



Overview of NYC Parks Tree Planting and Stewardship Programs

Navé Strauss, Director of Street Tree Planting

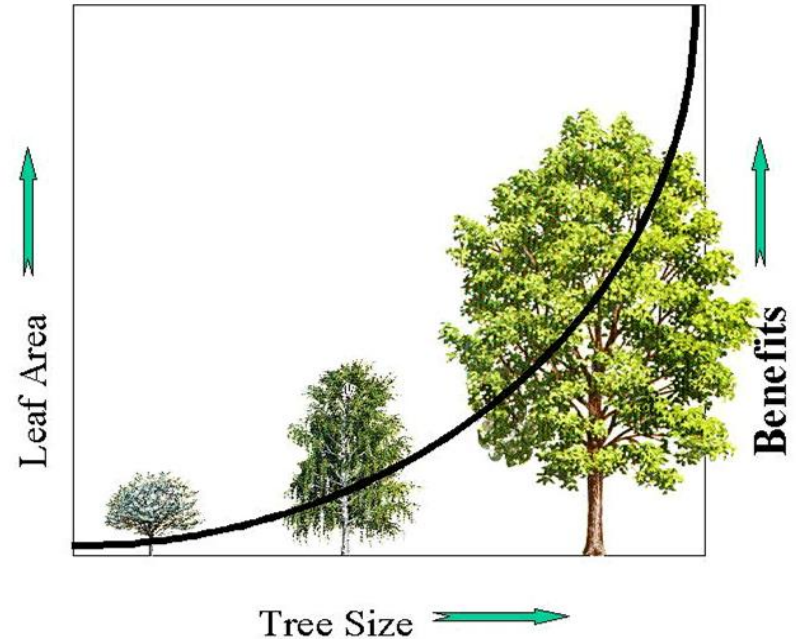
Nichole Henderson-Roy, Stewardship Program Manager

Parks

Street Tree Benefits

NYC's street trees produce \$151 million in total annual benefits*, including

- Stormwater capture (\$36.6 million)
- Increased property values (\$86.3 million)
- Improved air quality (\$2.4 million)
- Energy savings (\$21.6 million)
- CO₂ reductions (\$4.3 million)



Tree benefits increase exponentially with tree size.
A large tree provides up to 65 times the benefits of a smaller tree (U.S. Forest Service).

* U.S. Forest Service i-Tree Streets

How We Get to a Site

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Planting by Funding Type

- **311 Service Requests** (~18,000)

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- Tree Fund Payments
- **Sandy/EAB Funding (streets and parks)**

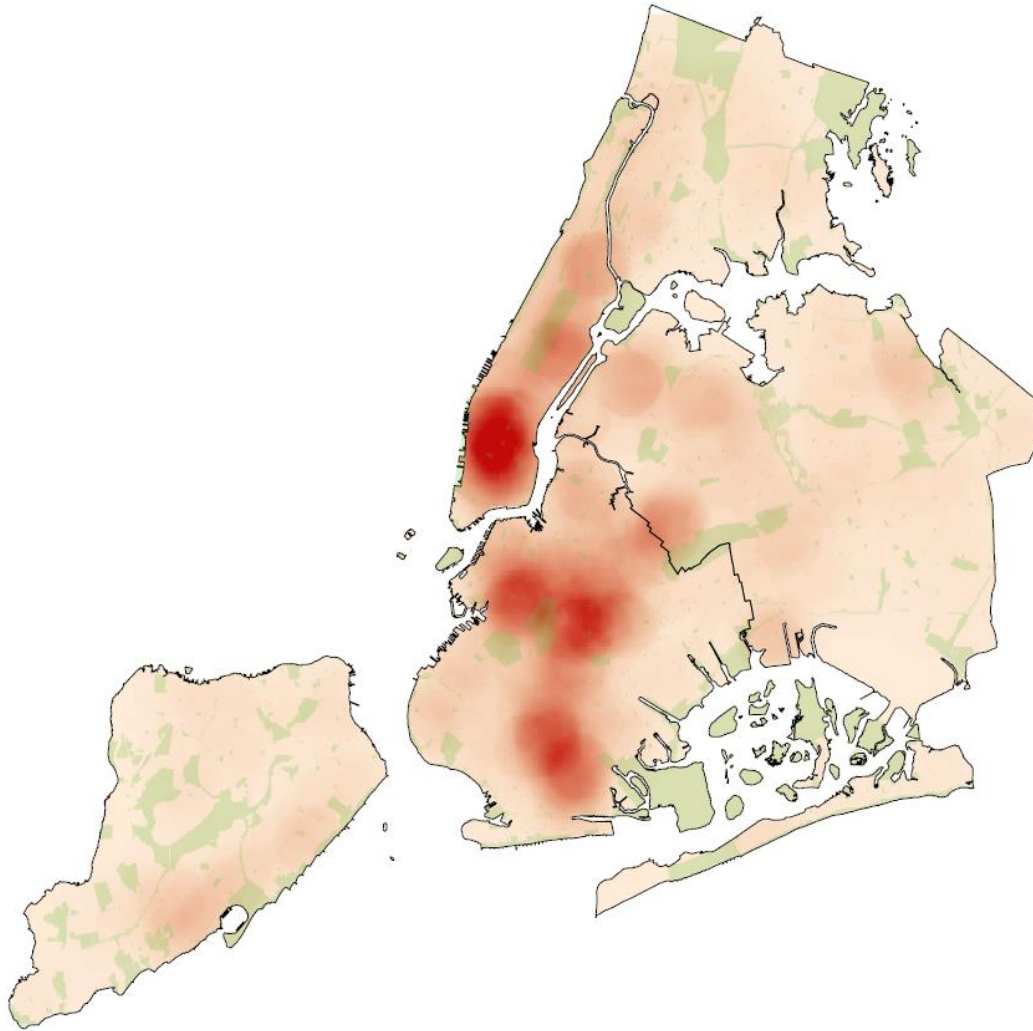
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- **Landscaped Park Tree Planting**

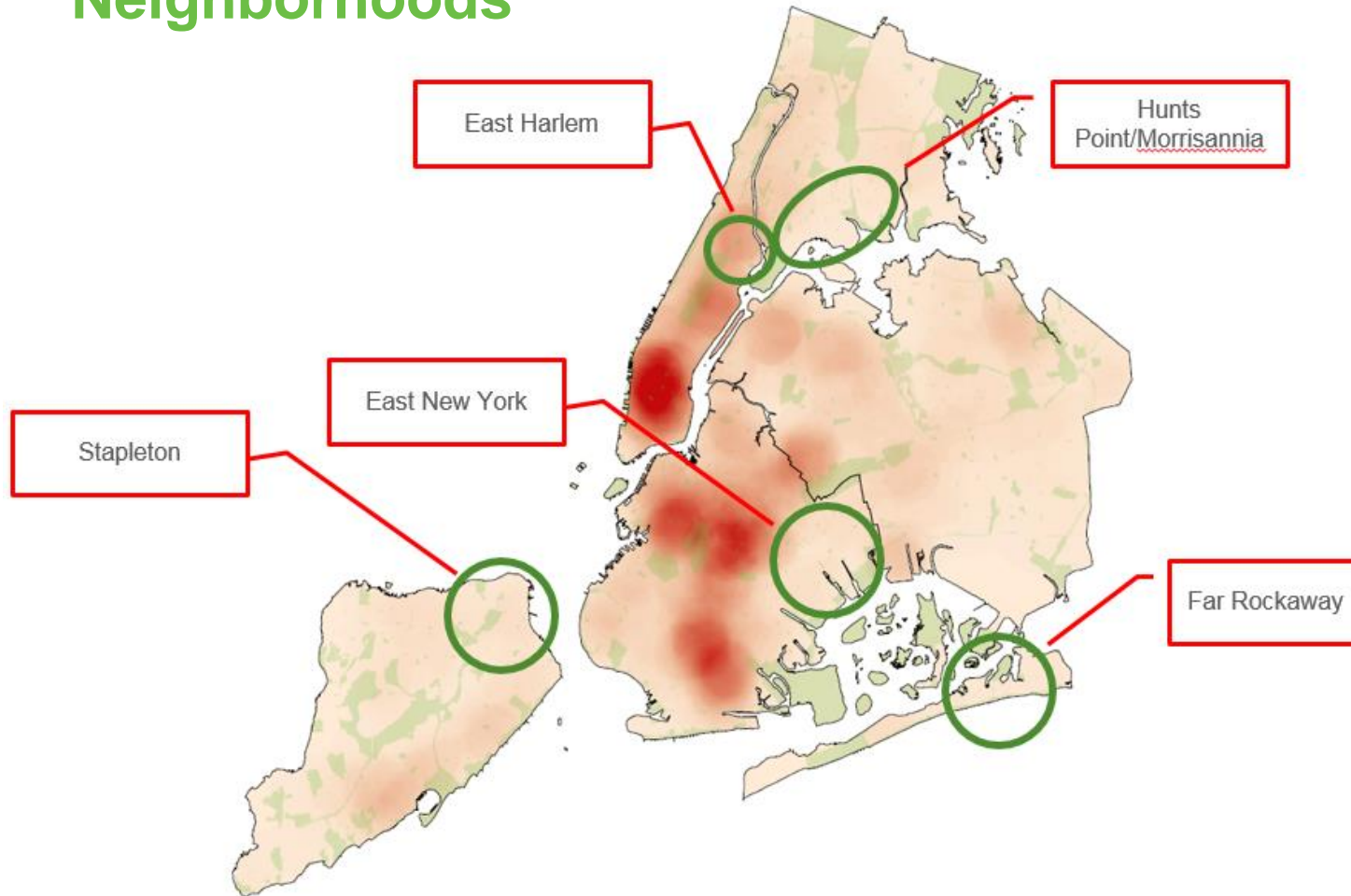
Tree Planting Strategy – Then and Now

Prior to 2007 - Tree Planting Service Requests

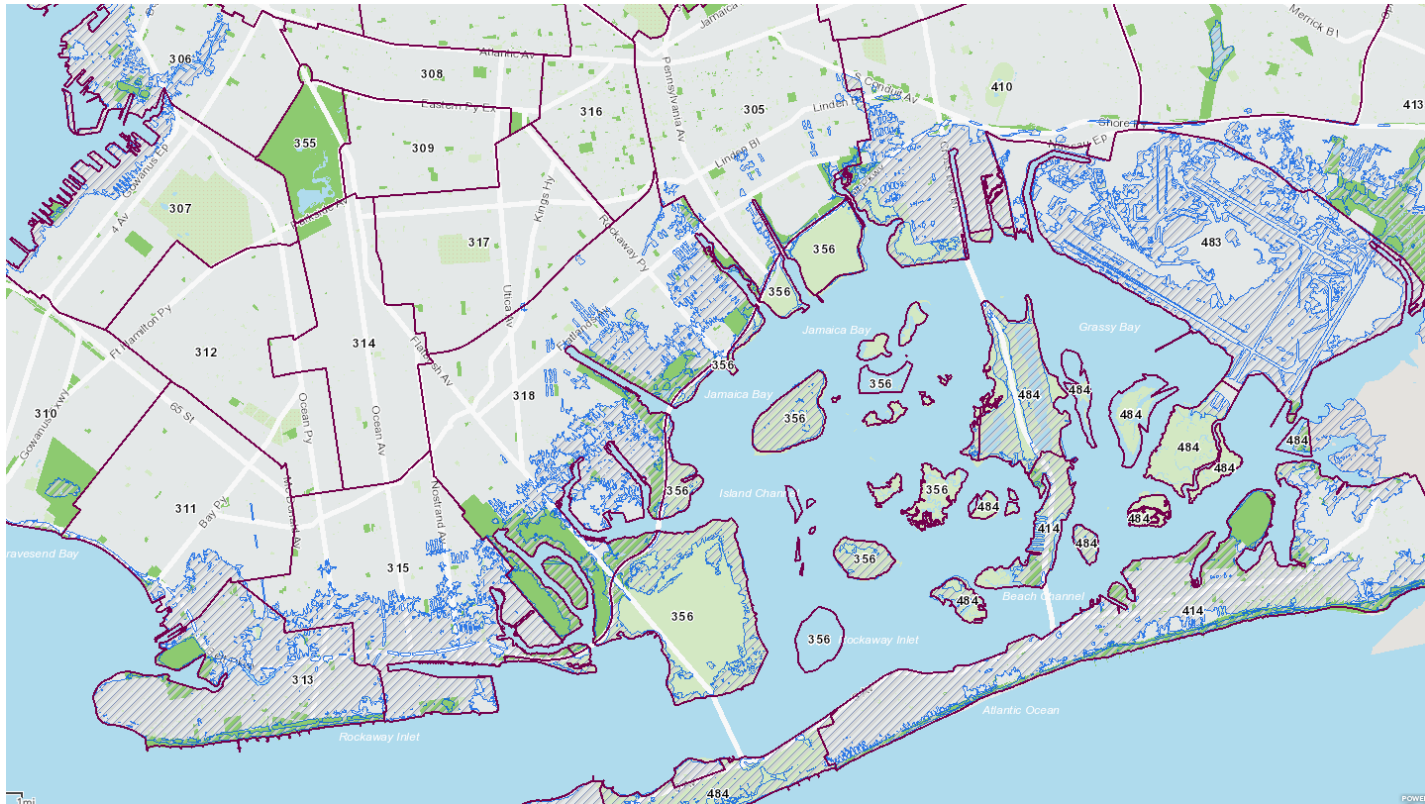


Heat map of service request concentrations

2007- 2017 Trees for Public Health (TPH) Neighborhoods



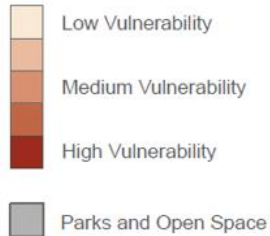
Sandy Flood Zones (Street and Park Tree Planting)



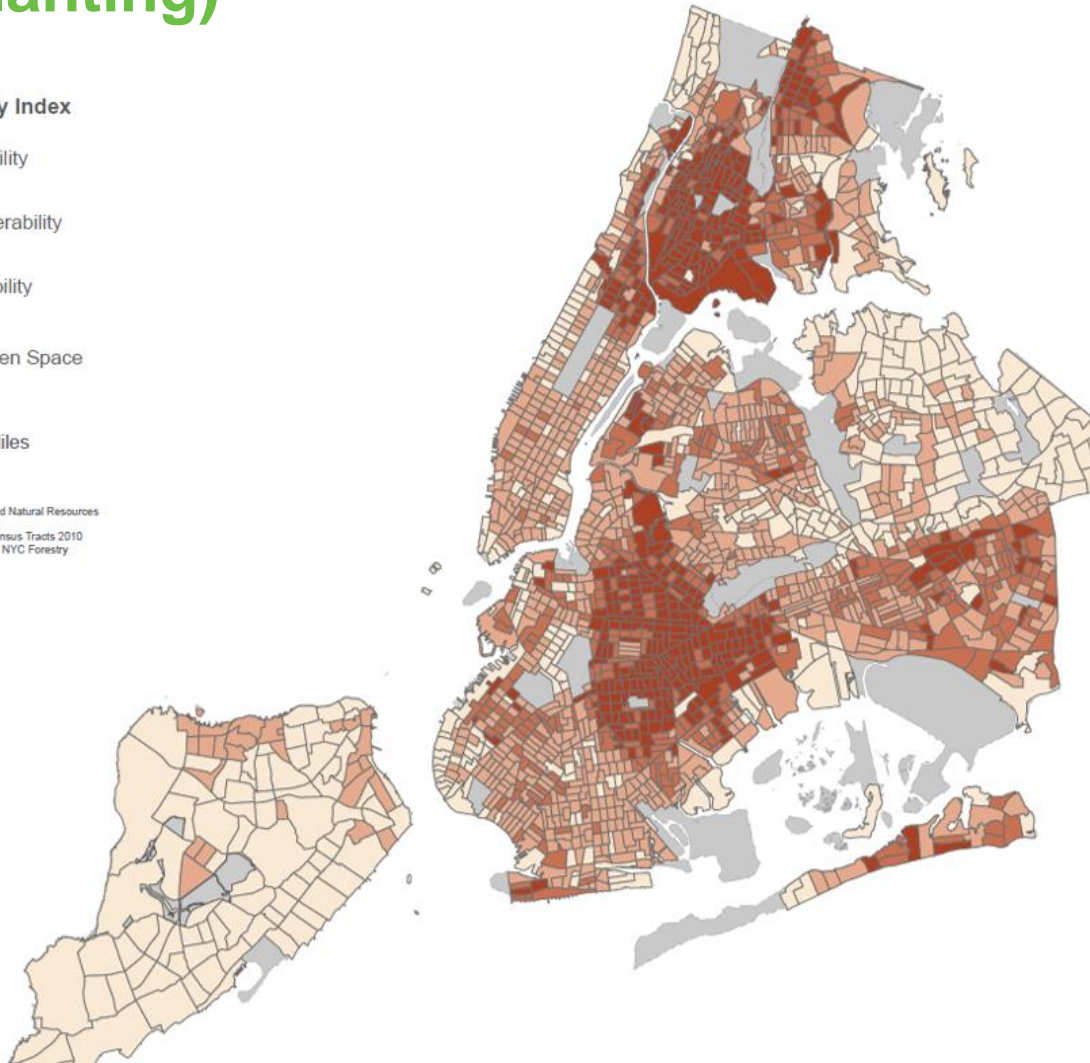
Superstorm Sandy Flood Zone. Map shows extensive flooding in southern Brooklyn and Queens. Source: NYC Parks

2017- present – Cool Neighborhoods (Street and Park Tree Planting)

Heat Vulnerability Index

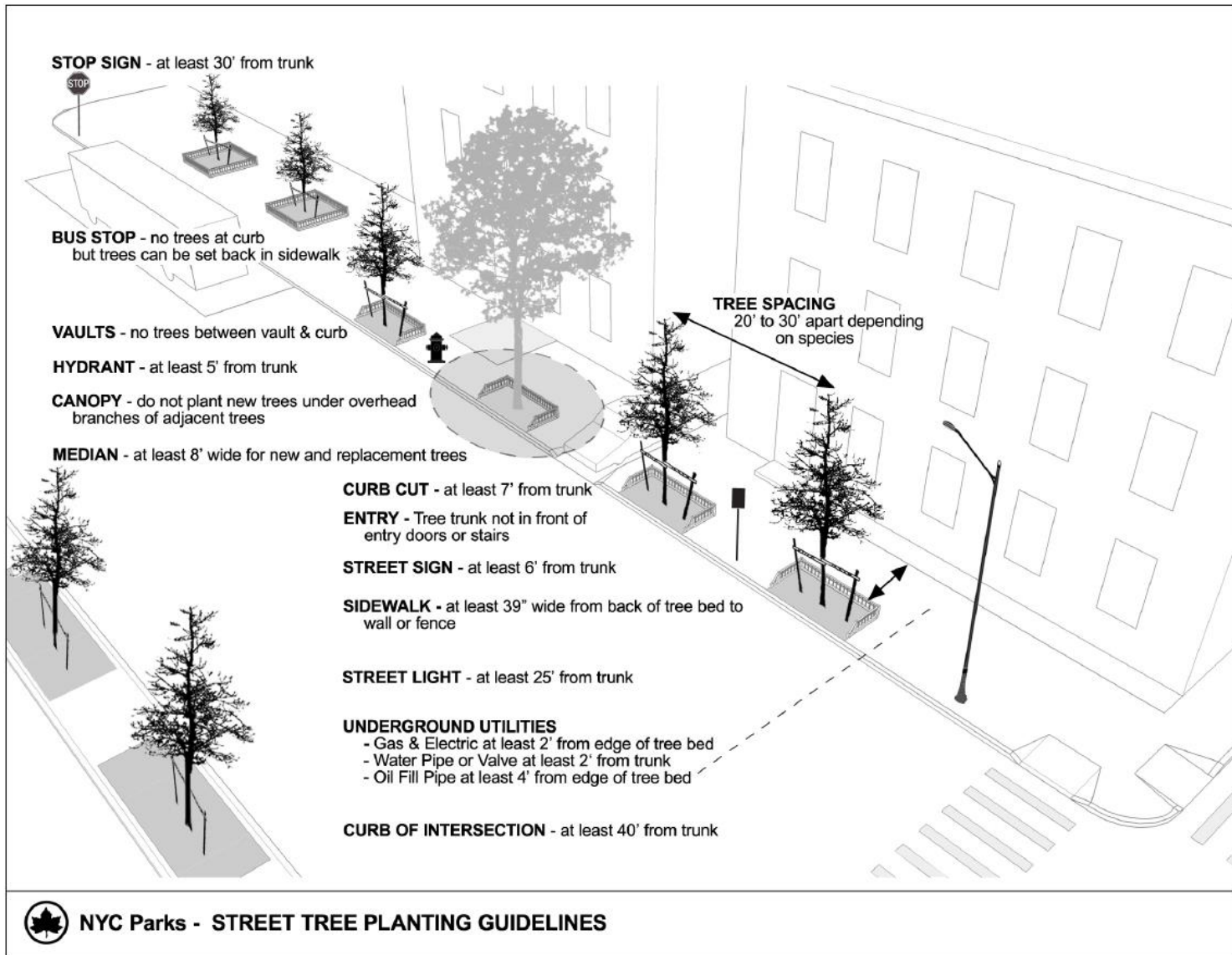


Prepared by Forestry, Horticulture and Natural Resources
October 19, 2017
Data Source: HVI- DOHMH; DCP Census Tracts 2010
2015-2016 Street Tree Census Data, NYC Forestry



Site Evaluation

The funding gets us to our general focus areas, then we look at every site specifically to determine planting viability.



Tree Planting Guidelines. Can be found on nyc.gov/parks.

Survey and Marking



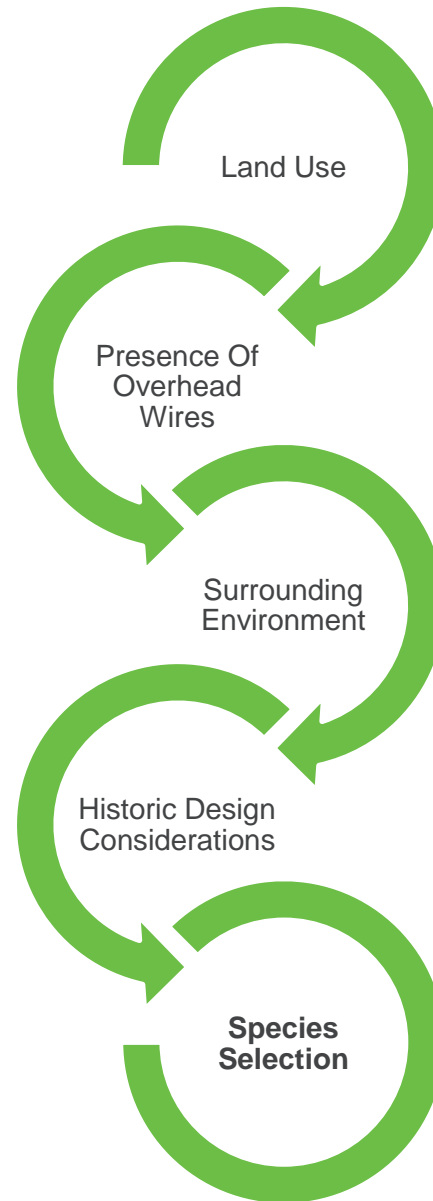
New tree bed markings are signified by white paint (left). For tree beds where concrete will be removed, a decal (right) will be adhered to pavement within the tree bed.

Site Evaluation

Considerations:

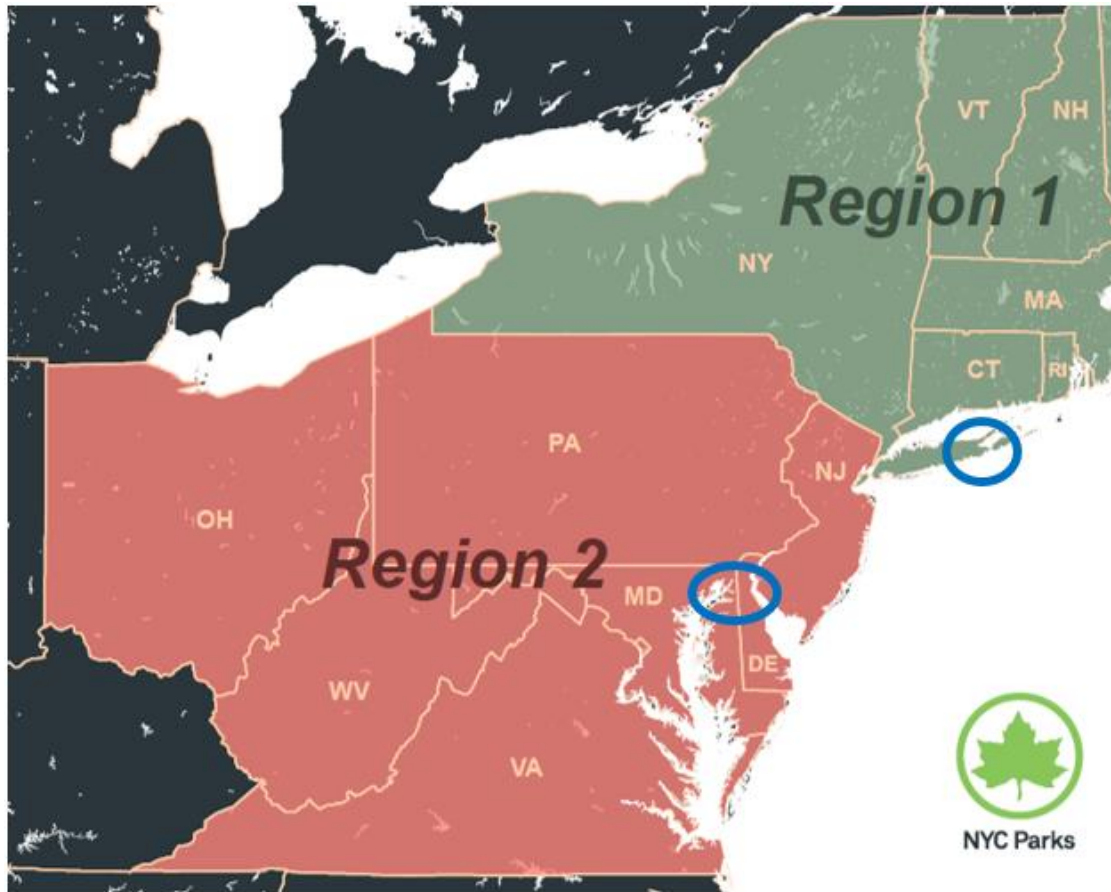
- Land use – commercial/industrial, residential, landscape
- Presence of wires
- Underground utilities*
- Surrounding Environment
- Sidewalk width
- Existing canopy/nearby trees
- Historic design considerations

*not always known



How NYC Parks Gets its Trees

Tree Procurement – A new way of growing



Currently Parks is contracted with two nurseries to grow our street and park trees. They are located in eastern Long Island and Chesapeake City, Maryland.

At the Nursery



Left: *Metasequoia glyptostroboides*; Middle: *Parrotia persica*; Right: Trees being harvested



Tree Planting – Tree Bed Preparation



Out with the old (fill), in with the new (soil)

Planting Final Product



Challenges to Planting

- Sidewalk width on LES can be a challenge.
- Compliance with ADA sidewalk widths
- How can we maximize rooting space for new trees so they can grow to their fullest potential?
- Employ specialized methods such as structural soil and permeable paving.

Structural Soils

- Allows us to create rooting space below sidewalk
- Stable enough to support poured sidewalks



A contractor prepares sites for structural soil installation. 27

Permeable Paving

- Creates a pervious surface
- Can be installed atop structural soil



Tree beds with structural soil and permeable paving in Hudson Square.

Tree Guards

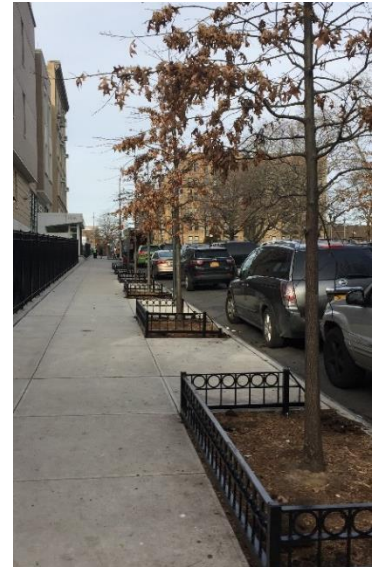


Photo credit: Cali Fox, Bronx Forester

Establishment and Guarantee



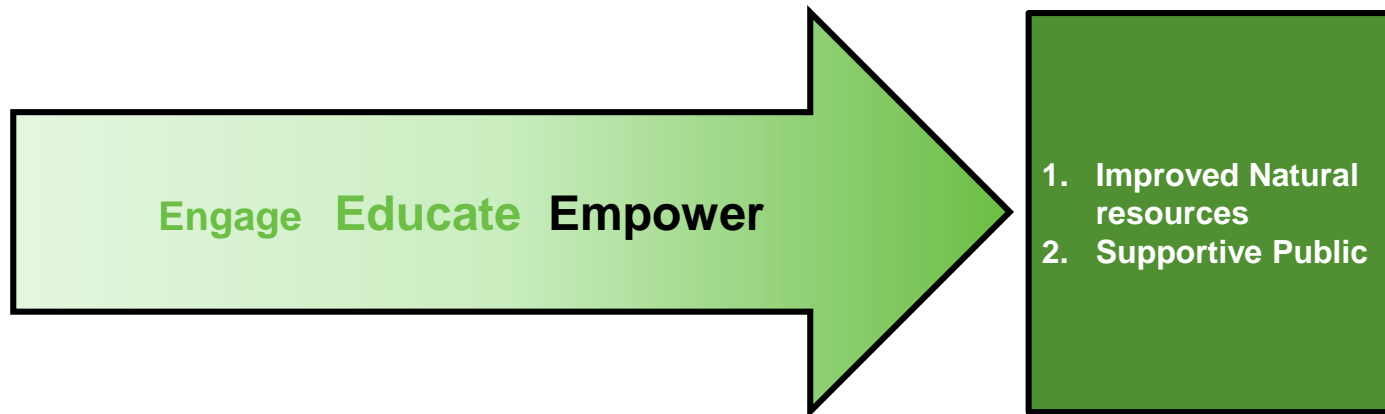
Watering is a critical part of a young tree's survival. Establishment refers to the crucial growth of roots and leaf area to position the tree for success after two years of being maintained.



NYC Parks Stewardship

Parks

Program Approach



What is NYC Parks Stewardship?



NYC Parks manages over 10,000 acres of forests, salt marshes, meadows, freshwater wetlands, and over half a million street trees. **The Stewardship Program gives New Yorkers a chance to see, learn about, and help care for these special resources.**

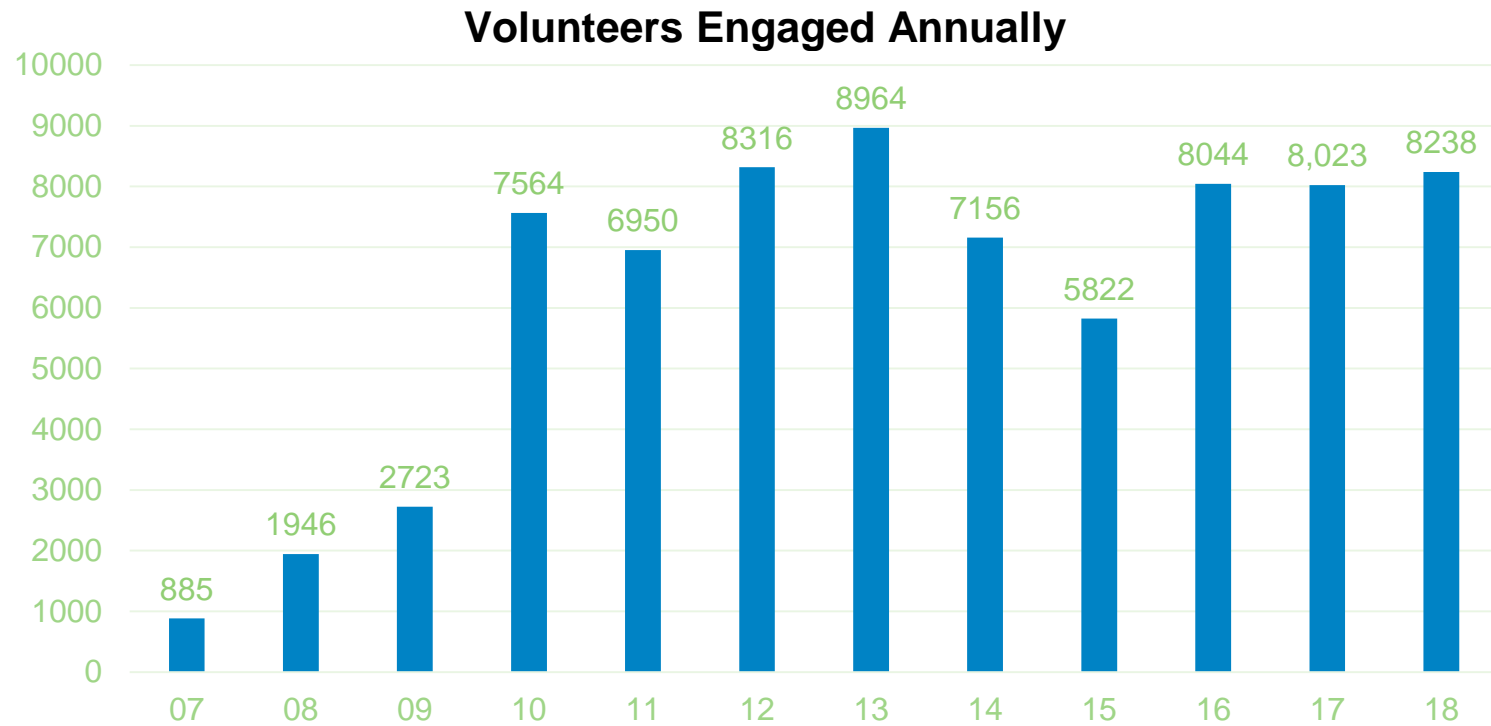
Super Stewards

- Provides training and resources for independent stewards in multiple landscapes.
 - Care Captains
 - NAVigators
 - Shorekeepers
 - Trail Maintainers
- Maximizes reach of staff and resources.
- Staff track and check stewards work to ensure they are in alignment with agency goals and standards.
- Currently 174 active Super Stewards to date.
- Super Steward Training
 - Attend general event
 - Intro Workshop
 - Field Training
 - Site Selection/Visit



Above: Training Session for Super Stewards. Below: Steward-led tree care event with local school "Green Teens"

Engagement Over Time



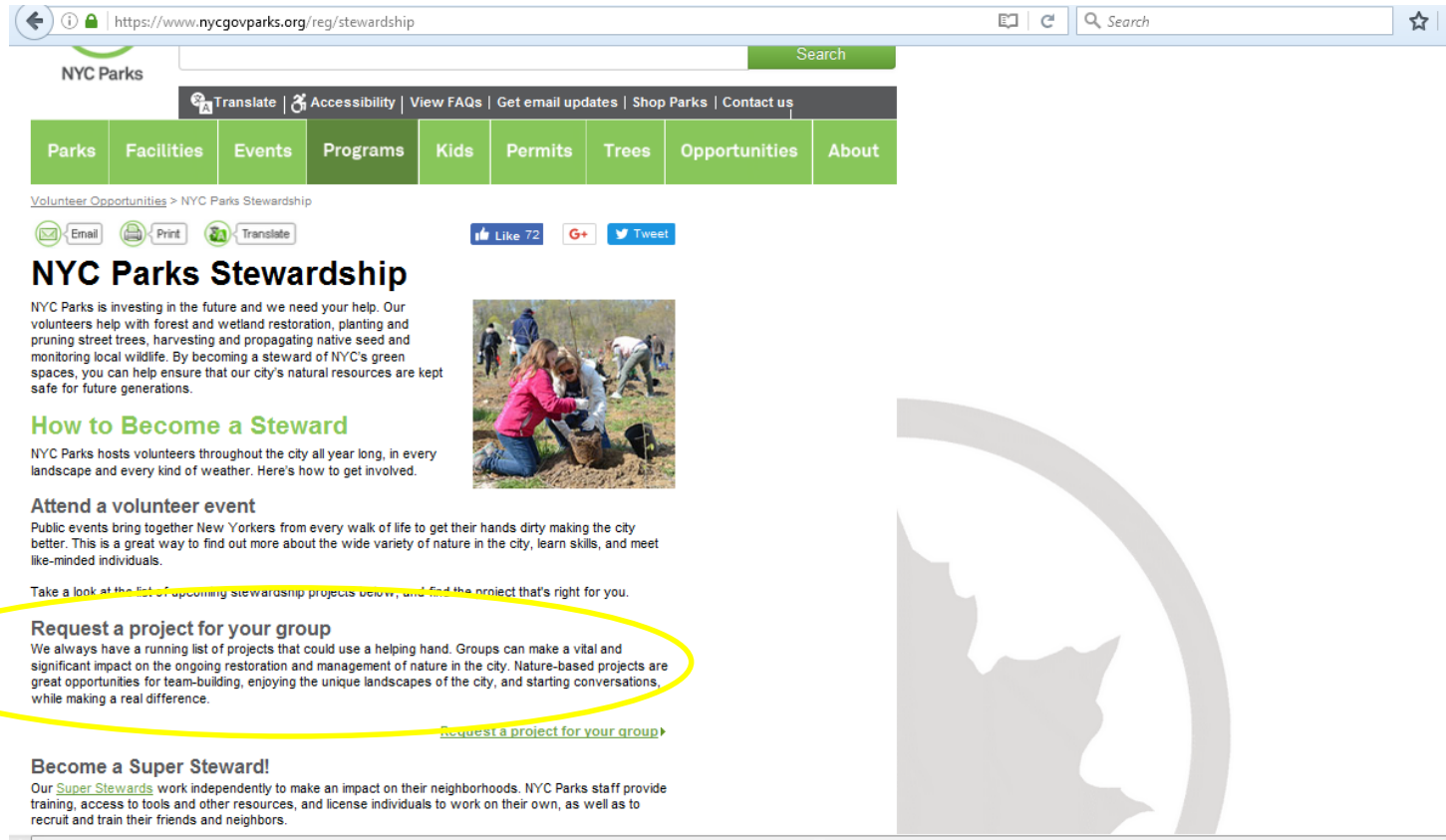
Impact of 2018 Volunteers

	Bronx	Brooklyn	Manhattan	Queens	Staten Island	Totals:
Street Trees Cared For	443	2,539	1,330	797	54	5,163
Trees and Shrubs Planted	2,895	50	250	4,335	4,711	12,241
Cubic Yards of Mulch Spread	44	231	110	52	9	447

Acres of Forest Managed	21	16	8	31	13	89
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How volunteers find us:



The screenshot shows the NYC Parks Stewardship page on the website <https://www.nycgovparks.org/reg/stewardship>. The page features a navigation bar with links to Translate, Accessibility, View FAQs, Get email updates, Shop Parks, and Contact us. Below this is a menu with links to Parks, Facilities, Events, Programs, Kids, Permits, Trees, Opportunities, and About. The main content area is titled "Volunteer Opportunities > NYC Parks Stewardship" and includes social media sharing options (Email, Print, Translate, Like 72, G+, Tweet). The page describes the NYC Parks Stewardship program, which involves forest and wetland restoration, planting, and pruning street trees. It also provides information on how to become a steward, attend volunteer events, and request a project for a group. A yellow oval highlights the "Request a project for your group" section, which includes a link to "Request a project for your group".

NYC Parks

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Volunteer Opportunities > NYC Parks Stewardship

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NYC Parks Stewardship

NYC Parks is investing in the future and we need your help. Our volunteers help with forest and wetland restoration, planting and pruning street trees, harvesting and propagating native seed and monitoring local wildlife. By becoming a steward of NYC's green spaces, you can help ensure that our city's natural resources are kept safe for future generations.

How to Become a Steward

NYC Parks hosts volunteers throughout the city all year long, in every landscape and every kind of weather. Here's how to get involved.

Attend a volunteer event

Public events bring together New Yorkers from every walk of life to get their hands dirty making the city better. This is a great way to find out more about the wide variety of nature in the city, learn skills, and meet like-minded individuals.

Take a look at the list of upcoming stewardship projects below, and find the project that's right for you.

Request a project for your group

We always have a running list of projects that could use a helping hand. Groups can make a vital and significant impact on the ongoing restoration and management of nature in the city. Nature-based projects are great opportunities for team-building, enjoying the unique landscapes of the city, and starting conversations, while making a real difference.

[Request a project for your group](#)

Become a Super Steward!

Our [Super Stewards](#) work independently to make an impact on their neighborhoods. NYC Parks staff provide training, access to tools and other resources, and license individuals to work on their own, as well as to recruit and train their friends and neighbors.

<https://www.nycgovparks.org/reg/stewardship>

Our Volunteers:

