



City of New York
Parks & Recreation

Adrian Benepe
Commissioner

The Arsenal
Central Park
New York, New York 10065

Olmstead Center
Flushing Meadows Corona Park
Flushing, New York 11368

Bram Gunther
Chief of Forestry, Horticulture
and Natural Resources Group

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June 28, 2012

Mr. Thomas Hylton
Secretary-treasurer
Trees Inc.
222 Chestnut Street
Pottstown, PA 19464

Dear Mr. Hylton:

New York City is more than halfway toward its goal to plant 1 million new trees over the next decade. Of the new trees, approximately 200,000 will be street trees.

Our most recent city-wide census, taken in 2005-2006, showed we have nearly 600,000 street trees, a 19% increase over the previous census in 1995-1996.

New York City's top ten street trees are:

London plane	15.3%
Norway maple	14.1%
Callery pear	10.9%
Honeylocust	8.9%
Pin oak	7.5%
Littleleaf linden	4.7%
Green ash	3.5%
Red maple	3.5%
Silver maple	3.2%
Ginkgo	2.8%

The environmental benefit of a street tree is directly related to its size, leaf area, and canopy cover. That is why the most important street trees in New York City are broad leaf deciduous trees, the London plane being one of them; in fact the plane tree, a cousin to the sycamore, has been a mainstay of our urban environment for more than a century. It is extremely hardy and more likely than many trees to successfully mature and create a large canopy cover lasting decades.

The London plane tree represents 15.3% of our street trees, but it accounts for 29.1% of the canopy cover on city streets, more than twice as much the Norway maple, the second most populous street tree.



New York City's trees – and urban trees in general – clean our air and water, reduce storm water runoff, provide shade and a much cooler environment, reduce energy costs, and increase property values.

Using a model developed by the U.S. Forest Service, we estimate New York City's street trees provide about \$122 million annually in benefits to the city.

We wish you the best in your street tree planting and maintenance efforts in Pottstown.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bram Gunther', written in a cursive style.

Bram Gunther