

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
between the
THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF
HOUSING & URBAN DEVELOPMENT

and the
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE

99-MOU-USDA/HUD-137

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is made and entered into by and between the United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service (hereinafter referred to as the "Forest Service"), and the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, after referred to as "HUD").

I. PURPOSE:

The purpose of this MOU is to provide a general framework for the Forest Service and HUD to achieve urban stewardship and enhancement objectives by working cooperatively in ways that enhance each mission area through shared leadership, leading-edge technical advice, and targeted financial assistance.

Both the Forest Service and HUD have mission areas that help revitalize urban areas to improve the livability of communities. Assistance from HUD is designed to empower communities and their residents so they can develop viable urban communities and provide decent housing and a suitable living environment. The Forest Service has complementary programs that aid in providing a healthy living environment. The Urban and Community Forestry Program of the Forest Service specifically targets assistance to towns, cities, and communities to help manage and protect their green infrastructure and related natural resources.

The mission areas of the Forest Service and HUD can be enhanced, through partnering, to achieve better customer service and on the ground accomplishments.

II. STATEMENT OF MUTUAL BENEFITS AND INTERESTS:

The Forest Service:

The Forest Service has a broad mission that is characterized by the slogan, "Caring for the Land and Serving People." Through its State and Private Forestry division, the Forest Service builds on long-standing Federal and State forestry partnerships and legislative authorities using voluntary, non-regulatory approaches. One of the most important mission areas of State and Private Forestry is urban and community forestry. The Urban and Community Forestry Program promotes a collaborative approach to quantifying, protecting and restoring natural resources in the urban environment.

Urban forest stewardship includes the interaction of people and community with plants, animals, water, soil, and the climate - the urban ecosystem. Many themes must interact to fully address the green infrastructure needs of the urban ecosystem. The following are specific themes for establishing a comprehensive and effective urban forest stewardship program:

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|---|--|
| - Natural resources and information management | - Economic development and diversification |
| - Improving environmental health | - Environmental justice |
| - Partnerships and intergovernmental coordination | - Volunteerism |
| - Conservation education | |

The goal is to integrate these themes and link social, economic, and ecological resources to create an enhanced quality of life for our diverse population.

HUD:

HUD is responsible for providing housing assistance and community development. The mission of HUD is to empower communities and their residents, particularly the poor and disadvantaged, so that they can develop viable urban communities and provide decent housing and a suitable living environment for all citizens, without discrimination, in order to improve themselves, both as individuals and as a community, to succeed in today's time of transition.

This mission is achieved through a series of strategic objectives that include:

- Empower communities to meet local needs.
- Help communities and States establish a full continuum of housing and services designed to assist homeless individuals and families in achieving permanent housing and self-sufficiency.
- Increase availability of affordable housing in standard condition to families and individuals, particularly the Nation's poor and disadvantaged.
- Reduce the isolation of low-income groups within a community or geographical area.
- Provide empowerment and self-sufficiency opportunities to support low-income individuals and families as they make the transition from dependency to work.
- Increase homeownership opportunities, especially in Central Cities, through a variety of tools, such as expanding access to mortgage credit.
- Promote equal housing opportunities for those protected by law.

III. THE GOAL:

The goal of this MOU is to develop a working partnership between the Forest Service and HUD to help revitalize urban areas in selected towns, cities, and communities to improve the livability of the communities in these urban areas.

In consideration of the above premises, the parties agree as follows:

IV. THE FOREST SERVICE SHALL:

1. Provide a wide range of clients with leading-edge technical assistance in urban forest stewardship including, but not limited to:
 - Tree planting and plant materials, including their care and maintenance
 - Open space and Landscape design, review, and management
 - Conservation education
 - Information management and analysis
 - Short and long-term natural resources planning
2. Provide targeted financial assistance to help achieve mutual objectives within existing authorities. This will include, but not be limited to, selected towns, cities, and communities in which the Forest Service and HUD have a mutual interest and which can serve as pilot projects.
3. Work with HUD Hope 6 staff to develop language to insert into NOFA that will help applicants describe how the proposed projects will enhance urban natural resources including tree planting, care and maintenance to improve the quality of life in revitalized neighborhoods.
4. Provide for a wide range of coordinating mechanisms, including existing partnerships, to achieve mutual objectives.

5. Assign one representative to be the primary contact and liaison with HUD to help meet the goals and objectives of this MOU.

V. HUD SHALL:

1. Provide leading-edge technical assistance in the area of community development and livability enhancement, including, but not limited to:
 - Social health
 - Improved economic growth
 - Community revitalization
 - Short and long-term strategic planning
2. Provide targeted financial assistance to help achieve mutual objectives within existing authorities. This will include, but not be limited to, selected towns, cities, and communities in which the Forest Service and HUD have a mutual interest and which can serve as pilot projects.
3. Work with FS Urban and Community Forestry staff to develop language to insert into NOFA that will help applicants describe how the proposed projects will enhance urban natural resources including tree planting, care and maintenance to improve the quality of life in revitalized neighborhoods.
4. Provide for a wide range of coordinating mechanisms to achieve mutual objectives.
5. Assign one representative to be the primary contact and liaison with the USDA to help meet the goals and objectives of this MOU.

VI. IT IS MUTUALLY AGREED AND UNDERSTOOD BY AND BETWEEN THE SAID PARTIES THAT:

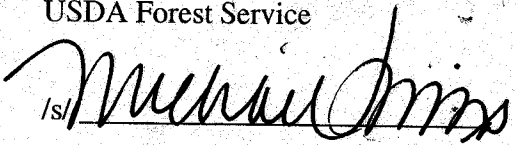
1. An annual program of work will be developed and approved by the appropriate leadership as determined by the said parties. Included in the annual program of work will be agreed to resources and activities for selected projects and other work efforts. Any funds that are granted to agreed projects and other work efforts would use existing authorities. Any projects or other work efforts involving reimbursement or contribution of funds between the parties to this instrument will be handled in accordance with applicable laws, regulations, and procedures and outlined in separate agreements.
2. Assistance, as agreed to in Sections IV and V, will be provided for mutually agreed to projects and other work efforts outlined in the annual program of work. Examples of these projects and other work efforts could include:
 - Natural resources planning
 - Tree planting and plant materials, including their care and maintenance, in selected communities within existing empowerment zones.
 - Joint training and information presentations.
 - Working with key partners to advance programs of mutual benefit.
 - Developing "urban nurseries" for greening blighted areas.
 - Creating local citizen advocacy and ownership for green infrastructure.
 - Open space protection and restoration.
3. An annual accomplishment report will be developed and distributed.
4. Any press releases which reference this MOU or the relationship established between the parties of this MOU should have prior approval of both parties.

5. Meetings will be scheduled periodically to discuss and identify opportunities for mutually beneficial projects and activities that meet the intent of this MOU.
6. The partnership will be evaluated annually and adjustments made, as needed.
7. This MOU does not restrict the Forest Service and HUD from participating in similar activities with other public or private agencies, organizations, or individuals.
8. Modifications within the scope of this instrument shall be made by the issuance of a bilaterally executed modification prior to any changes being performed.
9. Either of the parties, in writing, may terminate this instrument in whole, or in part, at any time before the date of expiration.
10. This instrument is executed as of the last date shown below and expires on September 30, 2004, at which time it will be subject to review, renewal, or expiration.
11. The principal contacts for this instrument are:

USDA Forest Service	US Department of Housing and Urban Development
Susan Mockenhaupt	Roma Campanile
National Coordinator Urban & Community Forestry	Architect of Office of Public Housing Investments
201 14 th Street SW	45 17th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20250	Washington, DC 20410
(202) 205-1331	(202) 708-0614, x 4880

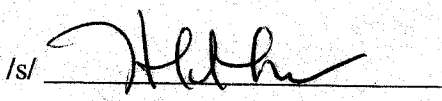
IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have executed this MOU as of the last written date below.

Michael T. Rains
Deputy Chief for State & Private
USDA Forest Service

/s/ 

1/24/07
Date

Harold Lucas
Assistant Secretary for Public and Indian Housing
United States Department of Housing and Urban Development

/s/ 

1/16/07
Date