



## United Nations To Plant New Trees

The following Note to Correspondents was issued on 16 April 2008  
by the Office of the Spokesman for UN Secretary-General BAN Ki-Moon:

The United Nations is planning a significant “greening” of the Headquarters compound, and the surrounding neighborhood, during the landscaping phase of the Capital Master Plan. In addition to the greening measures that have already been announced to lower energy use and save water, the Office of the Capital Master Plan has also announced a plan to plant 150 new trees on the North Lawn and in the vicinity of the United Nations compound at the completion of the renovation project in 2013.

In coordination neighborhood associations, the United Nations will plant a number of the trees on First Avenue and on 48<sup>th</sup> Street, in the neighborhood outside of the United Nations compound.

Todd Forrest, Vice President for Horticulture and Living Collections at the New York Botanical Garden, will work with the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation to assist the United Nations in the selection of appropriate species and locations to assure that the proposed tree planting will serve not just as a greening program, but also an opportunity to increase the diversity of trees in the Turtle Bay area.

One of the primary objectives of the Capital Master Plan is to renovate the facilities, and the grounds, as a model of sustainability for the rest of the UN system, emphasizing the climate change initiatives championed by the Secretary General. These new trees, in the heart of NYC, will reinforce that objective.

The UN is about to start construction on the North Lawn Conference Building to house the conferencing and General Assembly functions during the renovation of the CMP. The construction of the temporary building will disturb the North Lawn, and require the removal of approximately 25 of the 393 trees on the compound. To diminish the impact of this removal, a few dozen new trees will be re-propagated from the existing trees, as recommended by Mr. Forrest. These new trees will be grown in a nursery, and returned to the United Nations at the conclusion of the Capital Master Plan. At that time, these young trees will be incorporated into the restored North Lawn, taking into careful consideration the original landscape design of 1954.

Two healthy cherry trees and one dogwood tree have already been relocated on the North Lawn away from the construction activity for the new, temporary building. One additional dogwood tree will be relocated soon.