



New York Tree Trust  
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## **Lower East Side Greening Acceleration Program Phase 3**

### **A Comprehensive Work Plan for CB 3 Trees within 3/4 mile of the Con Ed Facility**

- **Curbside: New Trees, Pit Expansion for Existing Trees, Metal Tree Guards and Groundcover Plantings for all Work Sites.**
  - **NYCHA New Planting for Trees Damaged by Hurricane Sandy.**
- **Dutch Elm Disease Prevention in Tompkins Sq Park, Structural and Corrective Pruning of Trees, Overall Maintenance of Phase 1-3 Sites.**

October 8, 2014  
Con Edison Settlement Fund Task Force  
Community Board 3  
59 East 4th Street  
New York, NY 10003

Dear Members of the CB3 Con Edison Settlement Fund Task Force:

Please accept this Letter of Inquiry on behalf of The New York Tree Trust,

Phase 3 of the Lower East Side Greening Acceleration Program's goals are to further the successes from this program's past by completing more sites up to 3/4 mile from the Con Edison East River Complex. This will include the expansion of existing tree beds, addition of new trees, and all sites will receive a metal tree guard and ground cover plantings. This program also will include working in partnership with other properties within the 3/4 mile radius of Con Ed, including NYCHA Wald Houses, from E 6th St to E Houston St, to help expedite the replacement of trees destroyed by Hurricane Sandy. As well, we would work to maintain one of the greatest canopy resources in the Lower East Side by protecting all of the American Elms in Tompkins Sq Park by treating them against Dutch Elm disease and continuing our past work within the Tree Trust program to maintain and prune these trees as well as any priority curb side sites in need of maintenance or corrective pruning. We will also continue the on-going maintenance and observation of all sites treated within Phase 1-3 areas for an extended period of time to support the efforts to date.

This work focuses upon the past successes in tree planting and tree preservation on the streets while also acting to realize the vast potential of additional areas in proximity to the Con Ed Facility where our experience, ability to act fast, and relatively low-costs in regard to tree work can be utilized to serve the community's needs. Namely, the need of helping to provide all of the environmental, economic, and health benefits that a thoroughly and properly maintained tree canopy will provide.

To complete phase three we are seeking a total of \$300,000 from the Con Ed settlement funds, \$250,000 of which will be dedicated to providing 325 tree guards, ground cover plantings, and project management for 11-months of work over a 22-month project timeline. The other \$50,000 will be dedicated toward the replanting of up to 40 trees on NYCHA properties, Dutch elm disease prevention, and tree maintenance. The funds for all curb side work will be matched with \$250,000 from New York City Department of Parks & Recreation and will be utilized for 256 pit expansions and 69 new tree plantings. The total budget for all of this work within 3/4 mile of the Con Ed facility included leveraged funds is \$550,000.

The New York Tree Trust, a 501-3c non-profit, will accept the donations and settlement funds for this proposal and all of the various contract work and coordination with NYC Parks will be managed by the New York Tree Trust. Please let us know if the Task Force will consider a full proposal based upon the scope of the work proposed in this letter. We will provide further details on the line items of the budget and any additional requirements requested by the Task Force and Con Edison.

Sincerely,  
Michael Vacek (The New York Tree Trust)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Vacek', with a stylized flourish at the end.

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