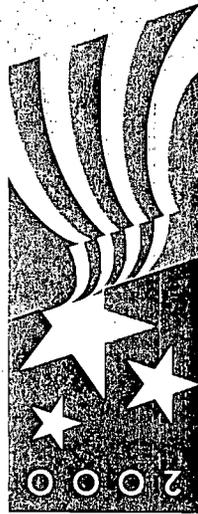


White House Millennium Council
Invitation to Dedication of Hillary Rodham
Clinton Tree - Dec 15, 1999 (2 copies)

WHITE HOUSE MILLENNIUM COUNCIL



MILLENNIUM GREEN
Honor the Past – Imagine the Future



USDA Celebrating the Millennium



THE WHITE HOUSE MILLENNIUM COUNCIL

cordially invites you to join

FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON

THE HONORABLE DAN GLICKMAN

Secretary of Agriculture

on

Wednesday, December 15, 1999 at 2:30 pm
The North Lawn of the Jamie L. Whitten Building
United States Department of Agriculture

FOR THE DEDICATION OF THE HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON TREE

and

The official launch of *Millennium Green*, a national White House Millennium Council project, to foster the establishment and care of trees, gardens, and open spaces in cities and communities nationwide in the Year 2000 and beyond.

Millennium Green will serve as a means for highlighting the many worthy environmental endeavors by citizens across America now and during the emerging years of the new Millennium to create healthier and more livable communities.

The following government agencies and nonprofit organizations, along with corporate support, are working in partnership to support *Millennium Green*.

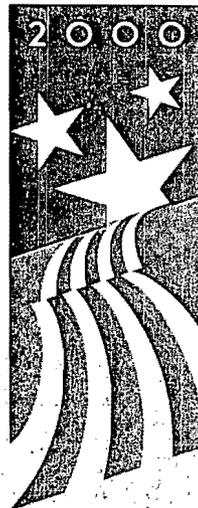
U.S. Department of Agriculture	U.S. Department of Energy
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	U.S. Department of Justice
The America The Beautiful Fund	American Forests
International Society of Arboriculture	Tree Musketeers
National Arbor Day Foundation	National Tree Trust
Society of American Foresters	National Alliance for Community Trees
Treetures	National Association of State Foresters
American Trust Foundation	Plants Express, Corp., Gail Levy
National Gardening Association	American Community Gardening Association

PRESENT AT DOOR

USDA Celebrating the Millennium



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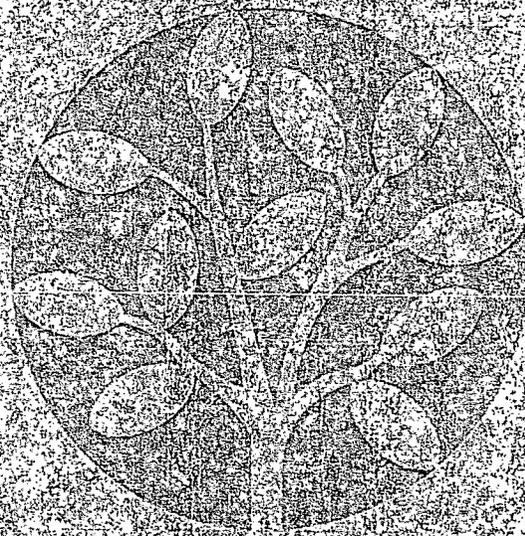
MILLENNIUM GREEN
Honor the Past — Imagine the Future

United States Department of Agriculture in cooperation with:

- White House Millennium Council
- Department of Energy
- Environmental Protection Agency
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USDA UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE

WHAT IS MILLENNIUM GREEN?

Millennium Green will encourage, promote, and recognize the creation of healthier, more livable community environments for the new Millennium. Millennium Green activities include planting and adopting trees and forests, planting and tending gardens, and protecting and adopting special natural resource wonders and treasures. Millennium Green will also serve as a means for highlighting the many worthy environmental endeavors across the Nation now and during the emerging years of the new Millennium.

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WHY MILLENNIUM GREEN?

Cities and communities are losing trees, forests, and green open spaces as never before due to rapid and often poorly planned development. Millennium Green celebrates environmental literacy and action at the local community and neighborhood level. We all need to understand and value the important contributions that trees, forests, and green spaces make to our daily lives. Working in our back yards and in our communities, we can each do our part to nurture and care for these precious resources.

Trees, forests, and green spaces filter polluted runoff, making our water safer and cleaner. Trees clean the air and return pure oxygen, helping us all to breathe easier. Trees pay our carbon debt by absorbing carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas, slowing global climate change. Trees, forests, and green spaces shelter and nourish wildlife—from bears to bald eagles, and salmon to salamanders. Trees and green space save us money, reducing the cost of controlling stormwater and naturally cooling overheated cities and homes in the summer.

Trees, forests, gardens, streams, wetlands, and green spaces contribute to our quality of life, build community spirit, and help heal people and communities. Every tree, grove, garden, or green space we plant and care for makes a difference. There is no better time than the new millennium to become involved and set the stewardship example for generations to come.

MILLENNIUM GREEN— A CALL TO ACTION

Millennium Green is a call to action for people across the Nation and across cultures:

- To volunteer and engage in "hands on" community-based stewardship through planting and tending trees, groves, and gardens, and
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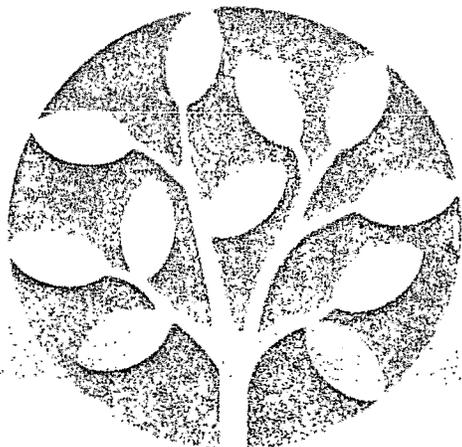
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- For every business or corporation to plant and/or adopt a tree or garden, or protect a natural resource wonder or treasure for the new millennium—on behalf of every employee or client—working through national, State, and local nonprofit tree planting, garden, and conservation groups.

HOW DO I GET INVOLVED?

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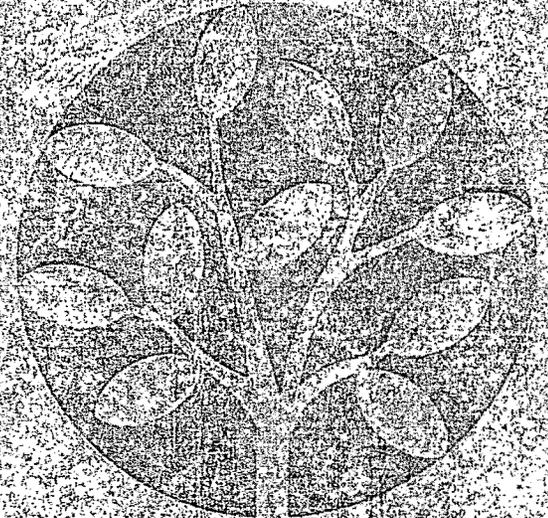
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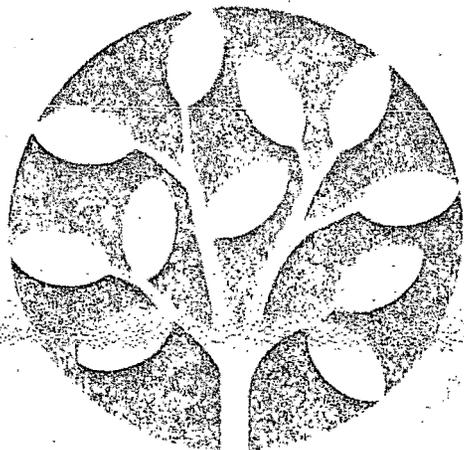
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Millenium Green

Our Planet - The Most Important Treasure
for us to Preserve (2 copies)



RESTORE OUR COUNTRY'S NATURAL BEAUTY!

Urban areas are expanding rapidly, often replacing agricultural land and forests. Decades of development have left many of our urban areas with less than 20 percent tree canopy where 40 to 50 percent canopies once existed. This loss of trees and forests adversely impacts streams and wetland buffer systems, water quality, storm water runoff, air quality, and a host of other factors that affect human health and sustainability.

TREES, FORESTS AND GREEN SPACES

- Filter polluted runoff, making our water safer and cleaner.
- Clean the air and return pure oxygen making it easier for us to breathe.
- Slow global climate change.
- Nurture wildlife—from bears to bald eagles, and salmon to salamanders—by providing critical habitats.
- Reduce the cost of controlling storm water and naturally cool overheated cities and homes in the summer.

TREES, FORESTS, GARDENS AND STREAMS

- Contribute to our quality of life.
- Build community spirit.
- Help heal people and communities.

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"Honor the Past—Imagine the Future."

—First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton

PLANT A GARDEN

THE ORIGIN OF THE MILLENNIUM GARDEN



Victory Gardens, one of the most remarkable illustrations of American patriotism, were a vital source of food production during and just after World War II. In a year's time, more than 20 million gardens were planted in support of the war effort, making a sizable contribution to America's food supply. To carry on that patriotic spirit into the next Millennium, Millennium Green encourages you to participate in this special effort.

Continue the tradition of making American gardens and make a Millennium Garden of your own. Any garden becomes a Millennium Garden when you:

- Share a portion of your vegetables with a central food kitchen or a community-based organization that feeds the hungry or share a portion with needy families in your area;
- Give a portion of your flowers and ornamental plants to hospitals, nursing homes, and shut-ins in your community;
- Practice sound conservation measures that preserve the soil and protect the environment; and
- Bring people together to learn more about how plants enhance communities.

GREEN KIDS



NOMINATE A TREE

IDENTIFY HERITAGE TREES AND GROVES!

Every community in America has special trees under which town fathers gathered to lay out plans for the community and trees that grow at historic places—birthplaces of America's historic figures, places where legendary events occurred. America the Beautiful Fund and American Forests are working together to identify and to recognize the important role that trees have played in our nation's history.

Nominating a tree for the register of Famous and Historic tree collection gives each community a wonderful opportunity to celebrate its American heritage and ensures that this heritage will continue for later generations.

Trees are candidates for nomination if...

- At or near the tree, an event occurred that affected the lives of the citizens of the day, nationally or regionally.
- The tree stands at the home of a person who played a role in national development or was recognized for writing, invention, life's work, or something else significant.
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- You can help at home by working with your family to plant a tree or cultivate a garden.
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- You can help in school by talking to your teacher about starting a school garden, planting a tree or adopting a tree.
- You can help by looking at the world and noticing what is growing around you.
- And most importantly, you can carry this spirit of service into the New Millennium.

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REGISTRATION

All individuals and groups organizing Millennium Green activities are invited to register their activity on the Millennium Green website (www.green.gov). Those who register their Millennium Green project will receive certificates from the White House Millennium Council in recognition of their support and service.

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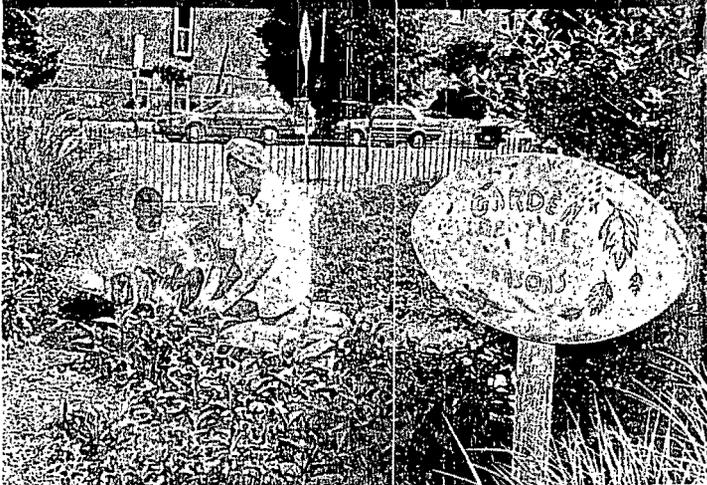


Honor the past and imagine a green future.

Thank you for your support!

GET INVOLVED

IMAGINE THE FUTURE



IMAGINE IF . . .

Every **person** planted a tree for the Millennium.
Every **business** planted one tree for each of its employees.
Every **garden** had one row of produce set aside for the hungry.
Every **child** understood how dependent the fate of our environment is on the care we give it.
Every **historic tree and garden** was recognized for the role it played in our nation's past.

COUNT ME IN!

Everyone can contribute. Millennium Green works on many different levels. Individuals, schools, youth organizations, businesses, civic organizations, foundations, and churches all have the potential to bring great things to the effort.

Whether a tree or garden be planted in a back yard, a street, a school yard, a community center, or a corporate office location, a valuable contribution has been made to the environment. Identifying a historic tree makes you and the community around you more appreciative of and connected with the past. And, millennium gardens—regardless of their location—grow flowers that add to the country's beauty and increase the overall food supply.

Don't Forget . . . You can also join with national tree planting, garden, and conservation groups and help with the projects they have already begun. Visit the Millennium Green website (www.green.gov) for links to many of our national partners.

"It's in our hands—
Let's make it happen.
We hold the seeds
Of a rebirth . . .
Just do whatever you can do.
A single seed inside your heart—
that's a start . . .
It's time to make ourselves
A heaven on earth."

*—excerpt from the song "Heaven on Earth"
written for the Millennium Green program
by Alan Monken and Glenn Slater*

The White House Millennium Council
c/o Millennium Green
United States Department of Agriculture
14th Street and Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20250

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www.green.gov

The White House Millennium Council and the U.S. Department of
Agriculture, in cooperation with:
U.S. Department of Energy
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
U.S. Department of Justice
U.S. Department of Education
U.S. Department of Transportation
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
U.S. Department of the Interior

HONOR THE PAST

MILLENNIUM GREEN



"Trees are much more than decorative ornaments. As a society, we must begin to see them as part of our national green infrastructure, as important to the health and prosperity of the nation as our roads, bridges and ports. And, I want to challenge every American to do their part to improve the nation's green infrastructure."

—Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman

MILLENNIUM GREEN . . . is a national campaign to turn every community Green. An initiative of the White House Millennium Council, Millennium Green is led by the Department of Agriculture in partnership with the Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Energy, the Department of Education, the Department of Transportation, the Department of Justice, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and the Department of the Interior. Millennium Green was established to encourage, promote, and recognize the creation of healthier, more livable community environments for the new Millennium. Together we will:

- Grow food and plant trees for our communities;
- Bring communities together; and
- Beautify our neighborhoods with green space.

GROW THE FUTURE

Our goal is to plant millions of trees, cultivate thousands of gardens, and recognize historic trees from America's past that continue to thrive into our future.

OUR PLANET—THE MOST IMPORTANT TREASURE FOR US TO PRESERVE

"Dr. King once said, 'If I were to die tomorrow, I would still plant a tree today.' Every time we plant a tree, we do it knowing we may never sit under its shade. Every time we plant a tree, we leave embedded in its roots the story of who we are as a people and as a nation—and who we want to be."

—Hillary Rodham Clinton



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To become an Official Millennium Green Partner you can also view and print out the "Partnership Application" off our website and submit it to the USDA Millennium Office or call (202) 720-2593 for more information!

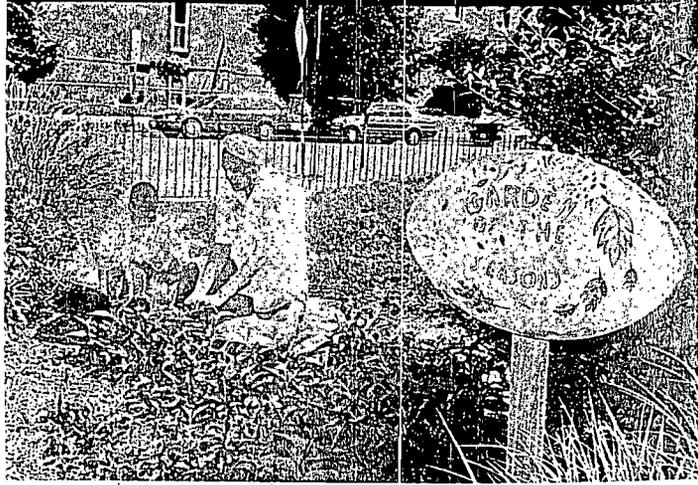


Honor the past and imagine a green future.

Thank You for your support!

GET INVOLVED

IMAGINE THE FUTURE



IMAGINE IF . . .

Every **person** planted a tree for the Millennium.
Every **business** planted one tree for each of its employees.
Every **garden** had one row of produce set aside for the hungry.
Every **child** understood how dependent the fate of our environment is on the care we give it.
Every **historic tree and garden** was recognized for the role it played in our nation's past.

COUNT ME IN!

Everyone can contribute. Millennium Green works on many different levels. Individuals, schools, youth organizations, businesses, civic organizations, foundations, and churches all have the potential to bring great things to the effort.

Whether a tree or garden be planted in a back yard, a street, a school yard, a community center, or a corporate office location, a valuable contribution has been made to the environment. Identifying a historic tree makes you and the community around you more appreciative of and connected with the past. And, millennium gardens—regardless of their location—grow flowers that add to the country's beauty and increase the overall food supply.

Don't Forget . . . You can also join with national tree planting, garden, and conservation groups and help with the projects they have already begun. Visit the Millennium Green website (www.green.gov) for links to many of our national partners.

"It's in our hands—
Let's make it happen.
We hold the seeds
Of a rebirth . . .
Just do whatever you can do.
A single seed inside your heart—
that's a start . . .
It's time to make ourselves
A heaven on earth."

*—excerpt from the song, "Heaven on Earth"
written for the Millennium Green program
by Alan Menken and Glenn Slater*

The White House Millennium Council
c/o Millennium Green
United States Department of Agriculture
14th Street and Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20250

(202) 720-2593
www.green.gov

The White House Millennium Council and the U.S. Department of Agriculture in cooperation with:
U.S. Department of Energy
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
U.S. Department of Justice
U.S. Department of Education
U.S. Department of Transportation
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
U.S. Department of the Interior

HONOR THE PAST

MILLENNIUM GREEN



"Trees are much more than decorative ornaments. As a society, we must begin to see them as part of our national green infrastructure, as important to the health and prosperity of the nation as our roads, bridges and ports. And, I want to challenge every American to do their part to improve the nation's green infrastructure."

—Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman

MILLENNIUM GREEN . . . is a national campaign to turn every community Green. An initiative of the White House Millennium Council, Millennium Green is led by the Department of Agriculture in partnership with the Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Energy, the Department of Education, the Department of Transportation, the Department of Justice, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and the Department of the Interior. Millennium Green was established to encourage, promote, and recognize the creation of healthier, more livable community environments for the new Millennium. Together we will.

- Grow food and plant trees for our communities;
- Bring communities together, and
- Beautify our neighborhoods with green space.

GROW THE FUTURE

Our goal is to plant millions of trees, cultivate thousands of gardens, and recognize historic trees from America's past that continue to thrive into our future.

OUR PLANET—THE MOST IMPORTANT TREASURE FOR US TO PRESERVE

"Dr. King once said, 'If I were to die tomorrow, I would still plant a tree today.' Every time we plant a tree, we do it knowing we may never sit under its shade. Every time we plant a tree, we leave embedded in its roots the story of who we are as a people and as a nation—and who we want to be."

—Hillary Rodham Clinton



MILLENNIUM GREEN



Many national organizations have technical resources on their web sites. Suggested key initial technical sources are *Tree Care Consumer Information* of the International Society of Arboriculture web site at www.isa-arbor.com/press/press.html, *The Simple Act of Planting a Tree* on the Treelink web site at www.treelink.org/simpleact/index.htm, *Backyard Conservation* on the NRCS web site at www.nhq.nrcs.usda.gov/CCS/Backyard.html, and *The Green Earth Guide* on The America The Beautiful web site at www.america-the-beautiful.org/home.html.

Access the Treetures and Tree Musketeers websites for information or youth involvement at www.treetures.com or www.treemusketeers.org.

Corporations can become involved by supporting *Millennium Green* projects at the national level, at the regional or State level, and right in their own communities. For more information on how a corporation or business can become involved in *Millennium Green*, please call 1-800-522-3557.

How Can I Make My *Millennium Green* Project Visible and How Can I Find Out What Others Are Doing Across The Country?

Access our *Millennium Green* website at www.millenniumgreen.usda.gov or call 202-720-2593 to find out how to register your *Millennium Green* project or activity. A special electronic registration form will allow you to list and describe your project. Projects will be screened and posted regularly on this national *Millennium Green* web site. Projects will be listed by State and searchable by category so that your project can be highlighted and you can see what others are doing in your State and across the country.

United States Department of Agriculture in cooperation with:

- White House Millennium Council
- Department of Energy
- Environmental Protection Agency
- Department of Justice

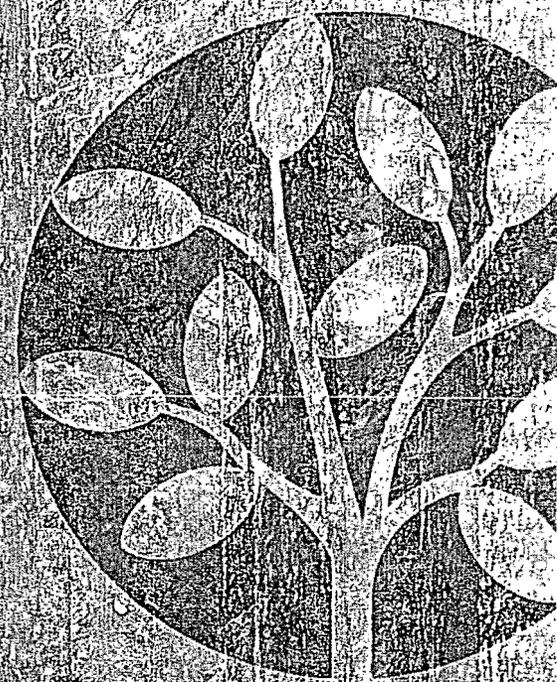
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To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326 W. Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

2000

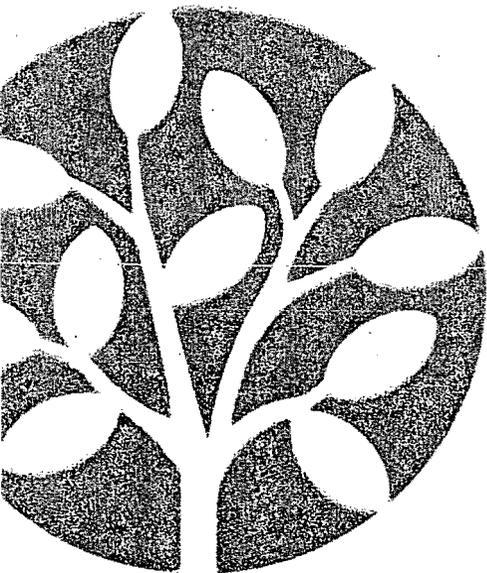
MILLENNIUM GREEN

Honor the Past — Imagine the Future



WHAT IS MILLENNIUM GREEN?

Millennium Green will encourage, promote, and recognize the creation of healthier, more livable community environments for the new millennium. Millennium Green activities include planting and adopting trees and shrubs, planting and tending gardens, and identifying and adopting special natural resource wonders and treasures. Millennium Green will also serve as a means for highlighting the many worthy environmental endeavors across the Nation now and during the emerging years of the new Millennium. Millennium Green is a national project of the White House Millennium Council led by the Department of Agriculture in partnership with the Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Energy, and Department of the Interior. Private organizations, companies, and individuals will participate in Millennium Green efforts across the Nation.



WHY MILLENNIUM GREEN?

Cities and communities are losing trees, forests, and green open spaces as never before due to rapid and often poorly planned development. Millennium Green celebrates environmental literacy and action at the local community and neighborhood level. We all need to understand and value the important contributions that trees, forests, and green spaces make to our daily lives. Working in our back yards and in our communities, we can each do our part to nurture and care for these precious resources.

Trees, forests, and green spaces filter polluted runoff, making our water safer and cleaner. Trees clean the air and return pure oxygen, helping us all to breathe easier. Trees pay our carbon debt by absorbing carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas, slowing global climate change. Trees, forests, and green spaces shelter and nourish wildlife—from bears to bald eagles, and salmon to salamanders. Trees and green space save us money, reducing the cost of controlling stormwater and naturally cooling overheated cities and homes in the summer.

Trees, forests, gardens, streams, wetlands, and green spaces contribute to our quality of life, build community spirit, and help heal people and communities. Every tree, grove, garden, or green space we plant and care for makes a difference. There is no better time than the new millennium to become involved and set the stewardship example for generations to come.

MILLENNIUM GREEN— A CALL TO ACTION

Millennium Green is a call to action for people across the Nation and across cultures:

- To volunteer and engage in "hands on" community-based stewardship through planting and tending trees, groves, and gardens, and
- To care for special natural resource wonders and treasures in cities, towns, backyards, schools, and neighborhoods. Special natural resource wonders and treasures include landmark or heritage trees, groves, wetlands, streams, wildlife habitat, etc.

MILLENNIUM GREEN GOALS:

- For every person to plant and/or adopt a tree or a garden for the new millennium.
- For every community to identify and protect a heritage tree, grove, or natural wonder or treasure of special significance for the new millennium.
- For every business or corporation to plant and/or adopt a tree or garden, or protect a natural resource wonder or treasure for the new millennium—on behalf of every employee or client—working through national, State, and local nonprofit tree planting, garden, and conservation groups.

HOW DO I GET INVOLVED?

Everyone can get involved in stewardship action for the new Millennium—schools, youth organizations, businesses, civic organizations, foundations, churches—whether it be a back yard, a street, a school yard, a community center, or a corporate office location. You can also join with national tree planting, gardening, and conservation groups and their stewardship action programs.

For information and technical advice on how to plan for and plant trees, plant gardens, or protect natural resource wonders and treasures, contact your local county Extension office, State Forester, or Natural Resources Conservation Service office.

TO: Patti Solis-Doyle, Director of First Lady Scheduling

THROUGH Thurgood Marshall, Jr., Assistant to the President and Cabinet Secretary
Kris Balderston, Deputy Assistant to the President and Deputy Cabinet Secretary

FROM: Clyde Williams, Deputy Chief of Staff, Department of Agriculture

REQUEST: First Lady to Join with Secretary Glickman for a Kickoff Ceremony for the Millennium Green Initiative by Dedicating and Planting a Millennium Tree on the Front Lawn of the Jamie L. Whitten Building.

PURPOSE:

To educate all Americans, young and old, on the importance of the environment by promoting a national tree planting and public awareness campaign. At this kickoff event Secretary Glickman plans to dedicate and rename a 100 year old White Oak in honor of the First Lady's leadership of the White House Millennium Initiative as well as her many other accomplishments.

BACKGROUND:

Millennium Green is a national initiative of the White House Millennium Council in partnership with the Department of Agriculture (USDA) to encourage, promote, and recognize the creation of healthier, more livable community environments for the year 2000 and beyond. Under the auspice of the Millennium Green Initiative, 40 million trees will be planted on public lands nationwide by the end of the year 2000. We will identify the 2,000 oldest trees in America as Millennium Trees and recognize the preservation efforts surrounding them. In addition, the Initiative plans to educate citizens on the value of natural resources conservation and our challenge to improve and protect the environment.

TIME & DATE: Proposed dates in October

DURATION: One Hour

LOCATION: Front Lawn of the Jamie L. Whitten Federal Building on the National Mall

**Talking Points for the First Lady
Millennium Green Kick-off Event
Tree Dedication at USDA on the Mall
December 15, 1999**

Opening:

- Tree dedication to the Millennium Green effort –
The 65 year old white oak the First Lady will dedicate is a companion to the white oak on the other side of the Whitten Building that is dedicated to Martin Luther King, Jr.
- Thank Secretary Glickman, other cabinet members and heads of independent agencies and children's choir
- General description of the First Lady's millennium celebration
- What is Millennium Green? Millennium Green is a national project of the White House Millennium Council in partnership with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Department of Energy, EPA, and the Department of Justice. This important endeavor encourages, promotes and recognizes the creation of healthier more livable community environments for the new millennium by planting and adopting trees, forests and gardens and protecting and adopting special natural resource wonders and treasures.
- Communities are losing trees, forests and green open spaces as never before due to rapid and often poorly planned development. Millennium Green celebrates environmental literacy and action at the community and neighborhood level. We all need to understand and value the important contributions that trees, forests and green opens spaces make to our daily lives.
- From California to New York, from Alaska to Hawaii – and all points in between – trees and gardens are among our nation's most valuable resources. America is home to more than 1,000 species of trees that survive in all types of climates and soils.

Garden and Tree Quotes:

****MLK, Jr.** - "If I were to die tomorrow, I would still plant a tree today."

****Thomas Jefferson** – "I never before knew the full value of trees. What I would not give that (they) were full grown."

****FDR** - "Forests are the lungs of our land, purifying the air and giving fresh strength to the people."

****Major General Patrick Brady (USA)** – "When all of the rest is forgotten, the tree will remain as a source of pleasure to so many."

****Willa Cather** – "I like trees because they seem more resigned to the way they have to live than other things do."

****Adrienne Rich** – "I cast my lot with those who year after year, with no special powers, choose to reconstitute the world."

****Jane Austen** - To sit in the shade on a fine day...is the most perfect refreshment."

****Anne Frank** – "I firmly believe that nature brings solace in all troubles."

- **James R. Clark – “Urban forests cannot be sustained by nature, but by people
- **John Muir – “The forests of America, however slighted by man, must have been a great delight to God, because they were the best he ever planted.”
- **Russell Page – “To plant trees is to give body and life to one’s dreams of a better world.”
- **Bryce Nelson – “People who will not sustain trees will soon live in a world which cannot sustain people.”
- **English Proverb – “He that plants a tree loves others besides himself.”

Body:

Why is it important to plant, protect, and preserve green spaces?

- Widespread tree and garden planting can offer substantial environmental benefits.
Trees and gardens:

Control erosion by absorbing storm water greatly reducing flooding and stream degradation – saving metropolitan areas alone over \$400 billion by eliminating the need for expensive storm water retention facilities,

Protect water supplies by acting as buffers which greatly reduces run-off,
Provide food - over \$90 million worth of food is grown by needy families to put food on their tables,

Absorb noise pollution,

Create habitats for fish and wildlife,

Clean the air by absorbing carbon dioxide and releasing oxygen. Trees mitigate global warming by absorbing carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gasses. Tree and plant leaves help clean pollutants from the air

- A single mature, properly watered tree with a crown of 30 feet can evapotranspire (the process by which a plant actively moves water and releases water vapor) up to 40 gallons of water a day, which is like removing all the heat produced in four hours by a small electric space heater - a single mature white oak tree removes 1.9 tons of carbon dioxide over its life span, an annual carbon sequestration of 86 lbs.
- Trees and gardens cut summer and winter energy costs dramatically - Carefully positioned trees can save up to 25% of a household’s energy consumption for heating and cooling. Computer models devised by the Department of Energy predict that the proper placement of only three trees will save an average household between \$100-\$250 in energy costs annually
- Trees protect homes from winter and summer sun – shading and evapotranspiration from trees can reduce surrounding air temperatures as much as 9 degrees F. A well-planned landscape can reduce an unshaded home’s summer air-conditioning costs by 15 to 50%. In the winter, trees can be used as wind

breaks to shield your home from chilling winds, yet still admit some winter sunshine to reduce heating and lighting costs.

- The National Academy of Sciences estimates that urban America has 100 million potential tree spaces. Filling these spaces with trees and lightening the color of dark, urban surfaces would result in annual energy savings of 50 billion-kilowatt hours – 25% of the 200 billion-kilowatt hours consumed every year by air conditioners in the United States. This would reduce electric power plant emissions of carbon dioxide by 35 million tons annually and saving \$3.5 billion each year.
- In rural areas, the Forest Legacy Program works with willing landowners to conserve forestland threatened by development through conservation easements.
- Community gardens grow more than food -- they help grow communities. In low-income neighborhoods throughout the nation, community gardens help build relationships, providing nutritious food, environmental improvements, and newfound community in areas where the social fabric has been shredded by violence, drugs or poverty.
- The creation of quality green spaces translates into quality neighborhoods. Littered vacant lots damage property values and scare away potential investors, costing communities much needed economic resources. Studies also show that community gardens can reduce violence and help kids stay out of trouble.
- Over 10,000 schools have started horticulture job training programs for unemployed or problem youth, Redwood High School in Menlo Park, California, landscapes their grounds with America the Beautiful Fund's free seeds.
- Over 300,000 handicapped people, prison inmates, and hospital patients gaining new life skills, as at the Association for Retarded Citizens in New Iberia, Louisiana, that grows produce to sell at a Farmer's Market with America The Beautiful Fund's free seeds.
- Gardening ranks as one of the top three most popular leisure activities of Americans along with swimming and walking for exercise. Two out of three U.S. households (67 million) participated in one or more types of do-it-yourself lawn and garden activities last year.
- 30 minutes of moderate exercise such as gardening lowers blood pressure and cholesterol levels and slows osteoporosis.
- Children reap tremendous harvests when teachers use gardens as living learning laboratories. Results of university and organizational research studies reveal significant student gains in:

achievement in reading, spelling, and written expression

self-confidence and self-esteem
environmental attitudes: appreciation, concern about human impact
attitudes toward and preferences for fruit and vegetable snacks
understanding of key life science concepts and skills
responsibility and cooperative behaviors

when gardens are used to enrich learning.

- Over 18,000 senior citizen food growing projects to improve nutrition for the elderly living on fixed incomes or in nursing homes, such as Hill House in Cleveland, Ohio whose residents use America the Beautiful Fund's free seeds to grow flowers and gain new pride in their accomplishments.

Trees and gardens serve as nature's medicine chest by providing medicines, pigments, and spices.

Heroes working for a greener America

Describe the projects that are being accomplished from large nationally significant projects to the small local efforts

- Students at Evergreen Middle School in Cottonwood, California, discovered that the school district was retiring an old bus, they partnered with AmeriCorps and with an Evergreen School District maintenance crew to turn the vehicle into a greenhouse. They presented the concept to their School Board and then received a *GreenWorks!* grant to purchase materials for the conversion.
- Trees Atlanta recognized that inadequate tree ordinances were contributing to a significant tree loss – in DeKalb County a 200-year-old “specimen” tree could be cut down and replaced with a 2” diameter sapling. The Urban Resources Partnership stepped in with a grant that allowed Trees Atlanta to collect data on tree ordinance around the country that are doing a better job of protecting their trees. This cooperative effort will leave a lasting legacy for Atlanta and contribute to making a more livable city.
- The Urban Resources Partnership in Boston is working with the Arnold Arboretum to create a model for incorporate a schoolyard arboretum and a yearlong curriculum to study trees. The site will located in an inner city school.
- Tree New Mexico, Inc. made possible a cultural exchange and Navajo Nation Arbor Day education project in New Mexico and Arizona. The project included comprehensive education and tree planting activities and helped bring additional awareness of the historical significance of trees through cultural exchange.
- The National Tree Trust's Growing Together program helped provide a park ranger in Trumbull, Connecticut, with supplies and funds to plant sugar maple

seeds involving nearly 500 students. Almost 80 percent of the seeds germinated and half of the resulting seedlings were planted in the town's park system.

- The National Tree Trust has helped The Greening of Detroit, a community non-profit, in their efforts to restore inner-city Detroit through reforestation and environmental Education. Since they started in 1989, The Greening of Detroit has planted over 24,000 trees and trained inner-city residents and over 800 schoolchildren to become environmental stewards through their TreeKeeper program
- Ball's Bluff Elementary School in Loudon County, Maryland earned a *GreenWorks!* Grant to develop an outdoor classroom for students in the school courtyard. Kindergarten through 5th grade multi-disabled students, 3rd-5th grade mentally retarded students and the 4th grade mainstream class worked together with a local landscape company to design and create the gardens. They dug, planted and developed various habitats for study. A local forester helped find native plants, butterfly bushes, and trees to put in the habitats. Through PLT activities, the students became more environmentally aware of their surroundings and the need to protect and replenish the world outside.
- The Oaklawn community of the Derby, Kansas School District turned an asphalt courtyard into a grove of flourishing trees and scrubs plus a garden. All for a school with many high risk students
- Volunteers of Keep Islip Clean on Long Island, New York planted over 70,000 tulip, daffodil and crocus bulbs from America the Beautiful Fund throughout 18 hamlets of Islip Township last December. They used crowbars and shovels to break through the frozen ground to put the bulbs in during the Christmas holidays. Their work covered 106 square miles that bloomed in all colors of the rainbow along highways, in parks and along main streets throughout Suffolk County. This week they are planting 45,000 more bulbs!
- Jack McCoy, Master Gardener, distributed 10,000 flower packets from America the Beautiful to start a Children's Memorial Gardens on their school grounds in memory of the families and children who were lost in the Oklahoma City bombing. Over 400,000 flowering bulbs were planted so that Oklahoma City can be in full bloom along three busy thoroughfares and the downtown area on the anniversary of that tragic event.
- West Side Community Garden in New York City volunteers organized a clean up campaign to remove tons of accumulated debris from a demolished, undeveloped urban renewal site in their neighborhood and turned it into a community garden. Now a precious urban oasis of flowers and vegetables has been created amidst one of the most densely developed areas in the world.

Types of work accomplished

- USDA Forest Service is a recognized leader in Urban and Community Forestry. Over the last ten years the program emphasis has changed from saving individual trees to the comprehensive management of urban natural resource systems. By that I mean the shifts in land use change, shifting demographics, inner city deterioration, and environmental degradation. Investment in solving these issues will improve the quality of life and natural resource systems in urban areas. In 1999 over \$30 million was delivered to local communities for technical assistance and grants through a federal program and a state program.
- Many organizations have a long history of working to build the green infrastructure in our country. These include:
 - American Forests is 125 years old
 - Society of American Foresters is 100 years old
 - International society of Arborists Research Trust is 25 years old
 - National Tree Trust is 10 years old
- American Forests has planted over 11 million trees to over 500 projects as part of their effort to plant the future for the new millennium. They will plant 3- 5 million trees next year alone so that by the end of 2001 American Forests will have reached their goal of 20 million trees planted. By planting a minimum of 3 million trees this next year American Forests will be planting:
 - 8,197 trees per day
 - 341 trees per hour
 - 5.7 trees per minute
- Through the combined support of the USDA Forest Service Research and TreePeople Los Angeles Unified School District is removing 20 million square feet of asphalt or 30% of the asphalt at the schools and replacing it with trees to shade, cool and protect children and classrooms. The program will protect children from over-exposure to dramatically increasing levels of ultra violet rays and the resulting increase in skin cancer. It will also save energy need to cool the schools reducing costs and air pollution.
- Over the past 23 years the National Arbor Day Foundation has expanded participation in their Tree City USA program to over 2,650 communities in every state. Tree City USA Program has reached a combined population of 93 million – more than 54% of the US population. Tree City USA helps communities increase and maintain the health of the urban forests.
- The more than 67,000 family forest owners – members of the American Forest Foundation's American Tree Farm System – are among the most committed stewards of forestland in the nation. Altogether they own 25 million acres of prime, productive forestland – all certified as meeting contemporary benchmarks

for sustainability. They come from all walks of life. Many have forestland that's been in their same family for over 100 years. But what connects each and every one of them is a commitment to leave their land to their children in better condition than when they got it.

Gifts to the Future

Imagine events that plant ideas for community spirit

What will it take to make this successful?

Stories for Millennium Green Events

12-2-99

Trees

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- Chester Thigpen, the grandson of slaves, owns an award-winning Tree Farm in Montrose, Mississippi. When he was a 7-year-old boy plowing his uncle's cotton field, Chester dreamed of some day owning his own portion of the Mississippi land he loves. In 1940, Chester and his wife Rosett bought their first 85 acres from his uncle and have steadily acquired and improved the surrounding acres. In 1960, Chester started reading and learning about forestry, and Chester was one of the first African-Americans to attend forest management workshops. After 60 years of hard work, ingenuity, and foresight, Chester transformed his land from cotton fields into a working, certified Tree Farm. This successful transition earned him the title of National Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year for 1995 from the American Forest Foundation. Now he hopes his and his wife's foresight

and determination that made their piece of land, and their lives, so productive will enable their children to carry on the tradition of growing trees.

- Then there's Chuck Leavell, a busy musician and keyboardist for the Rolling Stones, who gets his satisfaction planting trees near Macon, Georgia. His wife Rose Lane inherited property from her grandmother in 1981, and it didn't take them long to decide that growing trees made more sense for their busy touring lifestyle than growing row crops. Chuck started his "other career" by taking a correspondence course on forest management and doing his lessons in the back of a tour bus. Now this successful rock n' roll Tree Farmer spends all his down time tending trees that give shelter and rest from the bright lights and big cities. The Leavells invite numerous visitors to share their Tree Farm which serves as an outdoor classroom and hands-on learning experience for students of all levels. But more than that, Chuck is an international ambassador for trees and carries his message of forest sustainability around the world. He and Rose Lane bring trees to cities, too, working with groups like Trees Atlanta and the National Arbor Day Foundation.
- That's where programs that reach out to young people and encourage them to be a part of the Millennium Green effort are so important. Programs like Project Learning Tree. Sponsored nationally by the American Forest Foundation, PLT is an environmental education program for teachers and students in pre-kindergarten through 12th grade. PLT uses trees and the forest as a platform on which teachers increase students' understanding of our environment and their responsibility for it. Each year in the United States alone, some 30,000 educators attend PLT workshops and receive the PLT curriculum. An estimated 2 million students participate in PLT activities at least once a month. For Millennium Green, *GreenWorks!* will award mini-grants to a select group of PLT educators to fund community-based environmental action and education projects with their students. Ten top projects that help keep their local communities clean and green will be chosen to receive special Millennium Green recognition
- Students at Evergreen Middle School in Cottonwood, California, discovered that the school district was retiring an old bus, they partnered with AmeriCorps and with an Evergreen School District maintenance crew to turn the vehicle into a greenhouse. They presented the concept to their School Board and then received a *GreenWorks!* grant to purchase materials for the conversion.
- As one the of the fastest growing areas in the country it's imperative that Atlanta and surrounding areas preserve trees and rapidly diminishing open space. Atlanta has lost over 65% of its trees since 1972. Trees Atlanta recognized that inadequate tree ordinances were contributing to a significant tree loss – in DeKalb County a 200 year old "specimen" tree could be cut down and replaced with a 2" diameter sapling. The Urban Resources Partnership stepped in with a grant that allowed Trees Atlanta to collect data on tree ordinance around the country that are doing a better job of protecting their trees. This cooperative effort will leave a lasting legacy for Atlanta and contribute to making a more livable city.
- In Boston the Urban Resources Partnership is working with the Arnold Arboretum to create a model for incorporate a schoolyard arboretum and a yearlong curriculum to study trees. The site will located in an inner city school.
- An organization called Tree Musketeers, founded in 1987 by 8 year old Tara Church, used a National Tree Trust Partnership Enhancement Program (PEP) grant to meet a number of impressive project goals – the boldest of which is to have planted 1 million trees by 2000.
- Our program grant to Tree New Mexico, Inc. made possible a cultural exchange and Navajo Nation Arbor Day education project in New Mexico and Arizona. The project included comprehensive education and tree planting activities and helped bring additional awareness of the historical significance of trees through cultural exchange.
- The National Tree Trust's Growing Together program helped provide a park ranger in Trumbull, Connecticut, with supplies and funds to plant sugar maple seeds involving nearly 500 students. Almost 80 percent of the seeds germinated and half of the resulting seedlings were planted in the town's park system.

- The National Tree Trust has helped The Greening of Detroit, a community non-profit, in their efforts to restore inner-city Detroit through reforestation and environmental Education. Since they started in 1989, The Greening of Detroit has planted over 24,000 trees and trained inner-city residents and over 800 schoolchildren to become environmental stewards through their TreeKeeper program.
- Parks and People foundation in Baltimore, Maryland has received several CTP grants for a total of 2,600 seedlings. They containerized the seedlings and grew them out at local community gardens. When the trees are of a larger size, Parks and People are using them to green up the urban jungle of inner city Baltimore.

Gardens

- Ball's Bluff Elementary School in Loudon County, Maryland earned a *GreenWorks!* grant to develop an outdoor classroom for students in the school courtyard. Kindergarten through 5th grade multi-disabled students, 3rd-5th grade mentally retarded students, and the 4th grade mainstream class worked together with a local landscape company to design and create the gardens. They dug, planted and developed various habitats for study. A local forester helped find native plants, butterfly bushes, and trees to put in the habitats. Through PLT activities, the students became more environmentally aware of their surroundings and the need to protect and replenish the world outside.
- The Oaklawn community of the Derby, Kansas School District turned an asphalt courtyard into a grove of flourishing trees and scrubs plus a garden. All for a school with many high risk students
- Volunteers of Keep Islip Clean on Long Island, New York planted over 70,000 tulip, daffodil and crocus bulbs from America the Beautiful Fund throughout 18 hamlets of Islip Township last December. They used crowbars and shovels to break through the frozen ground to put the bulbs in during the Christmas holidays. Their work covered 106 square miles that bloomed in all colors of the rainbow along highways, in parks and along main streets throughout Suffolk County. This week they are planting 45,000 more bulbs!
- Jack McCoy, Master Gardener, distributed 10,000 flower packets from America the Beautiful to start a Children's Memorial Gardens on their school grounds in memory of the families and children who were lost in the Oklahoma City bombing. Over 400,000 flowering bulbs were planted so that Oklahoma City can be in full bloom along three busy thoroughfares and the downtown area on the anniversary of that tragic event.
- West Side Community Garden in New York City volunteers organized a clean up campaign to remove tons of accumulated debris from a demolished, undeveloped urban renewal site in their neighborhood and turned it into a community garden. Now a precious urban oasis of flowers and vegetables has been created amidst one of the most densely developed areas in the world.
- The Memphis Botanic Garden planted 6,000 daffodil bulbs from ABF with a diverse group of volunteers, from inmates of the prison who cleaned, tilled and planted the beds, to volunteers from the Hamilton neighborhood church who worked side by side with the prisoners, to the Hamilton community cemetery staff who loaned the tools, to the Memphis Botanic Garden's horticultural director, who literally showed the group by example how to break up the rocks, till the soil, add the dirt and plant the bulbs.
- Alexander M. Bartosik has used ABF free seeds for his five year program at the Waiawa Correctional Facility Tropical Farm in Hawaii. Alexander oversees 25 inmates as they care for the garden allowing them a chance to enjoy nature and learn responsibility as they grow their own food. He is developing an agricultural engineering plan to expand the garden from its current 13 acres to 100 acres by 2005.
- In Texas, the Laredo Regional Food Bank volunteers have grown over 200,000 pounds of food for the needy on an acre garden behind the Food Bank.

- The "Community Enterprise and Food Security Project" supports three Urban Agriculture/Community Food Security project sites, Sunnydale Community Youth Garden, St. Mary's Urban Youth Farm, and the Double Rock Community Garden in the Alice Griffith Public Housing development. In 1999, approximately 60 youth were involved in vegetable cropping, native habitat restoration, and development of landscape materials yard. Large yields of 19 different vegetables were distributed to the public housing residents. Crops for the revenue generating crops for "Urban Herbals" were also harvested for herbal vinegar products. A successful Youth Gardening Internship program had 7 youth maintaining garden crops, watering, weeding, and organically fertilizing over 40 varieties of vegetables and fruits.
- To fund the transition from a focused youth development program guided by sustainable practices on the land to a fully integrated youth-run food system involving participants both inside and outside the city, providing more jobs for teens and increases in production and fresh produce. Developed a thriving, open-air market in Roxbury. Market sales increased to \$9,360 in 1998, more than double the 1996 total, with as many as 210 customers per market day. Transportation for the elderly, neighborhood meetings, raffles, taste testings, and production and sale of Latino vegetables helped boost sales and develop the customer base. The market was supplied primarily by a 21-acre plot of land in Lincoln that produced over 59,000 pounds of vegetables in 1998. Reclaimed vacant land in Roxbury for food production, creating a sustainable model of a neighborhood.
- When Evergreen Middle School students in Cottonwood, California, discovered that the school district was retiring an old bus, they partnered with AmeriCorps and with an Evergreen School District maintenance crew to turn the vehicle into a greenhouse. They presented the concept to their School Board and then received a *GreenWorks!* Grant to purchase materials for the conversion.
- Ball's Bluff Elementary School in Loudon County, Maryland earned a *GreenWorks!* Grant to develop an outdoor classroom for students in the school courtyard. Kindergarten through 5th grad multi-disabled students, 3rd-5th grade mentally retarded students, and the 4th grade mainstream class worked together with a local landscape company to design and create the gardens. They dug, planted and developed various habitats for study. A local forester helped find native plants, butterfly bushes, and trees to put in the habitats. Through PLT activities, the students became more environmentally aware of their surroundings and the need to protect and replenish the world outside.

First Lady's Speech
Millennium Green Kick-off Event at USDA
December 15, 1999

Thank you all for this tremendous honor. [I look at this beautiful White Oak, which is more than 10 years older than I am, and I take great comfort in the fact that it is still standing strong.] There are so many trees around the country like this one, that are still telling our history, still making our air cleaner, our communities wealthier in resources and spirit. That's in large part because of all of you here today. I want to thank you for coming.

I want to thank Secretary Glickman, for his visionary leadership on behalf of our forests and farmlands, our environment and the quality of life of every American. I want to thank our Millennium Green private and public partners, including the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Justice, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Energy and its extraordinary Secretary, Bill Richardson. We are delighted to be joined by so many young people, and the special guests who teach us lifelong lessons about the environment - Woodsy Owl; Seymour Green; and the Treetures, Blossom and Sprig.

And we are also very fortunate to be joined by Mayor Williams, who is committed to turning D.C. back into the "city of trees," and turning the district's New Year's celebration into the block party of the Millennium.

And I wanted to make sure you know that everyone's families are invited to the National Mall from 9 p.m. to 1 - 00 a.m. for America's Millennium Gala. Picture this at the Lincoln Memorial: a concert produced by Quincy Jones and George Stevens and hosted by Will Smith. A film by Steven Spielberg that captures, with words and sounds the 20th century. And an unforgettable firework and light show that will dazzle us into 2000

We have already announced some of the stars who will take us on this musical journey through the century - including Tricia Yarwood, Jessye Norman, Robert Duval, Sam Waterson, Diane Keaton, and Ossie Davis. Now, I am pleased to announce that Rikki Lee Jones, Kathy Mattea, Bobbie McFerrin, Tom Jones, Kenny Rogers, and Brian Stokes Mitchell will also join us.

But, even long after this music has stopped and the decorations have come down, our Millennium activities will continue. When my husband and I created the White House Millennium Council, we wanted to do more than host a huge party.

We wanted to encourage all Americans to use this unique moment in time to honor the past and imagine the future. And that is what you are doing today.

As I have been privileged to travel around the country, I have met people who are helping to save America's Treasures - from Thomas Edison's laboratory to the ancient civilizations who

carved their hopes and dreams into the rocks at Mesa Verde. But, there is no more important treasure for us to preserve than our planet.

Because what good are the high-powered computers that connect us instantly, if gridlock stops us from driving through our own communities? What good are the toys we are flocking to buy for our kids this holiday season, if we cannot pass on to them the gifts of clean air and water, beautiful spaces and healthy trees.

Dr. King once said, "If I were to die tomorrow I would still plant a tree today." Every time we plant a tree, we do it knowing we may never sit under its shade. Every time we plant a tree, we leave embedded in its roots the story of who we are as a people and as a nation -and who we want to be.

We can see that story of America in the White Oak that overlooks the Anacostia River from Frederick Douglas' home. We see it in the Sycamore at Burnside Bridge, which was a silent witness to a Civil War battle. Whether we walk by Rock Creek Park or the National Arboretum, we not only see the past, we imagine the future. What kind of community can we build? What kind of country do we want to live in?

Many of us heard about the last Liberty Tree from the Revolutionary War, which was destroyed recently during the hurricane. And this was not an isolated incident. We see in these photos the trees our district has lost. And all over the country, trees, forests and green open spaces are disappearing right before our eyes. We can reverse this trend in the new century.



And that's why I am so pleased to kick-off Millennium Green, a national campaign to turn every community green. We want to cultivate one million Millennium gardens by the end of 2001. We want to plant more than 250 million trees in this country - one tree for every single American. And I'm pleased to announce that we are launching this campaign by giving Mayor Williams an additional 100 trees to adorn our nation's capital.

But, this goal will ultimately be fulfilled not by governments, but by citizens. We think of the Victory Gardens that people were challenged to create during World War II, so that they would have Fruits and vegetables to eat at home.

We think of the story of Johnny Appleseed, who roamed over 100,000 square miles lovingly planting his apple seeds. The six trees up here on stage are all descendants of the very last tree Johnny Appleseed was known to plant.

Now, it is our turn. We are calling on every business every school, and every citizen to give a gift to the future by planting a tree or cultivating a garden. We want to create a national

movement of people, young and old, who will help preserve our historic trees and groves - and plant seeds of hope for the future.

And, it's already started. The Los Angeles Unified School District is removing 20 million square feet of asphalt - nearly a third of the asphalt on school grounds - and replacing it with trees designed to shade, cool, and protect the children.

Eddie Bauer is donating \$5 million to help American Forests reach their goal of planting 20 million trees by 2001. With help from America the Beautiful, a Master Gardener named Jack McCoy, planted over 400,000 flowering bulbs in memory of the families and children who lost their lives in the Oklahoma City bombing. He wanted the city to be in full bloom on the anniversary of that tragic event.

And two young people, Tara Church and Melissa Poe have launched a "One in a million campaign." They were inspired by attending the President's Youth Summit in Philadelphia. And they made a commitment to enlist one million kids to contribute one million volunteer hours and plant one million trees by the Year 2000. A full year before their deadline, they have already planted a total of 800,000.

In just a few minutes, the Choir from Burney School will sing "Heaven on Earth," the theme song for Millennium Green. And, over and over, the children will sing the lines "It's in our hands-" "It's in our hands - Let's make it happen. We hold the seeds of a rebirth."

Imagine the rebirth we could usher in all over America if everyone carried these seeds in their own hands. Imagine if children and seniors came together to build gardens in every school - and put aside one row for the hungry. Imagine if all businesses planted one tree for every employee, and all citizens planted a tree or a garden in every community.

And imagine if we taught every child in America that the fate of our forests and trees and environment in the next century lies in only one place - their hands.

That is the goal of the Millennium Green campaign we are kicking off today. And that is the vision of the future that we must not only imagine - but create - together.

Thank you very much.

**REMARKS BY
SECRETARY DAN GLICKMAN
MILLENNIUM GREEN CELEBRATION/
DEDICATION OF TREE TO THE FIRST LADY
WASHINGTON, DC - DECEMBER 15, 1999**

Thank you, Mayor Williams. We miss you a great deal here at USDA, and even though you're now an important chief executive, we hope that you remember where you came from. Thank you to the Birch Elementary School Choir for their marvelous performance. And, of course, to our guest of honor, First Lady Hillary Clinton, for her leadership at the White House Millennium Council and her effort to make trees and community forestry a focal point of the Council's work.

It's my great pleasure to welcome all of you to the Department of Agriculture. We're here today not just to dedicate a single tree to an accomplished American...but also to celebrate the importance of all trees and community gardens to the social, economic and environmental life of the nation.

Such a celebration is desperately needed. Rapid growth and development, especially in urban areas, are overrunning our nation's tree cover at an unprecedented rate. The problem is especially acute here in Washington. Only 13 percent of the city currently enjoys high vegetation and tree canopy coverage, compared to over a third of the city in 1973. Mayor Williams is working tirelessly to reverse that trend, and we're committed to helping him.

Why is this so important? First, trees bring great environmental benefits. They keep pollutants out of our waterstream. They capture greenhouse gases and emit clean oxygen. And they act as natural coolants, thus reducing the need for air conditioning and increasing energy efficiency.

And, of course, with environmental benefits come economic benefits. Cooler air means lower energy bills for families. And cleaner water means healthier and more abundant fishing stocks, which represent an important industry in many of our coastal communities.

Trees and parks often increase real estate values; attract tourists and business investors; reduce crime; prevent flooding; and encourage outdoor activity and fitness. And by growing fresh, nutritious food, community gardens provide meals to local families suffering from hunger or food insecurity.

Here at USDA, we do more than talk the talk on trees and community forestry. Our Urban and Community Forestry program was active in over 10,000 communities in 1999, investing more than \$30 million in planning help, technical assistance, community-based grants and more. Our Backyard Conservation Campaign helps homeowners practice sound environmental stewardship in their lawns and gardens. And just last week in Iowa, USDA convened a National Summit on Private Lands Conservation, where we discussed ways to improve reforestation efforts around the country.

In September, I called on our nation's governors and Mayor Williams to establish "Millennium

Groves" in their capital cities. I pledged USDA's commitment to donate 100 trees to each grove, which we would buy from American Forests' collection of Famous & Historic Trees. Mayor Williams is among those who have answered our call and taken us up on our offer. And we continue to work with the states to establish these "Millennium Groves."

Trees are much more than decorative ornaments. As a society, we must begin to see them as part of our *national infrastructure*, as important to the health and prosperity of the nation as our roads, bridges and ports.

Over a hundred years ago in my home state of Kansas, the State Horticultural Society issued a Forestry Report that read: "It is in the community where its people have planted trees...that you find the better elements of your nature aroused and borne to a higher plane of life – one where the inspiration of the beautiful is blended with the useful."

Our guest of honor today not only understands those words; she is living them, through her work on the Millennium Council. Ladies and gentlemen, I give you our First Lady, Hillary Rodham Clinton...

MRS. CLINTON SPEAKS

Thank you, Mrs. Clinton. Nine previous times over the last 33 years, USDA has dedicated one of its trees to recognize the contributions of a particular American or group of Americans... everyone from Martin Luther King to Smokey Bear.

The tenth dedication is a majestic 75-year-old White Oak tree. The White Oak has a long history of providing for the American people. It has made valuable contributions to our forest ecosystems. Before the widespread use of steel, the White Oak was used in the construction of North American ships. It has been used for furniture and flooring. And it also provides both food and cover to our wildlife.

Impressive, sturdy, and generous -- this tree embodies many of the qualities of the First Lady herself. So today, for her work as head of the White House Millennium Council...and for her countless achievements throughout the seven years of this Administration...we honor First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton by dedicating this White Oak to her.

We will also give her another white oak to plant at the First Family's new home in New York. And as another contribution to the goals of Millennium Green, she and I will now plant a new tree [*type of tree????*] here on the grounds of USDA.

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