

Parks & Environment Committee

03/25/2026

Agenda:

1. Mitch Barron, Senior Forrester NYC Parks
 - a. NYC Parks is launching a new tree program to start in Spring 2027
 - b. Half of all trees in NYC are managed by NYC Parks
 - i. 14% of those trees are street trees or within parkland
 - c. NYC Parks has planted 20,000 trees in Brooklyn since 2022
 - i. 1,000 were within CB07
 - d. NYC Parks used to take service requests from 311 for new street tree plantings
 - i. Timeline from request to tree planting would take anywhere from 6 months to 5 years
 - ii. Priority would be given to
 1. Environmental Justice Zones
 2. CM/Agency requested areas
 - iii. Main issue was how difficult it was to provide predictable service
 - e. NYC Parks new approach to neighborhood tree planting
 - i. NYC Parks will identify a geographical area
 - ii. Walk block by block
 1. Identify areas that can support new trees
 2. Remove dead/old/stumps
 3. Survey empty beds
 4. Cover beds that do not meet street tree criteria
 - iii. This new system will help NYC work across the city comprehensively
 - iv. NYC will discontinue 311 service requests
 - v. This work will be completed on a 9 year cycle
 1. Each CD will be broken up into three areas, each area will be serviced in three year cycles
 - f. NYC Parks will be working through its existing contracts and planting obligations in the lead up to this new program launch
 - g. Detailed maps of the new program can be found on the NYC Parks website
 - h. Question: Will NYC Parks be expanding tree beds?
 - i. No, just focused on planting and removing trees
 - i. Question: Species being planted?

- i. Wide pallet of species that focuses on the area the tree will be planted
 - 1. Urban vs. Suburban
 - 2. Traffic corridors
 - 3. Coastal areas
 - j. Question: Closing tree beds?
 - i. Will happen at the same time as tree plantings
 - k. Question: What about areas where trees have damaged sidewalks?
 - i. That's a specialized department within NYC Parks
 - ii. NYC Parks will be still taking service requests for damaged sidewalks and pruning
 - l. Question: What about trees that were supposed to be planted by developers? There are some areas where those haven't been planted yet.
 - i. NYC Parks to follow up
 - m. Assemblymember Chang
 - i. Are there any funding issues NYC Parks might have for tree plantings?
 - 1. NYC Parks is well funded for approx. 15,000-18,000 trees
 - 2. NYC Parks real issue is being able to access the number of trees they need
 - n. Question: What about property owners worried about damaged sidewalks?
 - i. Submit 311 requests to document the issue
 - 1. DOT may waive fees to building owners if an existing request has been submitted
 - 2. Will also prompt NYC Parks to inspect the tree
 - 3. Building owners may be able to get reimbursement for any repairs they make if an invoice within 90 days of the work
 - o. NYC Parks sequence for new program
 - i. 2027-2029
 - ii. 2030-2032
 - iii. 2033-2035
 - p. Center for Family Life
 - i. How will parks engage the community?
 - 1. The community may have input on specific areas
 - ii. Are there opportunities for better signage?
 - 1. Learning the names of trees
 - a. NYC Parks has tried a few iterations that did not work well, still looking for ways to incorporate signs

2. Clean Up Sunset Park

- a. Organized to help advocate for better street cleanliness and cleaner street tree beds
- b. Sanitation Foundation has community grants to support clean up groups
- c. Review of 2025 events
 - i. Partnerships with Big Reuse and CM Aviles
- d. 2026 Upcoming Events
 - i. **MAY 02, 2026**
Sunset Park
5th Ave between 41st and 44th
Approx Address: 4240 5th Ave, Brooklyn, NY
 - ii. **MAY 16, 2026**
5th Ave and 23rd St
Approx Address: 333 24th St, Brooklyn, NY
 - iii. **MAY 30, 2026**
Rainbow Playground
6th Ave between 55th St and 56th St
Approx Address: 5561 6th Ave
- e. Sunset Park Helping Hands Garden Club
 - i. Volunteers help Sunset Park with consistent care
 - ii. Clean Up Sunset Park can reach out to schools and PTAs for more volunteer support
 - iii. It could be interesting to separate out trash collected on different types (landfill, recycling, etc.)