

## **2001 Annual Report Natural Resources Group Forest Restoration Team, 1994 - 2001**

From 1994-2001, **76,923** 2-3' containerized native trees and **10,024** native shrubs have been planted throughout the five boroughs, by NRG's Forest Restoration Team in portions of Parks' 6000 acres of forest. These forest restorations have been supported by multiple state, federal and foundation funds exceeding **\$6,288,000**.

Invasive exotic tree, shrub and vine species present one of the greatest threats to the long term health of the City's forests. Vines such as oriental bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*) and porcelainberry (*Ampelopsis brevipedunculata*) can kill large trees by strangulation, and eliminate the next generation of tree seedlings by suffocation. Shrubs such as multiflora rose (*Rosa multiflora*) crowd out both tree seedlings and native shrubs, degrading wildlife habitat and promoting erosion. Without tree seedlings, there will be no replacements for large trees when they die from storms or old age. NRG's Forest Restoration Team works in Parks' 6,000 acres of forest to remove invasive exotic shrubs and vines, and plants thousands of trees to ensure the City continues to have the best urban forests in America.

From 1994 to 1996, forest restoration was performed through a Lila Wallace grant, as well as some City employees. Each borough had its own staff of foresters with a fair degree of latitude as to the properties they worked on. During this time period, these foresters planted in excess of 42,862 trees and shrubs throughout the City. Approximately **620 acres** of parkland were treated for invasive exotic plants during this time.

There was a lull in 1997 as funding had run out, leaving a staff of 1 forester, who planted 232 trees. **In 2001, NRG surpassed all forest restoration indicators by planting 18,358 trees and shrubs.**

Over the last four years, the Natural Resources Group Reforestation Team has cleared invasive exotic plants from over 95 acres of forest in Alley Pond and Forest Parks in Queens, Inwood Hill Park in Manhattan, and Givans Creek Woods, Bronx River, and Seton Falls Parks in the Bronx. A total of **43,883** trees and shrubs, averaging 3 feet in height, have been planted in these forests, as well as in Van Cortlandt and Pelham Bay Parks, along with **55,486** herbaceous groundcover plants for erosion control. These crews are funded for specific projects, and consequently have less discretion in choosing work sites.

Grants totaling \$6,288,000 have supported these 8 years of restorations. Funding has been provided by the 1996 Clean Water/Clean Air Bond Act, the Lila Wallace-Reader's Digest Foundation, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, the US Environmental Protection Agency, EPA section 319 funds, the New York City Environmental Fund, the Urban Resources Partnership, and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

<b>Parks where work was performed for year 2001</b>	
<b>Queens</b>	Alley Pond Park, Forest Park
<b>Northern Manhattan</b>	Inwood Hill Park
<b>Bronx</b>	Seton Falls Park, Givans Creek Woods, Bronx River Park

**Natural Resources Group Forest Restoration Team**  
Summary of Plantings by Year and Borough, 1994 - 2001

	<b>Queens</b>		<b>Bronx</b>		<b>N. Manhattan</b>		<b>Total</b>		
	<b>Herb.</b>	<b>Trees/ shrubs</b>	<b>Herb.</b>	<b>Trees/ shrubs</b>	<b>Herb.</b>	<b>Trees/ shrubs</b>	<b>Herb.</b>	<b>Tree</b>	<b>Shrub</b>
<b>1994</b>	0	4,994	0	6,683	0	4,613	0	<b>15,013</b>	<b>1,277</b>
<b>1995</b>	0	5,997	0	7,077	0	3,615	0	<b>15,233</b>	<b>1,456</b>
<b>1996</b>	0	3,059	0	5,774	0	1,050	0	<b>8,936</b>	<b>947</b>
<b>1997</b>	0	232	0	0	0	0	0	<b>232</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>1998</b>	300	1,110	362	564	372	950	1,034	<b>2,624</b>	<b>200</b>
<b>1999</b>	1,917	3,100	2,992	2,199	1,547	1,111	6,456	<b>6,410</b>	<b>288</b>
<b>2000</b>	7,966	6,515	1,714	4,846	4,686	5,130	14,366	<b>16,491</b>	<b>2,364</b>
<b>2001</b>	9,289	5,776	9,627	2,338	14,714	10,244	33,630	<b>14,866</b>	<b>3,492</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>19,472</b>	<b>30,783</b>	<b>14,695</b>	<b>29,481</b>	<b>21,319</b>	<b>26,713</b>	<b>55,486</b>	<b>76,953</b>	<b>10,024</b>

Prepared by Timberwolf 12/12/01