



Department of
Design and
Construction

OFFICE OF
COMMUNITY OUTREACH
AND NOTIFICATION

How do we plant thousands of street trees all over the city?



The NYC Department of Design and Construction (DDC) plants thousands of street trees a year, working hand in hand with the NYC Department of Parks & Recreation (DPR). New trees lining the street are often planted when DDC reconstructs a city street. A single street reconstruction project may include planting dozens, or even hundreds, of new trees. Trees are also planted when DDC installs a plaza, rebuilds a step street, or constructs a new building, such as a library.

Diversity Plaza,
Queens.

Queens has
about 250,000
street trees.

Planting New Street Trees

Step-by- Step

ONE / We take an inventory of the trees on the street already to determine their size and health, as well as where we can plant new trees. We can't plant everywhere because trees must be a safe distance from bus stops, utilities, intersections, driveways, building entrances, streetlights, and other objects.



TWO / Utilities such as gas lines and water connections are identified and marked for a safe installation. We place new soil into the tree pit, which was carefully formed when we poured a new sidewalk. Tree pits must be large enough to support the tree as it grows for years. A new tree pit on the sidewalk is typically 5' x 10'.



Grand Concourse,
The Bronx.

The Bronx has
about 90,000
street trees.

THREE / Trees are shipped into NYC from nearby locations. A variety of species are chosen to increase overall resistance to disease. Some planted trees can grow 100 feet tall. Before they are planted, trees are inspected to ensure they do not have damaged bark or limbs.



FOUR / Workers lift the trees by their wrapped roots and put them into the tree pit. They are carefully planted so that the place where the roots depart from the trunk is visible, to help the tree get oxygen.



New York City's street trees come from nurseries outside the city. Trees are often raised in New Jersey, Upstate New York, and on Long Island.

FIVE / Trees are thoroughly watered immediately after planting. We install stakes to keep the trees from falling over in the wind. Mulch is laid to prevent weeds and help keep the soil moist.



SIX / After planting, we help take care of these trees to make sure they have a healthy start. Trees are watered regularly during the growing season. We pick up litter and maintain the mulch. Once they are established, the NYC Department of Parks & Recreation will care for the trees.

There are over 200 different species of street trees in New York City.





New York City has more than 700,000 street trees, lining avenues, boulevards, and lanes in all five boroughs. These street trees improve our city by reducing air pollution, managing stormwater, providing shelter for birds and other animals, as well as quieting and cooling our neighborhoods. The City of New York invests in these treasures for all New Yorkers.

To learn more
about the work of
the NYC Department
of Design and
Construction, visit
nyc.gov/ddc

To learn more about
street trees or
request a street
tree for your block,
visit the website for
NYC Department
of Parks & Recreation,
nyc.gov/parks

