



COUNCIL MEMBER LINCOLN RESTLER ANNOUNCES DISTRICT 33 STREET TREE PLAN

3400 TREES WILL BE PLANTED IN EVERY VIABLE SPOT IN DISTRICT 33 AND COMPREHENSIVE STREET CARE EFFORTS LAUNCHED ACROSS DISTRICT

Brooklyn, NY -- Today, [Council Member Lincoln Restler released a plan to plant 3,400 new street trees](#), ensuring that every viable street tree pit location is filled across the district. The plan also includes a comprehensive effort to get more neighbors involved in tree stewardship to help ensure that every street tree is cared for and healthy.

In coordination with Council Member Restler's office, the New York City Parks Department has committed to planting 2,200 trees across the district over the next four years. Council Member Restler's office will fund an additional 1,200 trees during that same period at a cost of \$2.5 million dollars - to be funded through a combination of discretionary dollars and the creation of a District 33 Street Tree Fund. Together, this investment will max out District 33's street tree capacity.

The plan also outlines the Council Member's efforts in concert with existing tree stewardship groups like the Greenpoint Tree Corps and the Brooklyn Heights Association tree team to stand up tree stewardship groups in every neighborhood in the 33rd district so neighbors can learn how to care for the expanding tree canopy. The Council Member's office is hosting 10 tree pit care events this fall and next spring, training multiple cohorts of citizen pruners, and widely disseminating tips on how to better care for street trees on your block.

Tackling the climate crisis requires mitigating the urban heat island effect, which poses serious health risks for our most vulnerable community members. Improving and stewarding our tree canopy is one of the most consequential ways we can lower urban heat and protect our health in the face of this climate crisis. Moreover, a healthy tree canopy has a huge number of other environmental, social, biodiversity and economic benefits.

"When it comes to tackling the climate crisis, one of the solutions I hear most often is surprisingly simple - more trees," **said Council Member Lincoln Restler**. "Planting 3,400 trees in the 33rd District and mobilizing our neighbors to improve the health of street trees will go a long way toward reducing the urban heat island effect, making our community more beautiful, and making our neighborhood more resilient."

"Trees provide an array of benefits for New Yorkers, and our goal is to plant as many trees in as many places as we can across the city," **said NYC Parks Chief of Forestry Ben Osborne**. "We are happy to collaborate with Council Member Restler towards tree plantings, and we're proud to say that District 33 can look forward to more trees in the neighborhood in the years to come."



“The most common interaction a New Yorker might have with nature is the street tree in front of their home,” said Katie Denny Horowitz, Executive Director of the North Brooklyn Parks Alliance. “The impact of robust and well maintained trees across the city isn’t just environmental, it’s symbolic of the quality of life of a neighborhood. Our Council Member understands these values, and his focus on expanding healthy tree canopy at once tackles the climate crisis while beautifying our deteriorating streetscape to improve the everyday experience for residents.”

Katie Denny Horowitz, Executive Director - North Brooklyn Parks Alliance

"This is a thrilling announcement, and we offer our thanks and kudos to CM Restler and NYC Parks for funding and coordinating this endeavor. The BHA has a long history - dating back to the 1940's - of planting and caring for our urban trees. Trees help cool our streets, provide a habitat for birds and other wildlife, help to absorb excess stormwater, and provide beauty. Given the climate challenges we are facing, this kind of effort is more important than ever." **Lara Birnback, Executive Director - Brooklyn Heights Association**

“Big Reuse is really excited to partner with Councilmember Restler and his amazing initiative to add trees to every viable tree bed in District 33. Big Reuse has been making and distributing compost for NYC since 2012, including using compost to improve the degraded soil in tree beds. Our NYC trees have tough conditions to grow in so adding compost and care from community members is essential to growing an urban forest. Big Reuse is looking forward to being part of this tree planting and community mobilization!” - **Justin Green, Executive Director - Big Reuse**

"We look forward to working with Council Member Restler on realizing the goals of the City Council District 33 Street Tree Plan. For over 45 years, Trees New York has trained and mobilized volunteers to care for NYC's urban forest. A healthy and equitable tree canopy is needed more than ever to deal with pressing environmental issues like the urban heat island effect and climate change. The Citizen Pruners in City Council District 33 will provide essential tree care services and play important leadership roles in their communities." **Nelson Villarrubia, Executive Director - Trees New York**

“Greenpoint residents have long understood the value that trees provide our community. Since the 1990s, when Greenpoint lost countless mature trees to the Asian longhorned beetle infestation, neighbors have been rallying for increased investment in tree planting and stewardship. Street trees are an essential part of our city's infrastructure and provide wide-ranging benefits including lower summer temperatures, cleaner air, stormwater absorption, carbon sequestration, noise reduction, and greater human mental health and well-being. We know that planting young trees is only the first step in expanding our urban canopy, and that mature trees provide much greater benefits than newly-planted ones. This is why it's so exciting that Council Member Restler's plan includes ongoing community education and tree stewardship efforts. We are thrilled to continue working alongside neighbors to repair past



Lincoln Restler
COUNCIL MEMBER DISTRICT 33

environmental harm by caring for our street trees.” **Sarah Balistreri and Acacia Thompson of Greenpoint Tree Corps**

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