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U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
Office of Community Planning and Development

Andrew Cuomo, Secretary

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HUD and USDA Partner to Green America's Urban Areas

In recognition of the 30th anniversary of Earth Day, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Secretary Dan Glickman and HUD Secretary Cuomo announced that HUD and USDA are creating a new partnership to help promote the greening and revitalization of America's urban areas. In honor of the new partnership, HUD Deputy Secretary Saul Ramirez and Secretary Glickman took part in a tree planting ceremony Tuesday at eastern High School in Washington, DC. The agreement will focus on enhancing and maintaining green and open spaces at public housing developments and other sites in selected cities and towns cross the country.

“HUD is transforming public housing developments around the country, replacing deteriorated high-rises that create urban blight with new garden apartment complexes that can help revitalize neighborhoods,” Cuomo said. “Trees are an important part of this transformation, because they help make communities more attractive.”

“Improving and increasing green space and open space in our urban areas is one of USDA's highest priorities. This agreement will help strengthen our cities' green infrastructure and make communities more livable through sound natural resources stewardship,” said Glickman.

The foundation of the USDA/HUD partnership will be a collaboration between HUD's HOPE VI program, which provides financial assistance for the revitalization of public housing, and the USDA's Forest service and Natural Resources Conservation Service. USDA's activities will include tree planting, care and maintenance, natural resources planning, soils inventory, open space design, storm water management, and conservation education.

For more information on all of HUD's Earth Day activities, visit the Earth Day page on HUD's internet site, www.hud.gov/earthday/.