

Parks Department Info On Tree Planting

Starting Point Links

This page supplies information about the tree planting process. As well as links to other detailed information.

The Tree Planting Overview

<https://www2.nycgovparks.org/trees/street-tree-planting>

The 9 Year Plan In Detail

<https://www2.nycgovparks.org/trees/street-tree-planting/neighborhood-tree-planting-program>

Questions About The Tree Planting Program

Who is responsible for damage the tree roots do to the sidewalk aka Public Right Of Way?

NYC.Gov Website

<https://portal.311.nyc.gov/article/?kanumber=KA-01506#:~:text=Property%20owners%20are%20responsible%20for,%C2%BD%20inch%20can%20cause%20injuries.>

Excerpts From Parks Dept Website

City Tree Damage

The City will no longer issue violations or impose liens on 1-, 2-, and 3- family properties that have sidewalk damage caused only by City trees.

Sidewalk defects due to tree or tree roots next to 4+ properties, commercial buildings, or vacant lots are the responsibility of the property owner.

Search Trees and Sidewalk Repair for details.

<https://portal.311.nyc.gov/article/?kanumber=KA-01505>

A PDF of this information is attached to this report.

Note: To report a damaged sidewalk contact DOT through the city website. Or file a 311 Service Request. Whatever you do. Make sure to file a complaint.

What Are Those Markings On My Sidewalk?

The following excerpts are from the Parks Department web page. Click on this link to read about the entire planting process.

Link: <https://www2.nycgovparks.org/trees/street-tree-planting/steps>

Excerpt

Step 2: Utilities

The utility companies mark the underground gas (yellow), electric (red), and telecommunication (orange) lines at the proposed planting location to ensure that the tree planting will not conflict with any of these utilities. Though a site may have been approved during the survey process, it may later be declined after the utilities are marked on the sidewalk and street.

Step 3: Marking

An NYC Parks forester and the planting contractor will then visit the planting site to mark out the future tree bed and tree location. A white "T" is painted on the curb where the tree will be planted. You may also see white marks on the sidewalk to indicate the corners of the future street tree bed. Marking of the planting location will most likely take place between February and March for spring plantings, and between September and October for fall plantings. NYC Parks places a specialized decal to indicate where tree planting is taking place.

End of Excerpt.

What Is the Planting Time frame?

Excerpt

Trees are planted from October through May. Because tree plantings may be delayed by weather or other unforeseen events, we're unable to provide an exact planting date. But before your new leafy friend arrives, a sticker will be placed where the tree will be planted in the sidewalk. In areas with lawn strips, a flag will be placed indicating that a new tree will be planted within the public right-of-way.

Note that I checked the tree planting schedule. And trees for 666 and 658 Wyona are scheduled for 12/31/25.

How do we identify and verify the newly planted tree?

Excerpt

Your new tree will also have an "I'M YOUR NEW TREE" tag with the name of the tree species. Each new tree will have two wooden stakes on either side for support and the area around the tree will be covered in mulch to minimize weed growth and to retain water.

Who Cares For The Tree?

Excerpt

Caring for Street Trees

We are responsible for the care and maintenance of street trees. After a tree has been planted, our planting contractors are responsible for all basic tree care services including watering, weeding, replacing missing soil, and conducting minor pruning and replacement, if necessary. The contractor is also required to water the tree at least once every two weeks from May through October.

Local residents are encouraged to help care for street trees. Volunteers can water and provide mulch for trees, cultivate the soil, plant flowers in tree beds, and install [tree guards](#).

Who do we contact if there is a problem with the tree?

Excerpt

Tree Services

If you know of a tree that needs our attention, please report it by [submitting a service request](#). If you've already filed a service request with us or with 311, you can [check the status of your tree service request](#) using your confirmation number.

Trees Planted Since 2021

The following concerns trees newly planted since 2021. This information will help in forming an opinion on the type of trees that are best for the block. And those that should not be here.

Notes

Latest Info. Refers to information supplied by the Parks Department's interactive map.

Note that the Parks Department does not update this map as it is supposed to.

Unless otherwise stated, the term latest info refers to the latest photo taken by an independent contractor.

Not Found On Approved List. This refers to the Parks Department list of approved trees for planting.

Note that a tree no longer on the list does not mean that the tree is not suitable for planting. It may mean that a particular tree is not available for planting.

Number In Parentheses. A number in parentheses represents the number of trees.

Possible Discrepancies. The trees in the report are the ones listed on the Parks Department website. I know that two of the trees near New Lots Ave were replaced. There are no tags on those trees. There are no tags on any of the trees except the one at 657 Wyona.

Trees Already Planted

Tree: Bloodgood Plane Tree aka Platanus Acerifloia Bloodgood
657 Wyona Street Completed 5/15/25
This is a large tree.

Wikipedia

The **London plane**, or sometimes **hybrid plane**, *Platanus × hispanica*,^[2] is a tree in the genus *Platanus*. It is often known by the **synonym** *Platanus × acerifolia*, a later name. It is a **hybrid** of *Platanus orientalis* (oriental plane) and *Platanus occidentalis* (American sycamore).

Platanus x acerifolia 'Bloodgood', or the Bloodgood London Planetree, is a large, fast-growing, deciduous tree known for its anthracnose resistance, distinctive peeling bark in shades of cream, green, and brown, and large, maple-like leaves that turn yellow-brown in fall. It is a hardy and durable tree, well-suited for urban environments, parks, and large open spaces due to its tolerance for compacted soil, heat, pollution, and drought.

I do not know if this tree is similar to the London Plantree that we now have. If it is, then we need to be aware of the following.

The following refers to the London Planetree Trees we already have.

The tree is fairly wind-resistant. However, it has a number of problems in urban use, most notably the short, stiff hairs shed by the young leaves and the dispersing seeds; these are an irritant if breathed in, and can exacerbate breathing difficulties for people with asthma.^[6] The vigorous roots can also cause problems with paving in cities, making uneven surfaces with tripping hazards.^[6] The large leaves can create a disposal problem in cities, as they are tough and sometimes can take more than one year to break down if they remain whole.

Tree: “Beijing Gold” Peking Tree lilac (2)

Closest Address: 710 Wyona
Planted 12.8.21
Not found on approved list.

Does this tree produce pollen?

Yes, the "Beijing Gold" (or Chinese) Peking Tree lilac does produce pollen; it is a pollinator-friendly plant, attracting bees and other beneficial insects with its flowers, which are the source of the pollen.

Note that the pollen is not wind blown. So it will not pollute the air. We will see more bees though.

Tree: Hophornbeam Ostrya Virginiana (2)

Closest 611 Hegeman (but it is on Wyona St) Planted 12.8.21 Not found on approved list This is a small tree.

AI Search Result

Pros include its aesthetic value, significant wildlife support, and adaptability to various soils, while cons are its slow growth, difficulty transplanting, and low commercial value.

Does The Tree Produce Pollen?

AI Search Result

Yes, the American hophornbeam tree (*Ostrya virginiana*) produces pollen in New York, typically in the spring when its leaves begin to emerge. It is a wind-pollinated tree, with male catkins developing in late summer of the preceding year and maturing to release pollen in the spring. The pollen is dispersed by the wind.

Conclusion

Although this tree produces pollen. If we have trees (female trees) that remove the pollen from the air we may be okay. This is contingent on the fact that male trees do not overwhelm female trees.

Tree: Silver Linden_ Tilia Tomentosa

Closest Address 464 New Lots Ave (It is on Wyona near New Lots In front of the ASPCA) Latest info 9.13.25. Still on The List of Approved Trees Classified as a large tree.

From Wikipedia https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tilia_tomentosa

Short Description:

Tilia tomentosa is a [deciduous tree](#) growing to 20–35 m (66–115 ft) tall, with a trunk up to 2 m (7 ft) in diameter.

Excerpt

Silver Lindens are susceptible to aphids, borer, walnut lace bugs, caterpillars, leaf miners, scale, and mites. The aphids secrete a substance that causes a dark soot called honeydew.

Then there is this problem. This tree is not suitable for planting in a restrictive manner.

Excerpt

Lindens are prone to girdling roots when planted improperly or in restricted areas.

Girdling Roots Definition: Girdling roots are tree roots that grow in a circle around the tree's trunk, constricting it and hindering the flow of water and nutrients. They are caused by poor planting, compacted soil, or [container-grown plants](#) and can lead to trunk weakness, structural issues, and even trunk breakage

Excerpt

Medicinal Use

Silver linden is used in traditional herbal medicine to relieve symptoms of the common cold, anxiety, and insomnia by promoting relaxation and sleep through its soothing properties. The flowers are often brewed into a tea, used in syrups, or infused into honey. Additionally, the tree itself is planted in urban and residential landscapes for its shade, fragrant flowers that attract pollinators, and its distinctive shimmering silver-backed leaves.

Conclusion

This tree is a bit complex. The biggest problem with the tree is the bugs it attracts.

The upside.

The tree's leaves have medicinal properties. If this tree is planted correctly and maintained. It poses no threat to the community.

Tree: "Triumph" Elm Ulmus

Closest Address 464 New Lots (It is on Wyona St in front of the ASPCA)

Latest info 9.13.25 Not of the Approved List.

This is a large tree.

AI Search Result

Question: Is the Triumph Elm a male or female tree?

The Triumph Elm is neither strictly male nor female; like most elms, it is monoecious, meaning it has both male and female flowers on the same tree. The flowers are also bisexual, containing both male and female parts within a single bloom.

A Triumph elm tree can self-pollinate, though its female parts mature before the male parts to encourage cross-pollination with other elm trees. The flowers appear in the spring and produce small, winged seeds called samaras.

The "Triumph" Elm (scientific name *Ulmus 'Morton Glossy'*) is a hardy, disease-resistant elm hybrid known for its symmetrical, upright growth, reaching 50-60 feet tall with dark green, glossy foliage and yellow fall color. This fast-growing tree is a good choice for urban environments, parkways, and open spaces due to its resistance to Dutch elm disease and elm leaf beetle, and it adapts well to various soil conditions, though it prefers well-drained soils.

Pros and Cons

Pros include its rapid growth, handsome vase-like form as a young tree, tolerance to wet, dry, and urban soils, and sturdy branches that tend to hinge rather than break.

Cons are its tendency to attract Japanese beetles and DED (Dutch Elm Disease), its potentially high seed production and resulting mess, and **the need for pruning to maintain its classic shape, which may be costly and requires professional help.**

Conclusion

This tree will not add to our already pollen-laden air. There will be horticultural garbage to remove. But that is not the main problem. Pruning is. Pruning is something that all our trees need.

***Tree: "Green Leaf" Japanese Flowering Cherry**

Closest Address 460 New Lots (It is on Wyona St. Across the street from the ASPCA). Latest info 9.13.25

No Longer on the Approved List. No wonder this tree is toxic to dogs.

AI Search Result

How tall does a Japanese flowering cherry tree get?

Answer

20 to 25 feet high

This tree qualifies as a medium sized tree.

They can have single or double flowers in small clusters in late spring (April-May) as leaves form. Tree is fruitless. Mature size and shape: Small to medium. 20 to 25 feet high x 10 feet wide.

Important Note If You Have a Dog.

Are Japanese flowering cherry trees poisonous to dogs?

All parts of a cherry tree are toxic to dogs, including the leaves, seeds, and blossoms: The leaves, seeds, and stems of cherry trees contain cyanogenic glycosides, which can produce cyanide when metabolized. Cyanide is especially toxic when the leaves are wilted.

Does The Japanese Flowering Cherry Trees Produce Pollen?

Yes, Japanese flowering cherry trees (ornamental or decorative cherry blossoms) do produce pollen, but it is typically large and doesn't travel far, making it less of an allergen than the smaller pollen from trees like cedars and oaks that are more responsible for seasonal allergies. The pollen serves as an important food source for pollinators like bees and butterflies.

Conclusion

This tree does not produce pollen that will aggravate allergies. But dog owners should avoid crossing its path. This tree is near the corner of New Lots and Wyona. Across the street from the ASPCA.

Because it is a medium size tree root damage to the sidewalk is not an issue.

***Tree: "Metro Gold" Hedge Maple**

Closest Address 460 New Lots (It is Wyona near New Lots)

Latest Info 9.13.25 This is a medium size tree.

How Tall Does a Hedge Maple Get?

Hedge maple has a rounded mature habit reaching 35 feet tall and wide. Considerable pruning is required and why it is given the common name hedge maple. Plant in rich, well-drained acidic soils in full to partial shade.

Is Hedge Maple Invasive?

Once popular in Europe and the United Kingdom, the hedge maple is an ornamental tree that's no longer widely planted in North America due to its invasive tendencies.

Conclusion

This tree is going to be a problem in the making. Although it is a medium-sized tree, according to the Parks Department. It comes with large-scale problems.

This tree is so invasive that planting in North America was halted.

And there is the issue of pruning. This tree requires considerable pruning.

This is an area where the Parks Department is weak.

This tree should not have been planted here. If possible, it should be replaced with a non-invasive medium-sized tree that requires less maintenance.

Tree Pruning

As an added bonus, I decided to check on the tree pruning schedule for our street. A check of the Tree Pruning website, showing Completed and Scheduled pruning, showed no scheduled pruning for this section of Wyona St.

To check on pruning for your tree go to

<https://www2.nycgovparks.org/services/forestry/tree-pruning>

There are several ways to access data.

- Entering your street address is the most precise method.
- Enter the zip or street name to search a broader area.