



News Release

CONTACT: Al Lara
Office: (860) 665-5527

NU Foundation grant to help monitor Springfield's trees *"Tree Inventory" to provide data for conservation planning and safety*

BERLIN, Connecticut, June 3, 2004 – A \$40,000 gift from the Northeast Utilities Foundation will support efforts by the City of Springfield, Mass. to develop a database and management system to identify its trees, monitor their health, and indicate any that may pose safety concerns.

The grant will be formally presented in a ceremony Friday, June 4, at 9:30 a.m. at the Trolley Pavilion Park off Sumner Avenue in Springfield.

The Springfield Park and Recreation Department and the U.S. Forest Service are developing the information database with assistance from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Management. The ultimate goal of the program is to identify by species and catalog every tree on every street in the city. The information will be used for tree maintenance, conservation planning, and to identify diseased, dead or improperly located trees that may present a hazard and facilitate planning for their removal.

"The NU Foundation is pleased to support this forward-thinking effort to thoroughly catalog one of the city's most important natural resources," said NU Foundation Executive Director Theresa Hopkins-Staten. "The information collected will become a rich resource for the community to use and to refer to for years to come."

"The improved maintenance of public trees will lead to improved health of neighborhood residents through cleaner air, improved electrical services, pride of community and more valuable community resources," said City Forester Edward Casey.

Foundation funding will be used specifically to offset the costs of implementing a Geographic Information System, conducting tree surveys, and other logistical support for the project. Neighborhood participation in the program will be encouraged.

The Northeast Utilities Foundation was established in 1998 to support community initiatives in education, the environment, the arts, and health and human services. For additional information, please visit www.nu.com/aboutNU/foundation.asp.

Northeast Utilities (NYSE: NU) is a Fortune 500 diversified energy company located in Connecticut with operations throughout the Northeast. Through its competitive and regulated subsidiaries, NU provides energy for home, business, and life, with a full range of energy products and services to millions of residential and business customers from Maine to Maryland. From delivering electricity and natural gas, to marketing energy products, to operating and maintaining power plant facilities, NU is committed to safety, reliability and expanding consumers' energy options. For more information on Northeast Utilities and its subsidiaries, visit the NU family of Web sites at www.nu.com.