

HELP NEEDED TO CARE FOR JERSEY CITY'S STREET TREES!



A COLLABORATIVE NETWORK
sustainablejc.org

The economic, aesthetic and health benefits of urban trees are well documented but those trees require care to fulfill that potential. Most of Jersey City's street trees have either overgrown their tree pits or are struggling in very compacted soil. It is incredibly easy to give these trees a boost by improving the tree pits they grow in. If you would like to ambassador some care-giving to a tree or trees in your neighborhood, here are a few things you can do:



1. **Add compost to tree pits !** The goal is to break up the compacted soil, which Compost will do, when mixed together with the existing dirt in the tree pit. Aerated soil allows the tree to absorb additional water that would otherwise run-off and evaporate before being absorbed. Compost also adds nutrients to the soil which benefits the tree.
2. **If possible, cover the Compost with Mulch** so it doesn't wash away. Mulch will also break down from underneath over time, adding even more nutrients to the soil.
3. **Avoid adding other plantings to the tree pit.** These will compete with the tree for water and nutrients. One exception to this is dandelions because they have taproots which grow straight down and further break up the soil and aerate it. They also flower early in the spring so they provide food for local honey bees!
4. **Install a perimeter.** In places that won't create a tripping hazard, establish a barrier, like a garden fence, around the tree pit to limit the foot traffic that will compact the soil.

Where can you get bags of locally grown compost to improve the health and well-being of trees in your neighborhood? - As a fundraiser, Sustainable Jersey City is selling small, 8 lb bags, of compost for this street tree effort (\$5 each). Our education partner Community Compost Company has cultivated this BLACK GOLD and these small bags are easy to handle and distribute to tree pits.

PS - If you have an empty tree pit in front of your residence or open space where one could be cut out, contact the Department of Public Works about purchasing a tree which they will come plant for you !

contact: tylerc.randall@gmail.com