sound/Seattle Metropolitan Area City Green Ecological and the Chesapeake Bay City Green Ecological Assessments which were featured recently in Time and US News and World Report magazines.
- Maintaining and improving water and air quality and mitigating stormwater flooding, air pollution, and urban heat island effects through conducting benefit/cost studies that lead to informed local public policy decision-making about natural resources. The most recent example was seed funding that led to the creation of the T.R.E.E.S. Watershed Control and Water Conservation Model in Los Angeles by Andy Lipkis the leader of TreePeople in LA.
- Insuring community greening efforts are technically and biologically sound and sustainable and address such issues as invasive plant, insect and animal species through technical support to local governments and citizens on how to properly protect, establish, and manage trees, forests, and associated vegetation in cities, towns, and governments. Current examples include the work with combating the Asian Longhorn Beetle in New York City and Chicago.

The *Livability/Lands Legacy* related work will be targeted toward expanded partnerships with non-governmental organizations on policy and project level work to manage, protect and restore trees, forests, and associated vegetation in communities experiencing rapid economic development and land use changes (urbanization) and in the restoration of natural resources in older, more mature cities and towns. Particular focus will be on engaging these non-governmental organizations in volunteer efforts and in gaining in-kind and financial support for community based activities.