

NYC STREET TREE FACT SHEET

REQUEST A FREE STREET TREE

The Parks Department plants street trees, free-of-charge, on sidewalks in front of homes, apartment buildings, and businesses in all five boroughs. In order to request a free street tree, please contact the Flatiron BID at (212) 741-2323, or submit an online form to the Parks Department by following the web address below:

http://www.milliontreesnyc.org/html/involved/request_a_tree.shtml

PLANT YOUR OWN STREET TREE

Property owners can also plant a street tree on your own by obtaining a Tree Planting Permit, which is attached to this document with additional rules and regulations. Due to certain street tree height and species qualifications, individual street tree planting most often requires hiring a landscape contractor directly. For one-stop planting and permitting, the New York Tree Trust will work with you on selecting the species and site and permitting and planting processes for a donation. Call (212) 360-TREE.

IMPORTANT NOTES

- Some locations may not allow for a street tree planting, including areas with underground vaults, bus stops, areas near fire hydrants, etc.
- Street trees that require opening or enlarging the sidewalk also require a permit from the Department of Transportation. For more information call 311.
- It can take upwards of two (2) years for a tree request to be planted.

2006 STREET TREE CENSUS RESULTS (as reported by the Parks Department)

- Number of street trees in NYC: 592,130
- Increase over previous count: 93,000
- Number of tree species: 168
- Most common street tree: London planetree (*platanus x acerifolia*)
- Runner-up: Norway maple (*acer platanoides*)
- Borough with most street trees: Queens (40% of total population)
- Runner-up: Brooklyn (24% of total population)
- Leafiest streets: Manhattan (49 street trees per mile of sidewalk)
- Most common Manhattan species: honeylocust
- Largest increase of street trees per borough: Staten Island (33% more since last count)
- Most common Staten Island street tree species: callery pear
- Over 90% of street trees are in good to excellent condition
- 25% of all street trees are young (less than six inches in diameter)
- 5% of all street trees are extra-large (over 30 inches across)

List of tree species attached to this document.



APPLICATION

SECTION 1 – A PERMIT IS REQUIRED FOR THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES:

- A. **Planting trees.** Parks & Recreation will plant a tree in the right-of-way if a property owner requests it through 311. All individuals, neighborhood groups, businesses, and other entities desiring to plant a tree themselves in the right-of-way or in a park require a permit. Street trees that require opening or enlarging the sidewalk also require a permit from the Dept. of Transportation (DOT). Street trees may also be required as part of zoning regulations or as restitution for the removal of existing street trees, in which case applicants must complete Section 3 below. Do not apply for a planting permit until the building façade is substantially completed. All applications to plant trees must be received by April 1st for spring plantings (March 15–May 15) and by November 1st for fall plantings (October 15–December 15). Please refer to Parks' Tree Planting Standards before applying for a permit (<http://www.nycparks.org/permits/trees/planting.pdf>).
- B. **Pruning and other tree work.** Parks & Recreation completes routine pruning of street trees on a seven-year rotation. If a property owner desires to have city tree(s) pruned before the next pruning rotation, a permit is required from Parks. This also applies to removing stumps, fertilizing or modifying soil, excavating, spraying for the control of insects and disease, installing decorations, relocating (transplanting) an existing tree, and any other work on or adjacent to City trees. Any applications related to construction activities must be accompanied by the appropriate documentation listed in Section 3 below.
- C. **Removing trees.** Parks & Recreation removes all dead street trees within thirty (30) days of notification to 311. All trees within the City's mapped right-of-way or near a park area cannot be removed without the written permission of Parks & Recreation. Plan approvals from other City agencies do not constitute the required permission from Parks for tree removal or tree work of any kind. Please note that some front yard trees are still within the right-of-way.
- D. **Installing utilities.** Most utility connections can be installed or replaced without cutting any roots by tunneling under the tree. Cutting roots by trenching is dangerous and illegal.
- E. **Constructing new or altering existing buildings.** Construction activities around and adjacent to existing trees require a permit from Parks. This includes activities such as excavation, grade changes, equipment / vehicle storage, and any other work performed near City trees.
- F. **Installing new or repairing existing sidewalks.** Parks & Recreation repairs sidewalks damaged by tree roots if a property owner requests it through 311. If you have a sidewalk / root conflict and would like to repair the sidewalk yourself, you must apply for a permit from Parks. Sidewalks fall under the jurisdiction of DOT, but if you are repairing a sidewalk around a tree you must also get a permit from Parks & Recreation. The removal or cutting of tree roots is strictly forbidden, as this activity not only impacts tree health but also compromises its structural stability.
- G. **Installing driveways.** A driveway cut approved by the Department of Buildings (DOB) does not take the place of a permit to remove a tree.
- H. **Erecting sidewalk sheds or scaffolding.** These fixtures are put up to protect the public but they severely restrict the sunlight, water, and growing space available to trees.

All proposed work will be inspected prior to issuing a Permit. At the time of inspection, if the proposed tree work is approved, a detailed description will be supplied on the form "Tree Permit Work Order" and attached to the corresponding permit. The Permittee may only perform the work described in the work order attached to the permit. If further work is required on existing trees during the course of the project, additional work orders must be obtained from Parks & Recreation. If the company performing tree work changes, a new permit must be obtained from Parks.

For Parks & Recreation use only. This section is mandatory. All applications must be retained in Parks files.

DATE APPLICATION RECEIVED ___/___/___ APPLICATION NO. _____ PROJECT / DOB JOB NO. _____
 PERMIT NO. _____ WORK ORDER NO. _____ ADDITIONAL W.O. NO. _____
 INSPECTION DATE ___/___/___ INSPECTED BY _____

SECTION 2 – APPLICANT INFORMATION

NAME _____ TEL. NO. _____ FAX _____
 MAILING ADDRESS _____ ZIP CODE _____ EMAIL _____
 TREE WORK ENTITY NAME _____ TEL NO. _____
 TREE WORK ENTITY ADDRESS _____ ZIP CODE _____

WORK LOCATION: STREET ADDRESS _____
 CROSS STREETS _____ BOROUGH _____

PROJECT NAME / DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS JOB NUMBER (if applicable) _____
 BUILDING FAÇADE SUBSTANTIALLY COMPLETED? YES NO LANDSCAPE CONTRACTOR? YES NO

TYPE OF WORK PROPOSED: Please check appropriate box and be specific concerning scope of work and exact location.

- PLANT REMOVE TREE EXCAVATE PRUNE MANAGE PESTS RELOCATE REMOVE STUMP
- CONSTRUCTION-RELATED ACTIVITIES (grade changes, equipment storage, etc.) INSTALL DECORATIONS PROTECT OTHER

PLANTING REQUEST: OFF-site ON-site OTHER DETAILS _____

_____ # OF TREES IMPACTED _____

Estimated Date for Start of Work ___/___/___ Estimated Duration of Work _____

Signature required on page 2 →



SECTION 3 – DOCUMENTATION (Required for all applicants, except as noted above in activities A and B)

Please provide the following documents in support of your application, if appropriate. Applications submitted without these documents will not be processed. Do not send documents under a separate cover. 14" x 17" drawings are preferred. Parks may, at its discretion, require additional documents in support of this application.

- Letter stating intent of the project, why tree work needs to be completed, and the project's Department of Buildings Job Number
- Pre-construction survey and / or layout of existing conditions illustrating tree location(s)
- Project design plan
- Builders Pavement Plan
- Site photos
- Utility drawings or vault installation drawings, if applicable
- MTA subway roof maps, if determined necessary by Parks
- Any other plans that demonstrate conflicts between city trees and the project

SECTION 4 – RULES (Required for all applicants and property owners)

Before submitting this application, please review the permitted activities on the previous page and the following conditions below:

- **This application is not a permit.** No work may be performed before a Work Order and Permit are granted.
- **Arboricide.** The removal of a tree without permission is a criminal misdemeanor punishable by a fine and / or imprisonment for up to one year, in addition to civil damages.
- **Permit timeframe.** All applications may be submitted at any time during the year, but planting permit applications must be received no later than April 1st for a spring planting or November 1st for a fall planting. A Parks forester will visit the site within three (3) weeks to determine if the proposed planting plan is acceptable. Planting permits expire within six (6) months, and planting must be completed between March 15th and May 15th for spring plantings or between October 15th and December 15th for fall plantings. Construction-related tree work permit applications must be received at least twenty (20) business days prior to the start of work. All other applications must be received at least ten (10) business days prior to the start of work.
- **Who can apply.** Permit applications can be made by property owners, general contractors, tree work contractors, utilities, businesses, and other entities.
- **Insurance.** The Permittee or entity doing work on or adjacent to a City tree, including the planting of new trees, must have appropriate insurance to perform work. The Permittee must submit proof of insurance to Parks for a permit to be granted. Depending on the size and scope of the project, a performance bond may be required as well. Parks reserves the right to deny a Permit to any contractor or entity in poor standing with the Agency.
- **Qualifications.** The Permittee must prove to Parks that at least one member of the tree company performing tree work possesses either a certificate as "Arborist" from the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) or equivalent certification or experience, which will be determined by Parks. Other types of work (e.g., pesticide application) must be performed by entities holding the appropriate certifications, licenses, and / or permits. The contractor conducting the tree work must be certified by the New York State Department of Agriculture & Markets to perform work within the Asian Longhorned Beetle Quarantine Zone.
- **Supervision.** Parks reserves the right to request supervision of work by an ISA-certified arborist.
- **Compliance.** The Permittee must follow Parks' and other regulating authorities' standards and requirements while performing any work under the Permit. In general, according to current mandates set forth by New York State Department of Agriculture & Markets, the company performing the tree work is required to transport all Asian longhorned beetle (ALB) host material within the quarantine zone.
- **Documentation.** If a Permit is granted, the original copy of the Tree Permit Work Order and Permit must be present at the worksite at all times. Photocopies or fax copies are not acceptable.
- **Multiple activities.** If further work is required on or adjacent to City trees during the course of the project, a new work order must be requested from Parks. If the company conducting tree work changes, a new permit must be requested from Parks.

SECTION 5 – SIGNATURES (Required for all applicants and property owners)

I hereby certify that I have read and understood the conditions in Sections 1 and 4 above. I agree to abide by the terms and conditions of this application and any permit, if granted, and the Rules and Regulations of Parks. I understand that any false statement or information, or failure to follow the terms of any permit granted, may lead to the immediate denial or cancellation of my Permit and additional legal action by Parks.

Applicant's Signature _____

Date ____/____/____

Property Owner's Signature _____

Date ____/____/____

For all activities EXCEPT tree planting, completed applications and required documents should be faxed or sent to the appropriate borough forestry office:

























<p>THE BRONX NYC Parks & Recreation Attn: FORESTRY 1 Bronx River Parkway Bronx, NY 10462 Fx: (718) 430-4663 Ph: (718) 430-1877</p>	<p>BROOKLYN NYC Parks & Recreation Attn: FORESTRY 95 Prospect Park West Brooklyn, NY 11215 Fx: (718) 965-7753 Ph: (718) 965-7750</p>	<p>MANHATTAN NYC Parks & Recreation Attn: FORESTRY 24 West 61st St., 5th Flr New York, NY 10023 Fx: (212) 860-1359 Ph: (212) 860-1845</p>	<p>QUEENS NYC Parks & Recreation Attn: FORESTRY 80-30 Park Lane Kew Gardens, NY 11415 Fx: (718) 699-7491 Ph: (718) 699-4700</p>	<p>STATEN ISLAND NYC Parks & Recreation Attn: FORESTRY 1150 Clove Rd. Staten Is., NY 10301 Fx: (718) 816-9194 Ph: (718) 816-5180</p>
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For TREE PLANTING applications, all required documents should be faxed or sent to:

NYC Parks & Recreation, Attn: PERMITS, Central Forestry & Horticulture,
Olmsted Center, room 47, Flushing Meadows Corona Park, Flushing NY, 11368

Fx: (718) 760-6640 Ph: (718) 760-6794

The following is a list of tree species approved by Parks for sidewalk and lawn planting sites in the public right-of-way in New York City. Superior cultivars may be substituted with the permission of the Agency. Call 311 to request a free tree. To plant a tree on your own, call the division of Central Forestry & Horticulture for a permit (718-760-6794). To donate money to plant a tree call (212) 360 - TREE

LARGE TREES: Mature height greater than 50 feet tall									
TREE SPECIES		SHAPE	GROWTH RATE		VISUAL INTEREST	ENVIRONMENTAL TOLERANCES	ENVIRONMENTAL SENSITIVITIES	NOTES	
Scientific Name	Common Name		Slow	Medium					
<i>Eucommia ulmoides</i>	Hardy Rubber Tree	Rounded	●			Drought / Wide pH / Full Sun			
<i>Ginkgo biloba</i>	Ginkgo	Upright	●		 Yellow	Drought / Salt / High pH	Permanently Wet Soils	Male Only - Does Not Bear Fruit Excellent Median Tree	
<i>Gleditsia triacanthos inermis</i>	Honeylocust	Irregular		●	 Yellow	Wet or Dry Soils / Salt / High pH		Excellent Median Tree	
<i>Gymnocladus dioicus</i>	Kentucky Coffeetree	Rounded		●		Drought / Salt	Needs large pits	Male Preferred - Does Not Bear Fruit Tree Does Best in Lawn Pits	
<i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i>	Sweetgum	Pyramidal		●	 Yellow Red	Wet or Dry Soils / Full Sun / Pollution	Drought / High pH	Plant Spring Only, Messy Fruit Tree Does Best in Lawn Pits	
<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>	Tulip Tree	Pyramidal		●	 Yellow		Needs space / Drought	Plant Spring Only, Tree Does Best in Lawn Pits	
<i>Metasequoia glyptostroboides</i>	Dawn Redwood	Pyramidal		●	 Needles	Wet and Dry Soils / High pH	Salt / Needs Large Pits	Can Grow 2 to 3 Feet per Year	
<i>Quercus bicolor</i>	Swamp White Oak	Rounded	●		 Yellow / Red	Wet soils / Acidic Soils	High pH	Plant Spring Only	
<i>Quercus imbricaria</i>	Shingle Oak	Rounded		●	 Yellow Red	Drought / Wide Range of Soil Condition		Plant Spring Only	
<i>Quercus palustris</i>	Pin Oak	Pyramidal		●	 Maroon	Wet or dry soils	High pH	Excellent Median Tree	
<i>Quercus phellos</i>	Willow Oak	Rounded	●		 Yellow Orange	Drought / Wet or dry soils	High pH	Plant Spring Only Can Adapt to Almost Any Habitat	
<i>Quercus rubra</i>	Northern Red Oak	Rounded		●	 Maroon	Compaction	Drought / High pH	Plant Spring Only	
<i>Quercus</i> spp. 'Fastigiata'	Fastigiata Oak	Columnar	●		 Maroon	Wet or dry soils	High pH	Excellent Median Tree	
<i>Styphnolobium japonicum</i>	Scholar Tree	Rounded		●	 Cream	Drought / Salt / Compaction		Excellent Median Tree	
<i>Taxodium distichum</i>	Baldcypress	Pyramidal		●	 Needles	Wide Range of Soil Conditions	Shade / High pH	Plant Spring Only / Ideal For Wet Soils	
<i>Tilia americana</i>	Basswood / American Linden	Rounded		●	 Cream Yellow / Green	Drought / Wide pH / Wet soils	Salt / Air Pollution	Lindens Are Also Known as Lime Trees Excellent Tree for Partial Shade, Fragrant Flowers	
<i>Tilia cordata</i>	Littleleaf Linden	Pyramidal		●	 Cream Yellow	Pollution	Salt / Drought	Fragrant Flowers	
<i>Tilia x euchlora</i>	Crimean Linden	Rounded		●	 Cream Yellow	Drought / Pollution		Pest Resistant	
<i>Tilia tomentosa</i>	Silver Linden	Rounded		●	 Cream	Drought / Salt		Fragrant Flowers Under Side of Leaf is Silver	
<i>Zelkova serrata</i>	Japanese Zelkova	Vase-Like		●	 Red / Bronze	Drought / High pH / Pollution	Shade	Excellent Median Tree	
⊘ ASIAN LONG HORN BEETLE QUARANTINE SPECIES - PLANTING PROHIBITED IN BROOKLYN, MANHATTAN, AND QUEENS ⊘									
<i>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</i>	Green Ash	Pyramidal		●	 Ornamental Bark	High pH / Salt	Ash Borer Sensitive	'Patmore' Cultivar Is Most Hardy	
<i>Ulmus americana</i>	American Elm	Vase-Like		●	 Yellow	Drought / Salt / Wide pH		Only Dutch Elm Disease-Resistant Cultivars	
Key:  Fall Leaf Color  Ornamental Bark  Flower Color  Needles									

Street Trees for New York City (continued)

MEDIUM TREES: Mature height between 35 feet and 50 feet tall									
TREE SPECIES		SHAPE	GROWTH RATE		VISUAL INTEREST	ENVIRONMENTAL TOLERANCES	ENVIRONMENTAL SENSITIVITIES	NOTES	
Scientific Name	Common Name		Slow	Medium					
<i>Carpinus betulus</i> 'Fastigiata'	European Hornbeam	Narrow	●			Yellow	Wide pH	Salt	Can Grow 20-30' Wide with Maturity
<i>Carpinus caroliniana</i>	American Hornbeam	Rounded	●			Yellow Orange			Plant Spring Only
<i>Cercidiphyllum japonicum</i>	Katsura Tree	Rounded		●		Yellow Orange	Light Shade	Drought/Compaction	Tree Does Best In Lawn Pits
<i>Corylus colurna</i>	Turkish Filbert	Pyramidal		●			Drought / Salt / Wide pH		Also Known as Turkish Hazelnut
<i>Ostrya virginiana</i>	American Hophornbeam	Rounded	●			Yellow	Shade / Drought / High pH	Salt	Plant Spring Only
<i>Pyrus calleryana</i>	Callery Pear	Rounded		●		White Maroon	Drought / Salt / High pH / Compaction		Do Not Plant 'Bradford' Cultivars 'Cleveland Select' Is Structurally Superior
<i>Quercus acutissima</i>	Sawtooth Oak	Rounded		●		Yellow	Drought / High pH		Plant Spring Only
<i>Quercus robur</i>	English Oak	Rounded	●				Drought / Salt / High pH		Plant Spring Only
⊘ ASIAN LONG HORN BEETLE QUARANTINE SPECIES - PLANTING PROHIBITED IN BROOKLYN, MANHATTAN, AND QUEENS ⊘									
<i>Acer rubrum</i>	Red Maple	Rounded		●		Red	Wet Soils		Tree Does Best In Lawn Pits
<i>Celtis occidentalis</i>	Hackberry	Rounded		●			Drought / Pollution / Wide pH		Native Species
<i>Ulmus parvifolia</i>	Chinese Elm	Rounded		●			Drought / Salt / Wide pH		Also Known as Lacebark Elm

SMALL TREES: Mature height less than 35 feet tall (suitable for planting under low overhead utility wires)									
TREE SPECIES		SHAPE	GROWTH RATE		VISUAL INTEREST	ENVIRONMENTAL TOLERANCES	ENVIRONMENTAL SENSITIVITIES	NOTES	
Scientific Name	Common Name		Slow	Medium					
<i>Amelanchier canadensis</i>	Serviceberry	Rounded		●		White Red / Yellow	Wet Soils / Shade	Drought / Full Sun / Compaction	'Autumn Sunset,' 'Cumulus,' and 'White Pillar' Are Particularly Suited for Street Trees.
<i>Cercis canadensis</i>	Eastern Redbud	Irregular	●			Pink Yellow / Green	Shade / Wide pH	Compaction	Useful as Understory Species For Partial Shade Tree Does Best in Lawn Pits
<i>Crataegus</i> spp.	Hawthorn	Rounded		●		White Maroon	Drought / Salt		Fruits Persist; Many Cultivars Have Thorns; 'Winter King' and 'Princeton Sentry' Suited for Street Trees.
<i>Koelreuteria paniculata</i>	Goldenraintree	Rounded		●		Yellow	Drought / Salt / High pH / Poor Soils		
<i>Maackia amurensis</i>	Amur Maackia	Rounded	●			White	Wide pH		Fixes Its Own Nitrogen in the Soil Late Bloomer
<i>Malus</i> spp.	Crabapple	Rounded	●			White Red / Yellow	Low pH	Some species and cultivars are highly disease-prone	Fruits Persist Through Winter; <i>M. baccata</i> , <i>M. zumi</i> , and 'Donald Wyman' Recommended
<i>Prunus cerasifera</i>	Purpleleaf Plum	Rounded		●		Pink Maroon		Wet soils	'Atropurpurea' and 'Thundercloud' Recommended
<i>Prunus</i> 'Okame'	Okame Cherry	Rounded		●		Pink Red / Bronze	Drought / Clay Soils		Earliest Blooming Cherry Flowers in Late March - Early April
<i>Prunus padus</i>	European Birdcherry	Rounded	●			White Yellow / Bronze			One of the First Trees to Leaf Out in the Spring
<i>Prunus sargentii</i>	Sargent Cherry	Rounded	●			Pink Red / Bronze			'Accolade' is Semi-double Flowering; 'Columnaris' Has a Narrow Vase-shape
<i>Prunus serrulata</i> 'Kwanzan'	Japanese Flowering Cherry	Rounded	●			Pink Red / Orange			Double-flowering Tree Does Not Normally Fruit
<i>Prunus virginiana</i> 'Schubert'	Schubert Cherry	Pyramidal		●		White Maroon	Clay Soils / High pH		Excellent Median Tree Leaves Maroon Most of Summer
<i>Prunus x yedoensis</i>	Yoshino Cherry	Rounded		●		White Yellow			Tree Does Best in Lawn Pits
<i>Syringa reticulata</i>	Japanese Tree Lilac	Rounded		●		White	Drought		Extremely Disease-resistant Fragrant Flowers
⊘ ASIAN LONG HORN BEETLE QUARANTINE SPECIES - PLANTING PROHIBITED IN BROOKLYN, MANHATTAN, AND QUEENS ⊘									
<i>Acer campestre</i>	Hedge Maple	Rounded	●			Yellow	Wide pH / Drought / Compaction / Pollution		'Queen Elizabeth' is Most Vigorous Cultivar
<i>Acer ginnala</i>	Amur Maple	Rounded		●		Cream Red / Yellow	Drought / Wide pH		Excellent Median Tree
<i>Acer truncatum</i>	Shantung Maple	Rounded	●			Greenish Yellow Red / Yellow	Drought / Wide pH		Excellent Median Tree Subspecies <i>Mono</i> is Slightly Larger

Key: Fall Leaf Color Ornamental Bark
 Flower Color Needles