

# Gowanus Canal



CONSERVANCY

## The Gowanus Tree Network

Gowanus neighbors working together to build a network of tree stewards

### Timeline:

October 16th Applications Open, applications accepted on rolling basis

Nov 6th *Gowanus Tree Network* application deadline

Nov 9th *Gowanus Tree Ambassadors* Confirmed

Nov 12th, Nov 19th, Dec 3rd Virtual Citizen Pruner Training

Dec 4th or 5th, attend 90 minute small group field work session

Summer 2021, Enter Brooklyn Botanical Garden's *Greenest Block* competition

March- October 2021, Block greening days

### Commitments:

- Attend 2-hour weekly citizen pruner course (3 two-hour virtual trainings, one in-person 90 minute fieldwork session)
- Lead an on-block volunteer event with Gowanus Canal Conservancy
- Participate in a multi-block public stewardship day
- Enter the Greenest Block in Brooklyn competition 2021 (COVID Permitting)

### Receive:

- Stewardship training including Citizen Pruner Training
- Plants, compost, mulch, tree guards, and tools w/ opportunity for more
- Resources to learn more about horticulture & urban forestry
- Opportunities to collaborate with your neighbors and beautify your block

### To Apply:

Application can be found at: <https://forms.gle/w7snc5WbeAnPHWso9>

or on the GCC website [gowanuscanalconservancy.org](http://gowanuscanalconservancy.org)

Please email [volunteer@gowanuscanalconservancy.org](mailto:volunteer@gowanuscanalconservancy.org) with any questions



## THE STATE OF THE FOREST:

### What to know about Gowanus' Urban Forest

1. The street trees in the area surrounding the Gowanus Canal generate environmental services equal to \$360,000 in measurable benefits every year. These services include energy savings, carbon dioxide capture, air quality improvements, stormwater capture, and street beautification.
2. Just six tree species make up more than sixty percent of the total street tree inventory in the area surrounding the Gowanus Canal. Two species in particular—London Plane and Honey Locust—together account for nearly twenty percent of the area's street tree inventory. Upcoming street infrastructure and real estate development projects offer opportunities to quickly increase the diversity of the street tree inventory in the area.
3. Less than twenty percent of the tree species in Gowanus are native species. Yet native species have been shown to provide increased habitat for bird, animal, and insect species and are often best adapted to the local environment in which they are planted. As with efforts to increase species diversity, large construction projects offer opportunities to quickly increase the number of native species in the area.
4. Gowanus has many tree stewards! Approximately half of the trees in the neighborhood showed at least one sign of stewardship in the 2015 street tree census. In comparison, only 28% of mapped trees city-wide showed at least one sign of stewardship.
5. There are a lot of young trees in the neighborhood. Thirty five percent of the trees in Gowanus are under 6" in diameter. Fewer than two percent of the trees are over 24" in diameter (and they're almost all London Plane and Pin Oak). Stewardship energy should be targeted at young trees while they are vulnerable and developing to ensure they make it to old age and won't cause problems down the road.
6. The Emerald Ash Borer is coming and Gowanus has 59 Ash street trees that will need to be treated or removed. Stewards and other stakeholders have an important role to play in keeping a vigilant lookout for signs of Emerald Ash Borer in the neighborhood.
7. Nearly half of the sidewalks around the street trees in Gowanus are damaged. While the NYC Parks Department aims to make tree beds between 40-50 square feet, the neighborhood has been left with a legacy of too-small tree beds that stifle roots and create hazardous conditions for pedestrians. Funding for tree bed expansions and sidewalk repair should be explored, along with outreach to property owners for strategic sidewalk repairs.

