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**Washington D.C.'s 2006 Accomplishment Report**

**Introduction**

Within the Government of the District of Columbia, the Urban Forestry Administration (UFA) is the agency responsible for urban forestry matters. This includes planting, pruning, removing, and maintaining the District of Columbia's tree canopy. UFA is organizationally located within the District Department of Transportation (DDOT). Washington, DC is unusual among the Mid-Atlantic States because it is engaged exclusively in urban forestry, while other state forestry agencies deliver a range of programs from stewardship to fire management.

While UFA's primary function within DDOT is tree management, UFA has also extended its reach into serving other sectors of government and DC community. For example, during recent years, UFA has drafted a tree protection ordinance, provided consultation to the DC Office of Planning for zoning cases, acted as consultant to the DC Parks and Recreation Department regarding tree protection, and worked with its public/private partners on formulating a citizen forester training program. These efforts have enhanced UFA's effectiveness and improved its service provision.

**DDOT plants 8,000 trees this year**

DDOT planted 8,000 trees this year in an attempt to jump start citizen's interest in trees. UFA identified 8,000 planting location throughout the District that were viable planting locations. Using the momentum of the plantings, the UFA was able to put trees in the spotlight with local press coverage of the events.

**Arbor Day--- Multi-agency approach with non-profits**

This year UFA took a different approach to Arbor Day. The department chose a school in the District that had a host of environmental and landscape issues on its property (abandoned autos, illegally dump and tree maintenance needs). They worked with the Clean City Coordinator, Department of Public Works, Department of Transportation, US Forest Service, Casey Trees Endowment and DC Greenworks. The partners were able to clean up the school grounds, surrounding area and in doing so, developed a holistic approach to the process. The day was divided into six 20-minute outdoor classrooms for 300 4<sup>th</sup> - through 7<sup>th</sup> - graders. The classroom themes consisted included an equipment display, Woodsy Owl, safe routes to school, tree planting and environmental education. The day ended with 17 trees being planted.

### **Technology and Innovation assist Arborist**

This year UFA purchased 7 additional hand-held computer tablets for use in the field by our arborists. These tablets have been outfitted with ArcView from ESRI and City Works, a work management program, to be used in the field. UFA is now able to update the tree inventory on a daily basis, as well as track the work history related to that tree over its lifetime. All of this work can be displayed graphically on the tablets such as work orders, service requests, locations marked for planting, trees marked for removal etc. This will help guide the program in the future and allow trends to be identified for program development and expansion.