

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/22/2024 3:34:20 PM

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Comments: As of 2020, an estimated 5.2 million trees are spread across New York City with an average of about 26 trees per acre. This might seem like a big number but that number is measly because in temperate forests in America there is an average of 490 trees per acre and if New York City had that average there would be 37,505,744,896 trees. This is a major problem because trees are great for physical and mental health and in NYC loss of tree density and diversity can take a toll on New Yorkers. I call on you to lead the movement in planting trees in different areas of the city, especially places close to freeways and places without nearby parks. NYC has a rising population of people but with so little trees respiratory illness and mental health averages can rise with a clear solution. Trees can clean the air via photosynthesis. Chestnut trees were one of the most populous trees in New York state and clearly also gave all the benefits of any other tree, but when a "the blight was first discovered just across the Harlem river... 4.2 billion chestnut trees in the eastern United States before the blight " (Reviving an Extinct Tree in one of Manhattan's Last Forests/ NYRP.org). Now Chestnut trees are very hard to come by and in the New York Botanical Gardens only 4 chestnut trees can be found. The next reason New York City needs more trees is human well - being. According to <https://forestforall.nyc> "The city's urban forest helps avoid nearly 17,000 events annually - translating to a saving of more than \$77 million per year." Given that NYC has a population of about 8.5 million people, 17,000 health events is a small fraction of health problems New Yorkers have yearly. In Staten Island "North shore neighborhoods have higher asthma rates and high blood pressure rates compared to the south shore" (<https://forestforall.nyc/>). This is not a coincidence because the south shore has more trees than the north shore, proving trees are beneficial to humans. Especially in light of Covid - 19 more trees are needed and I hope you understand my concern and help lead the planting of more trees.

New York City is a great place but it still has problems just like any other place on earth. From cleaning the air, improving mental health and reducing respiratory illness trees are the way to go. So you ask me why you would not pick trees.