

Parks Fleet Supports Mulchfest

By Keith T. Kerman

As per NYC Parks, there are seven million [trees](#) in the city. Parks cares for the city's streets and park trees, with the Department of Transportation (DOT) also having a small forestry equipment unit for roadway trees. Parks uses a fleet of 272 fleet units assigned to its forestry divisions, including 49 forestry bucket trucks, called tree trimmers, and 25 log loaders, 36 chipper dump trucks, 48 woodchippers, and 13 stump cutters to keep our tree canopy in top shape.



If storm emergencies are the most challenging forestry projects, each year's Mulchfest must be the most fun. Mulchfest gives New Yorkers in all five boroughs a festive opportunity to recycle their holiday trees to be chipped and grinded for reuse.

This year, Parks' annual event to recycle used holiday trees into mulch took place December 26, 2024, through January 12, 2025. In total, Parks had 76 sites throughout the city for New Yorkers to bring their trees to be recycled; 36 of the sites had woodchippers onsite.

To prepare for this event, the Parks fleet team calls all 48 woodchippers into the agency's fleet garages every fall season for maintenance, repairs, and sharpening or flipping the blades (also called knives) to ensure they are in optimal shape for the operation. Chipping is a serious task that must only be performed by trained forestry professionals. The chippers, which are high-maintenance units that are energy intensive, now all use renewable diesel through DCAS.



This winter, Parks chipped 52,569 holiday trees, surpassing last year's total by over 10,000 trees. Brooklyn had the highest participation, chipping more than 19,000 trees, followed by Manhattan with more than 11,000.

The holiday trees will be turned into nutrient-rich mulch that will help improve the health of trees and plants across the city. This mulch will be spread across parks, planting beds, and community gardens, which will warm tree roots, keep weeds in check, and lock in moisture. It's like giving our city's trees a cozy, healthy blanket for the year ahead.

"Mulchfest is environmentally sensitive," stated **Parks Deputy Commissioner Mark Focht**. "People appreciate that. It is a way to reduce waste and be sustainable—part of a tree's natural lifecycle and helps new plants, gardens, and trees grow."

Thanks to all the New Yorkers who brought out their trees this year to Mulchfest. Check out this recent news [article](#) about Parks Mulchfest. Congratulations to everyone at Parks forestry, district operations, and fleet divisions for this year's successful Mulchfest program. Thanks to Chief of Fleet at Parks Brian Aucoin for this newsletter story.



High blood pressure (hypertension) affects over 48% of American adults, but only 1 in 4 of them have it under control. High blood pressure can lead to heart disease, stroke, kidney failure and other serious health problems. Take action by registering for WorkWell NYC's **8-week hypertension prevention and management program**, Let's Bring the Pressure Down.

[Register](#)

Vision Zero: Building a Safer City



This show highlights vendors who support the New York City's Clean Fleet and Vision Zero initiatives, and daily operations. Vendors will offer a wide array of products to improve vehicle safety. The show will also highlight vehicles and equipment with alternative fuels and emissions-reducing technologies, along with the latest in light and heavy-duty vehicles, trucks, horticultural equipment, tools, fleet services, and more!

36th Annual Equipment & Vehicle Show

Flushing Meadows Corona Park
(by the Unisphere), Queens, NY

**Thursday,
May 15, 2025
9 a.m. - 2 p.m.**

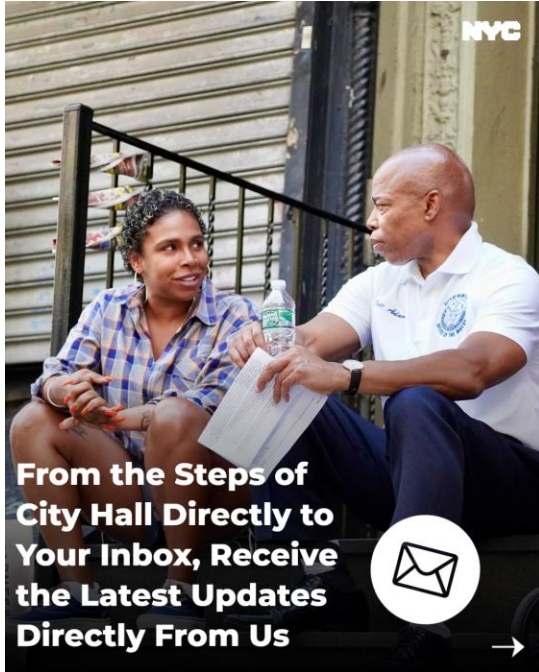
**Rain Date:
Friday,
May 16, 2025**



Accessibility Questions?
Contact DCAS Accessibility
at 212-386-0256, or email
accessibility@dcas.nyc.gov
by May 6, 2025



<https://www.nyc.gov/site/dcas/agencies/nyc-fleet-upcoming-events.page>



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As always, we're committed to making sure city government is filled with the best and brightest workers, too. Our hiring halls are still going on! Visit [Jobs NYC](#) to find great opportunities within city government, or send them to someone you know. They'll join the team that's shattering employment records again and again.

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[NYC Fleet Newsletter 484, January 24, 2025:](#) MTA Congestion Pricing And The City Fleet

[NYC Fleet Newsletter 483, January 17, 2025:](#) Fleet Spotlight: DSNY Hamilton Avenue, Brooklyn, "The Taj Mahal of Transfer Stations"

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