

# 1998 USDA URBAN FORESTRY

## **Greater Boston URP**

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The Greater Boston Urban Resources Partnership (GB-URP) is a coalition of community organizations and agencies, businesses, and federal, state, and local governments, “Connecting community and the environment.” The Partnership’s mission is to help urban communities implement strategies that link social, economic, and environmental concerns. To that end, the Partnership’s members work together to build stewardship and support services and to provide expertise, funding, and in-kind services.

### **Greater Boston URP natural resources goals:**

- Working together to promote advocacy, build stewardship, and support projects that contribute to a healthier, safer, more natural urban environment.
- Assisting diverse neighborhoods, communities, and grass roots organizations to enhance the quality of life.
- Providing leadership, sharing resources, skills and expertise, and building a teamwork approach to delivering services.

## **Accomplishments in 1998:**

### **Developing Partnerships**

The Chelsea Creek Action Group, a GB-URP Pilot Project of 3 community-based organizations, has worked together since 1996 to improve the ecological function of their urban watershed. The coalition has inventoried trees, held an environmental fair, and provided valuable training about environmental and public health issues in the watershed. GB-URP technical assistance, as well as funding, has been crucial in the success of the coalition.

### **Outreach and Environmental Equity**

Each of the 9 GB-URP projects consisted of a community planning and education process and involved minority youth in the implementation of projects. Increased community awareness has led to the sustainability of projects and a greater interest in the urban environment.

### **Comprehensive Natural Resource Management**

By coordinating GB-URP’s diverse financial and technical resources throughout the Greater Boston region, the Partnership has played a role in community-based efforts to manage natural resources. The Partnership has helped to develop community gardens, improve access to urban rivers, develop natural resources job training programs, and increase environmental awareness.