

ACHIEVEMENTS REPORT

District of Columbia Initiative

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In response to the President's call for action in 1997, the USDA developed an aggressive plan to renew the nation's capital. The Plan of Action for the District of Columbia (DC) builds on successful existing programs and creates new ones through partnerships among community groups, local government and federal agencies. The Plan of Action consists of three initiatives and a pilot project: the Urban Environmental Resources Initiative, the Anti-Hunger and Nutrition Initiative, the Citizen Service and Volunteer Initiative, and the Education for Sustainability Pilot Project. These programs support natural resources management and community sustainability.

Accomplishments in 1998:

Dutch Elm Disease

The USDA Forest Service, the DC Department of Public Works - Trees and Landscape Division, and the National Park Service are cooperating to retard an outbreak of Dutch elm disease in DC. The disease is controlled by promptly removing dead and dying elms infested by the beetles which spread the disease.

Urban Nursery

The University of the District of Columbia partnered with the USDA, National Tree Trust, and others to create a model urban nursery at the University's Agricultural Experiment Station. The nursery will provide indoor and outdoor classrooms as well as growing space for a variety of groups. The University will continue growing vegetables and herbs for research and for donation to various shelters and food banks in DC.

"Make a Difference Day"

USDA agencies, the Points of Light Foundation, USA Weekend, Best Friends Foundation, DC Department of Recreation and Parks, Deputy Agriculture Secretary Richard Rominger, Retired General and Mrs. Colin Powell, and many other participated in a national day of community service, "Make-A-Difference Day." Volunteers, led by AmeriCorps youth, removed debris, planted shrubs and perennials, and repaired and painted benches.

Education for Sustainability Pilot Project

Representatives of USDA, the Smithsonian Institution, and the District Institution for Growth met with South African scientists to develop plans for 12