Superstorm Sandy: Impacts, Responses, and Lessons Learned

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NYC Parks & Recreation

Parks

NYC Parks' Forestry Response to Superstorm Sandy

- 1. Introduction
- 2. The History and Background of Parks' Storm Response in New York City
- 3. Super Storm Sandy
- 4. The Aftermath and Going Forward



New York City Population



| Total: | 8,244,910 |
|-----------------------|-----------|
| <u>Staten Island:</u> | 470,467 |
| Queens: | 2,247,848 |
| Manhattan: | 1,601,948 |
| Brooklyn: | 2,532,645 |
| Bronx: | 1,392,002 |

Source: http://www.nyc.gov/html/dcp/html/census/ popcur.shtml



The Urban Landscape

NYC is 14% Parkland

- more than 5,000 individual properties
- 800 athletic fields
- nearly 1,000 playgrounds
- 550 tennis courts
- 66 public pools
- 48 recreational facilities
- 5 stadia
- 17 nature centers
- 13 golf courses
- 14 miles of beaches
- 1,200 monuments
- 22 historic house museums









Estimated 2 million trees in landscaped parks & natural areas





600,000 Street Trees





NYC Urban Forest Management

PLANTING

RISK MANAGEMENT

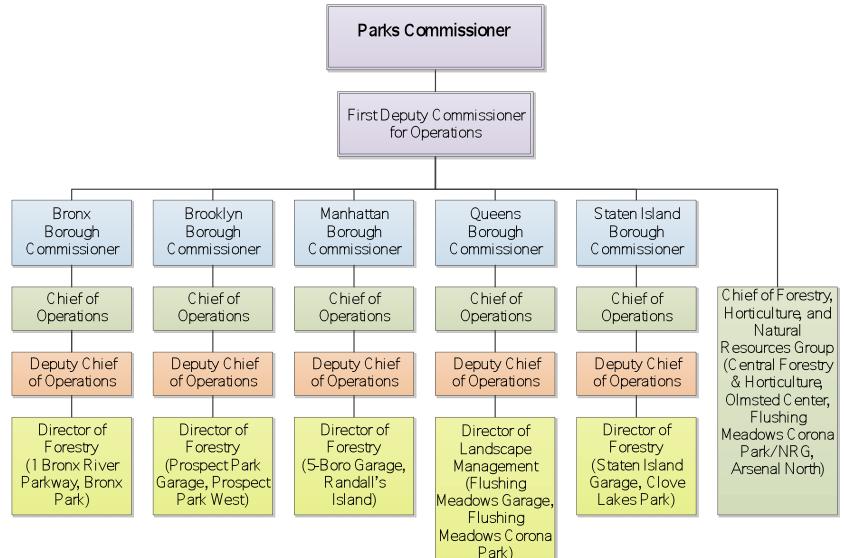
MAINTENANCE

PRESERVATION

EMERGENCY RESPONSE



NYC Urban Forest Management





ForMS – Forestry Management System

Computerized inventory and work management database

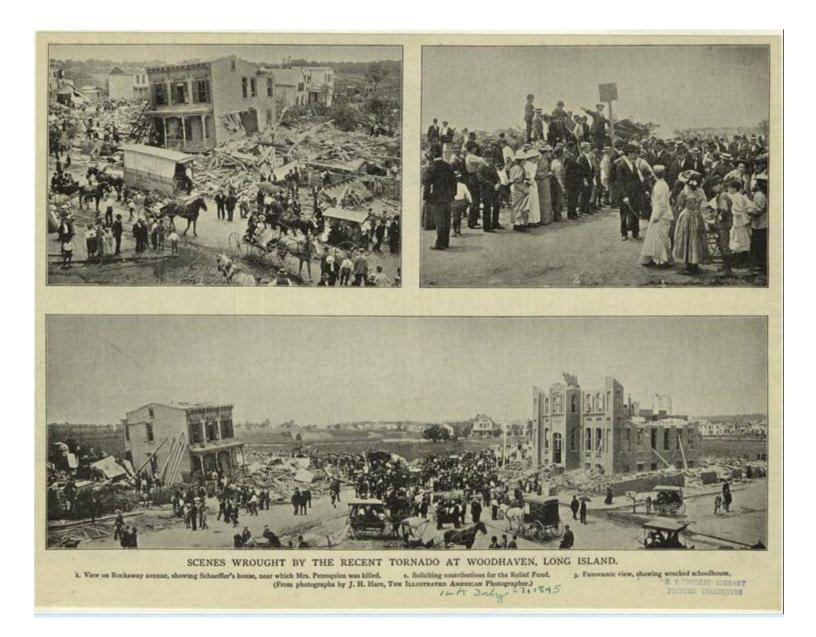
- 2-way integration with **311** public request comes in, forestry response comes out
- During storms, the system may be limited to just tree-related emergencies

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| | 5-29 00 STREET SIG | | | | ASSIGNED | | | | | | A 144 |
| | 1-23 137 STREE 516 | | RSSTreeSidevalk | | ASSIGNED | | 11= 13 | • / / / / | 1 | | |
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| _ | | T & S Repa | air - Queens | _ | _ | | E159758-Sturra | Renievol Inspection | | | |
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| 21 | 0-20 NASHVILL Tre | e and Sideval | ASSIGNED | 413 | | | 0 | Photos Photos | 1- | . 1 | |
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The History of Parks' Storm Response in NYC





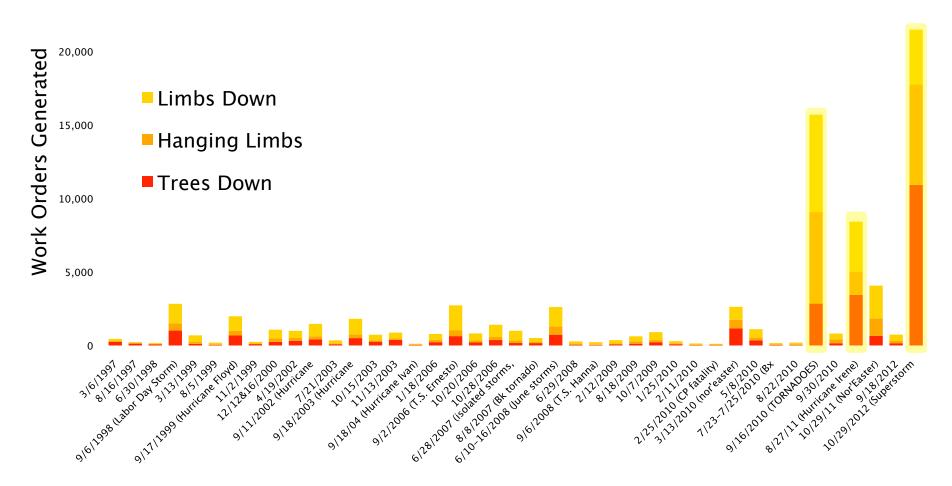


From photographs by J.H. Hare, The Illustrated American Photographer.

NYC Storm History

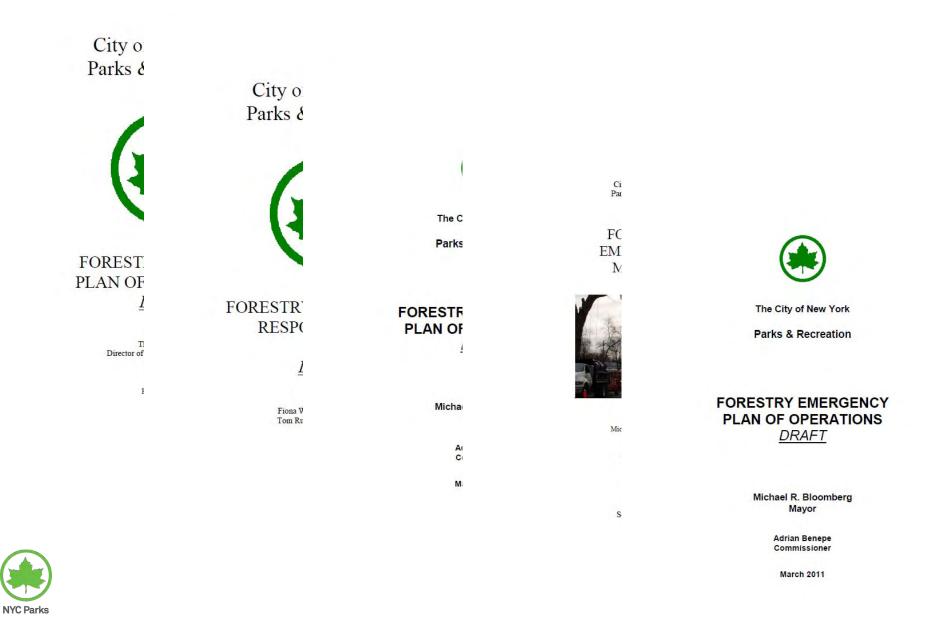
25,000

Forestry Storm Events (1997 – 2012)





Emergency Protocol for Parks Forestry – an Evolution



"Everyone has a plan 'til they get punched in the mouth"

- Mike Tyson



September 16, 2010 Tornadoes























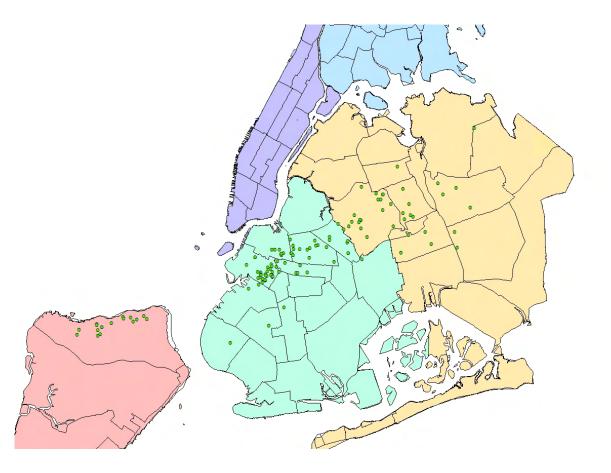






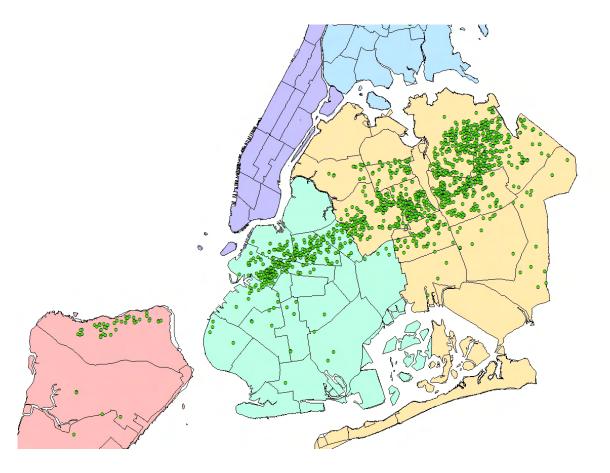


9/16 18:00 134 Service Requests



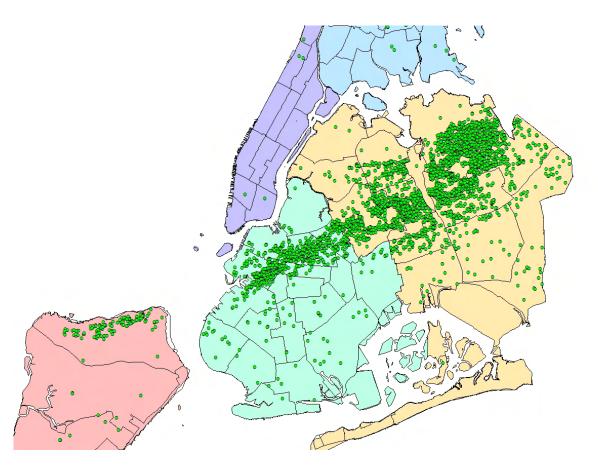


Brooklyn / Queens (9/16 24:00) 1,612 Service Requests





Brooklyn / Queens Day 3 (9/18 19:00) 5,506 Service Requests





Outside Help

Federal & State Agencies

USFS

- 'Hot-Shot' crew
- APHIS
- FFMA
- National Guard



Mutual Aid

- Nassau County
- Westchester

County

• Suffolk County







State Agencies

- NYSDAM
- Port Authority
- DOT
- NYSOEM







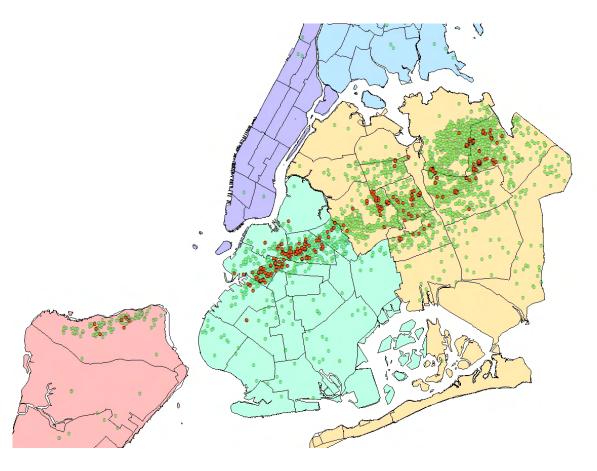


New York State Department of Transportation

Private Contract Lewis Tree Service

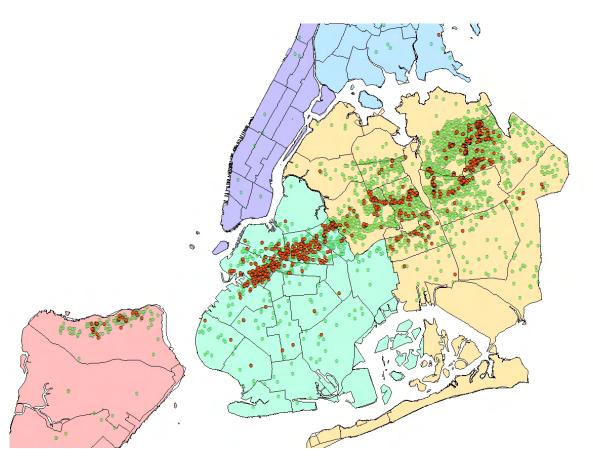


Day 2 (9/17 19:00) 239 Work Orders Closed



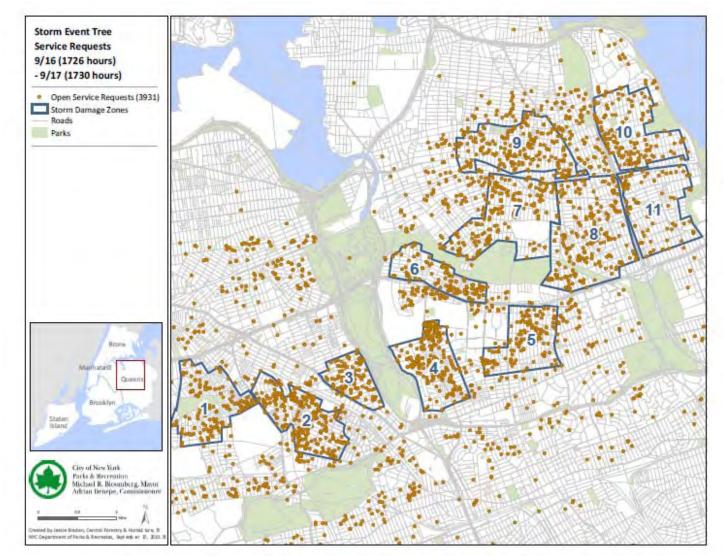


Day 3 (9/18 19:00) 536 Work Orders Closed



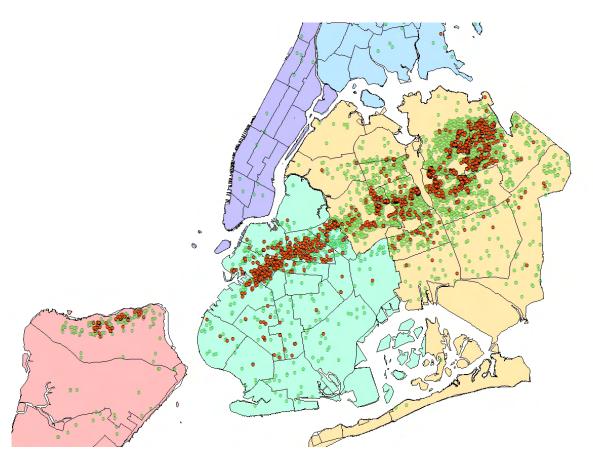


Defined Storm Zones



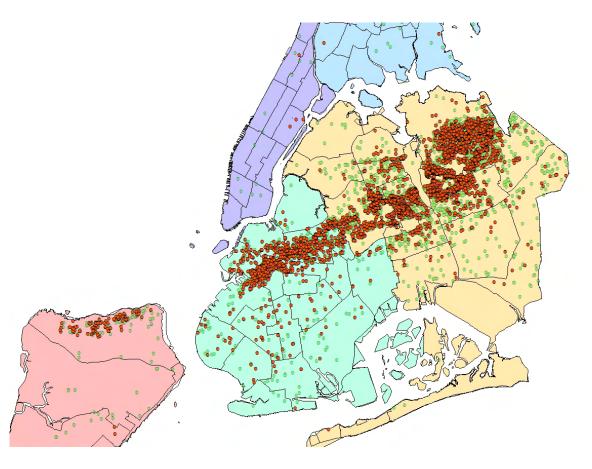


Brooklyn / Queens Day 7 (9/23 19:00) 2,556 Work Orders Closed



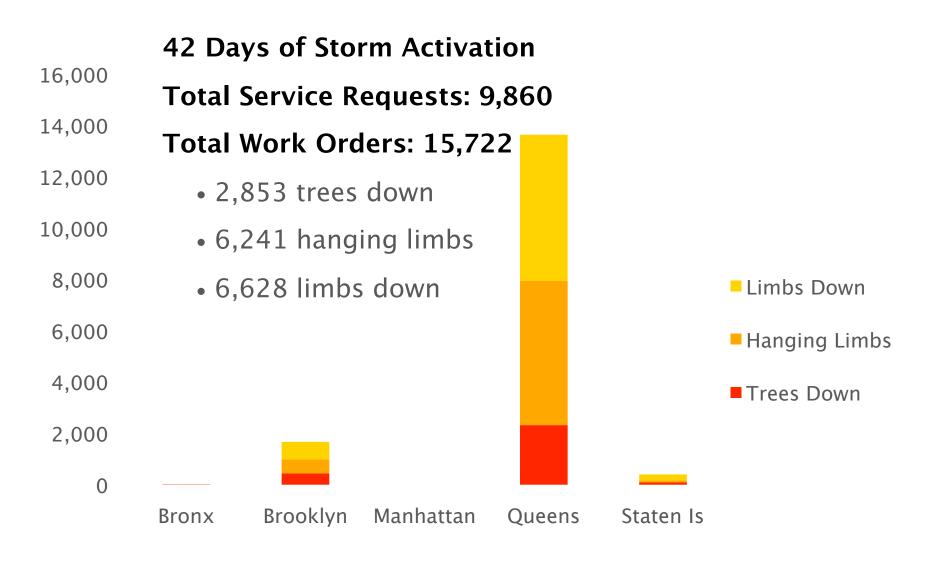


Brooklyn / Queens Day 14 (9/30 19:00) 6,175 Work Orders Closed





Two Tornadoes and a Macroburst vs NYC Trees





Lessons Learned From the September 16th Tornadoes

- Forestry specialists at OEM Emergency Ops Center (EOC)
- Clearly prioritize inspections and work orders
- Be able to report live from the field in order to update forestry database
- Be able to produce work lists for other agencies and organizations
- Need to approach storm response more strategically and utilize sister agencies
- Update forestry emergency response protocol and train all staff accordingly





Forestry Storm Emergency – ForSE



Forestry Storm Emergency (ForSE) – 2012

- Incorporate ICS Framework
 - Defined Chain of Command
- Developed Strategic Response Tactics
 - Request Based
 - Storm Zone
 - Combined
- Defined Prioritization:
 - Life Safety
 - Property Preservation
 - Quality of Life
 - All other work



The City of New York Department of Parks & Recreation

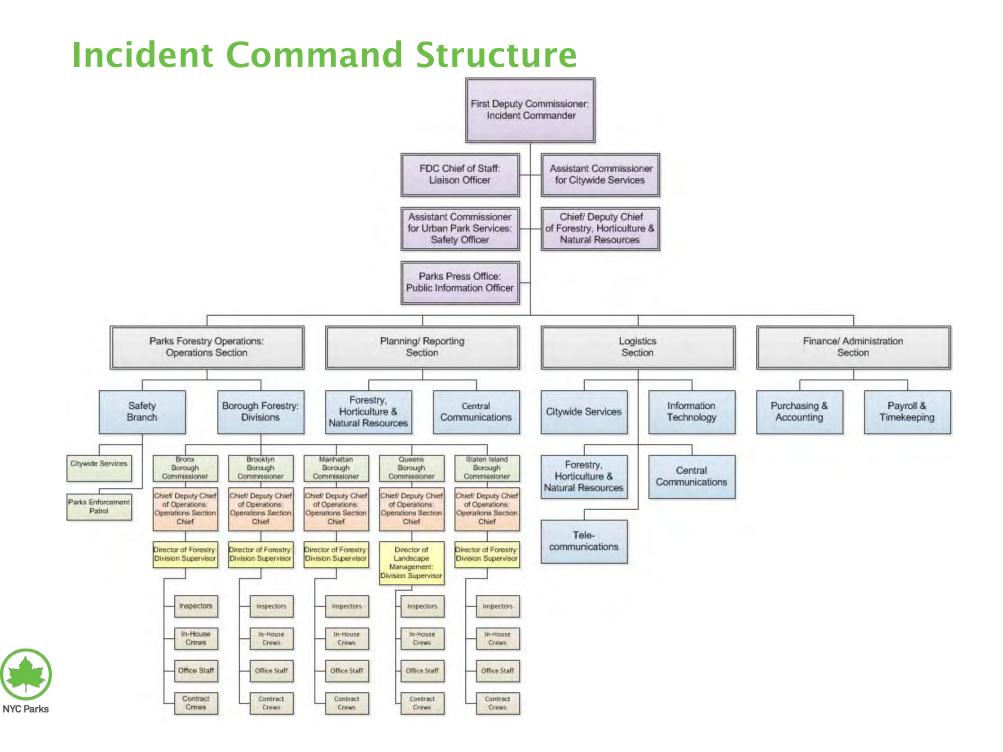
FORESTRY STORM EMERGENCY (ForSE)

OPERATIONAL PLAN

Michael R. Bloomberg, Mayor Adrian Benepe, Commissioner

August 2012





Incident Levels

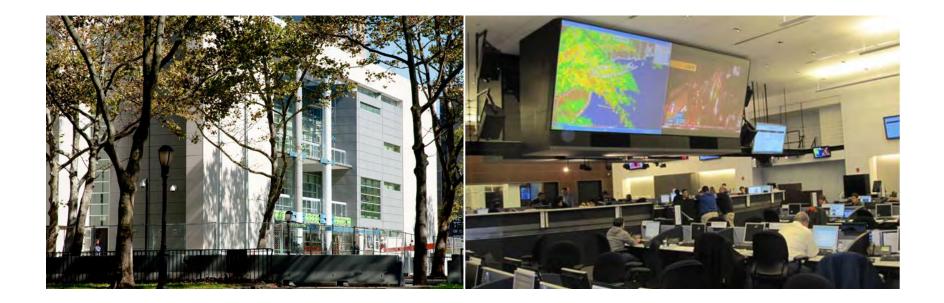
| <u>ی</u> Inciden | Intensit | Tree Down SRs (greater than or equal to) | | | | | Exceeds Weekly Average |
|---------------------|----------|--|-----|-----|-------|-----|------------------------------|
| t Level | У | BX | BK | Μ | Q | SI | by |
| 5 | Low | 10 | 15 | 5 | 40 | 10 | ~ 3 x |
| 4 | | 25 | 45 | 10 | 100 | 25 | ~ 8 x |
| 3 | Medium | 70 | 110 | 30 | 250 | 60 | ~ 20 x |
| 2 | | 175 | 275 | 80 | 625 | 150 | ~ 50 x |
| 1 | High | 350 | 550 | 170 | 1,250 | 300 | ~ 100 x |

Shaded boxes indicate levels at which OEM may convene the Interagency Committee for Downed Trees Emergencies.

Incident levels are based on the number of Tree Down SRs received within 24 hours in any one borough.



Office of Emergency Management's Emergency Operations Center





New York City Office of Emergency Management



Defined Initial Response

- Remove high priority downed trees.
- Ascertain the extent of the storm damage to gain situational awareness.
- Deploy resources including inspectors and debris removal crews based solely on Service Requests and field observations.







Initial Response - Tactical Decision-Making

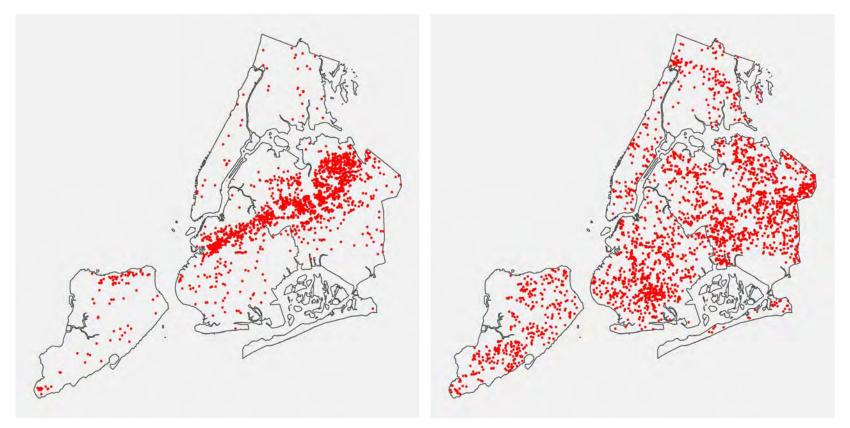
Situational awareness

- Request-Based Response
- Storm Zone Response
- Combined Response





Tactical Decision-Making



Tornadoes – September 16, 2010 Irene – August 27, 2011



Inspection & Work Order Prioritization

Incidents are prioritized in the following order:

- 1. Life safety and obstructed roadways
- 2. Property preservation
- 3. Quality of life
- 4. Vegetative debris reduction and collection
- 5. Sidewalk restoration and replanting







Life Safety & Obstructed Roadways

Trees causing immediate danger to human health

- Trees blocking emergency access routes
- Trees on electric wires

Large limbs hanging over public areas and in danger of falling





Property Preservation

Trees down on houses, cars, or other property - stabilized

Trees blocking access to homes





Quality of Life

Fallen trees and hanging limbs that are not interfering with traffic or endangering pedestrians.

Blocked sidewalks

Trees down in parks

Storm-related pruning





Wood Debris Reduction & Disposal

The approach to wood debris disposal will vary based on where the debris is located in relation to the Asian longhorned beetle (ALB) quarantine zones and the severity of the incident.









Sidewalk Restoration & Replanting

DDC sidewalk repairs and replanting







"No plan survives contact with the enemy."

- US Navy Seals

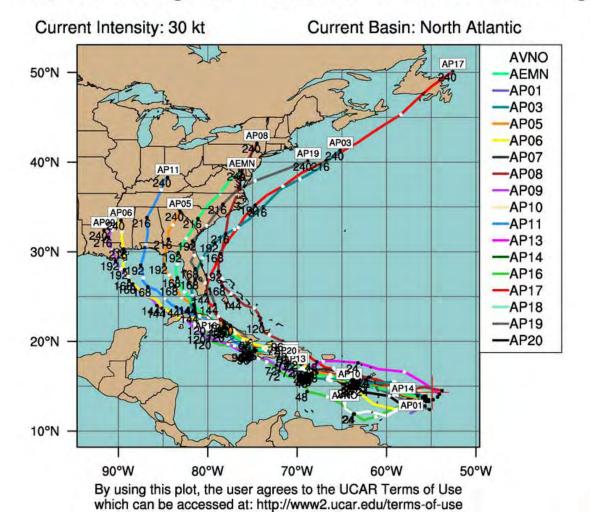


Tropical Storm Irene August 28, 2011



DISTURBANCE INVEST (AL97)

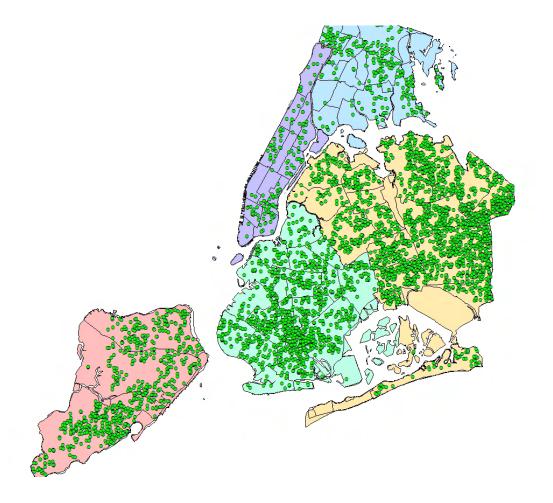
NCEP GFS Ensemble track guidance initialized at 1200 UTC, 20 August 2011



NCAR



8/29 22:00 5,394 Service Requests





Irene vs NYC Trees

21 Days of Activation

Total Service Requests: 10,030 4,500 **Total Work Orders: 8,424** 4,000 • 3,444 trees down 3,500 • 1,577 hanging limbs 3,000 2,500 • 3,403 limbs down Limbs Down Hanging Limbs 2,000 Trees Down 1,500 1,000 500 0 Brooklyn Manhattan Bronx Queens Staten Is





Service Request Distribution and Comparison

| | Nor'Easter (3/13/10) | | Tornadoes (9/16/10) | | T.S. Irene (8/27/11) | |
|------------------|-------------------------|-----|------------------------|-----|-------------------------|-----|
| Trees Down | 2,739 | 64% | 3,693 | 37% | 4,780 | 48% |
| Hanging Limbs | 548 | 13% | 2,156 | 22% | 1,629 | 16% |
| Limbs Down | 1,011 | 24% | 4,001 | 41% | 3,621 | 36% |
| Total Calls | 4,298 | | 9,850 | | 10,030 | |
| Days Tracked | 5 days | | 15 days | | 9 days | |



Work Order Distribution and Comparison

| | Nor'Easter* (3/13/10) | | Tornadoes (9/16/10) | | T.S. Irene (8/27/11) | |
|------------------|--------------------------|-----|------------------------|-----|-------------------------|-----|
| Trees Down | 1,165 | 44% | 2,853 | 18% | 2,987 | 41% |
| Hanging Limbs | 582 | 22% | 6,241 | 40% | 1,214 | 17% |
| Limbs Down | 883 | 34% | 6,628 | 42% | 3,108 | 43% |
| Total Work** | 2,630 | | 15,722 | | 8,424 | |
| Days Tracked | 20 days | | 42 days | | 21 days | |

*Work orders generated ** Does not include debris pickups



Lessons Learned From Tropical Storm Irene

Downed Tree Task Force

Situational Awareness

Emergency Contracts

Develop Debris Management Strategy

Technology Challenges





Storm Mobile



Storm Mobile – StoMo

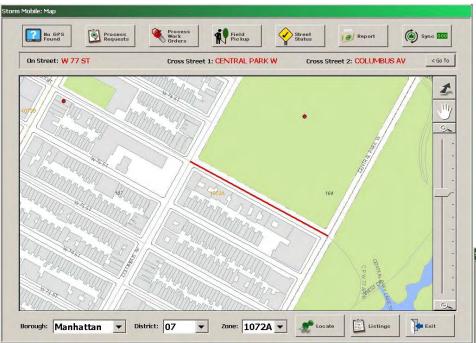


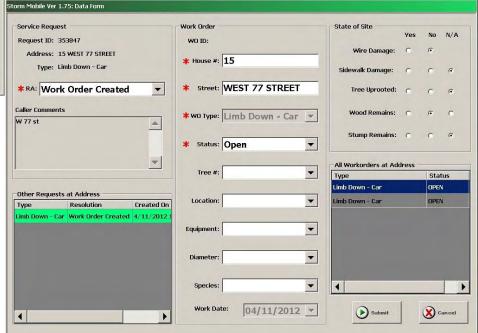
- Windows application optimized for tablet computers
- 2-way integration with 311
- GPS
- Utilizes citywide wireless network
- SRs & WOs are updated upon syncing
- Near real-time data
 updating





Storm Mobile







Storm Mobile

Significant reduction of paperwork

Ability to assign inspectors by zones

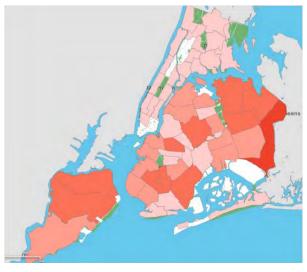
Ability to quickly see where blocked streets are located

Rapid field inspection of service requests

Ability to handle duplicate service requests in the field

Streamlined generation and closure of work orders

Ability to report in near real time







"come on, hit me with your best shot"

- Pat Benatar

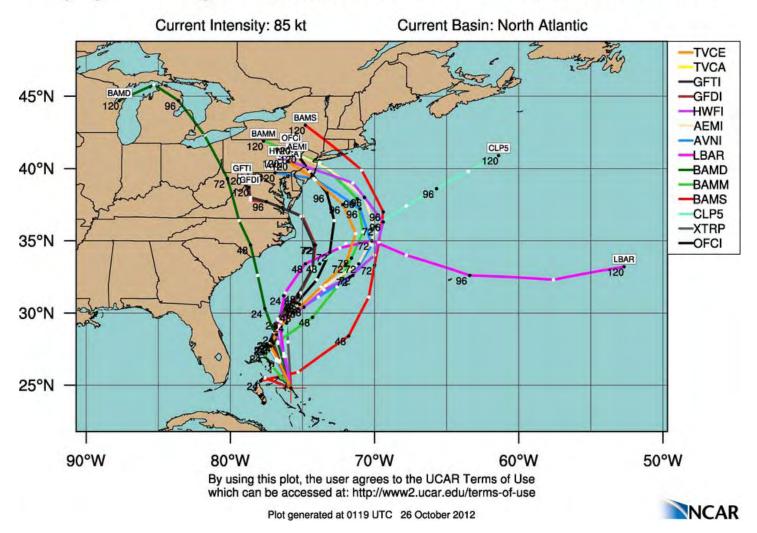


Superstorm Sandy October 29, 2012



HURRICANE SANDY (AL18)

Early-cycle track guidance initialized at 0000 UTC, 26 October 2012





Superstorm Sandy's Strength

- Storm surge was 13-14 feet above Mean Low Water
- Massive power and transportation suspensions
- Second-costliest storm in U.S. history (after Katrina)





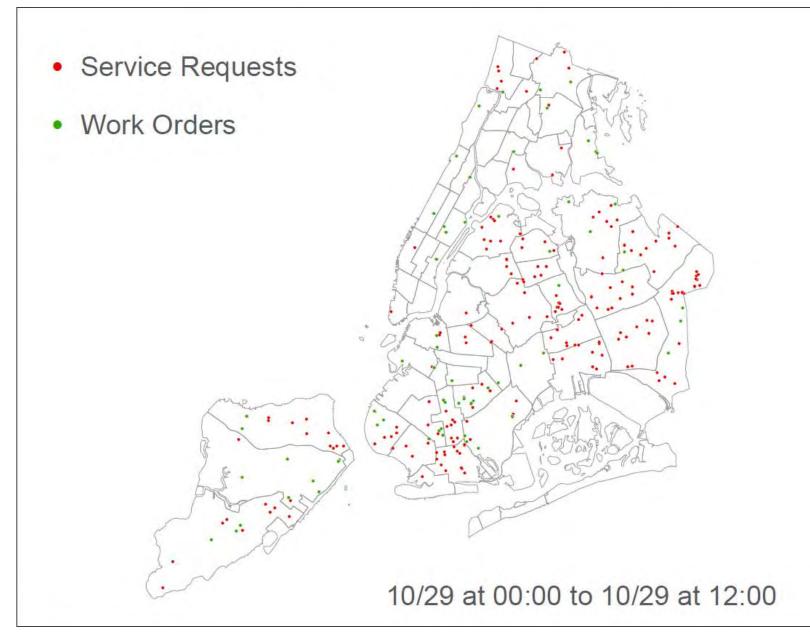
Superstorm Sandy's Strength

- Estimated \$19 billion in damage to NYC
- For the first time since 1888, NYSE was closed for two days in a row
- 10,926 street and park trees lost
- 4 dozen lives lost in NYC

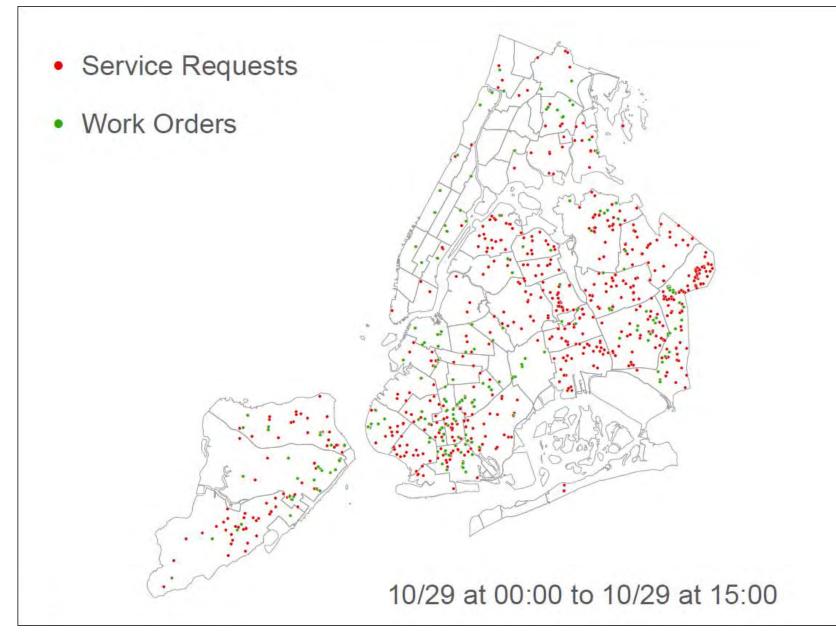




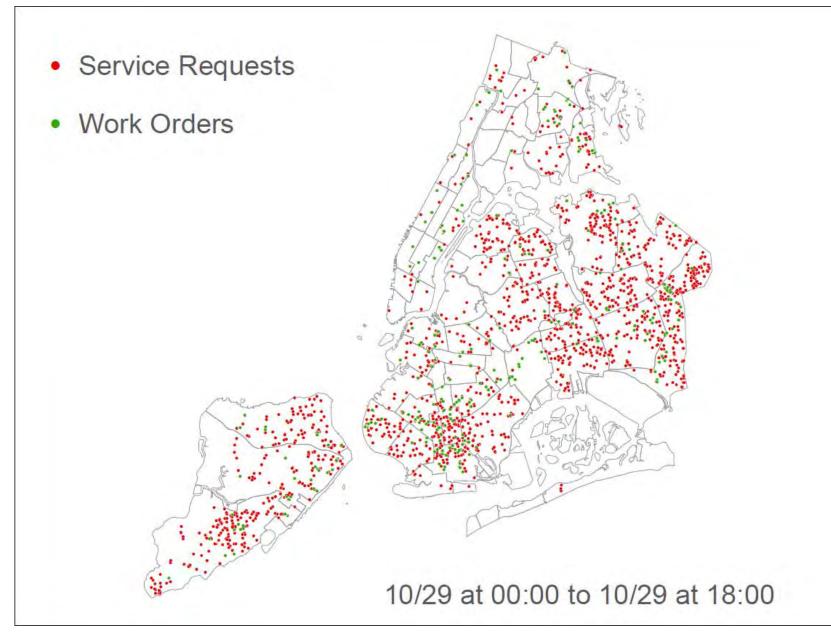




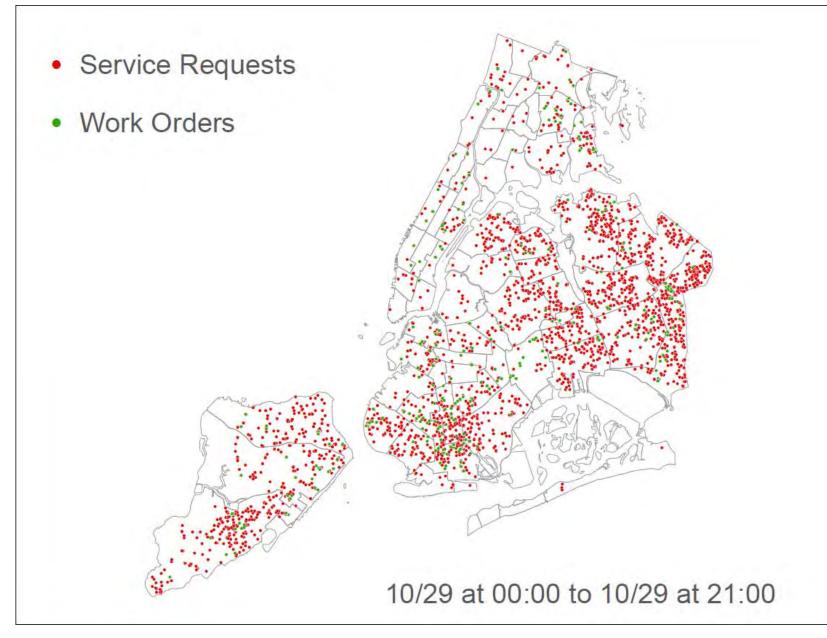




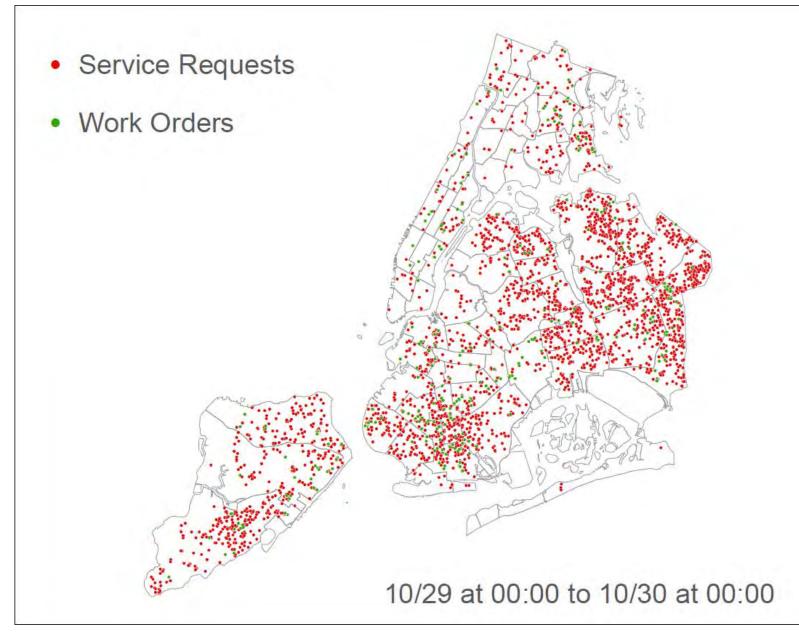




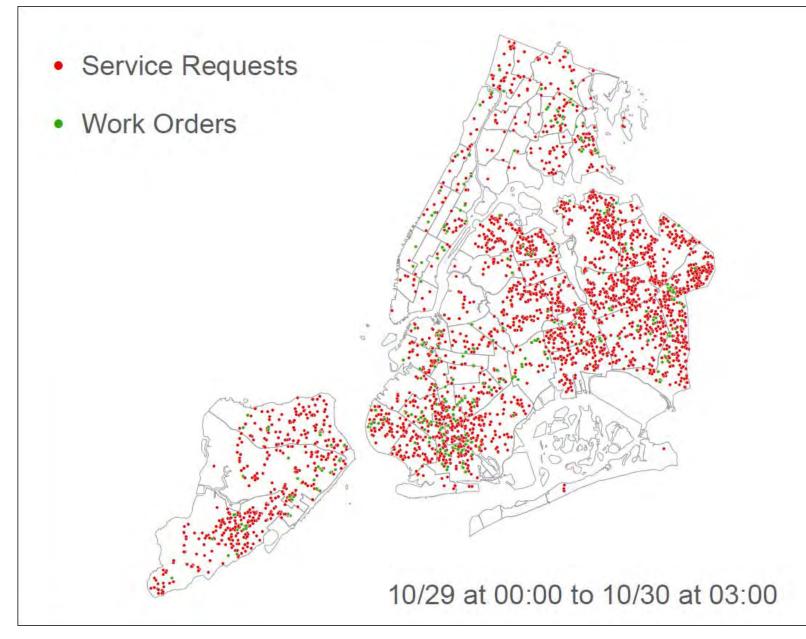




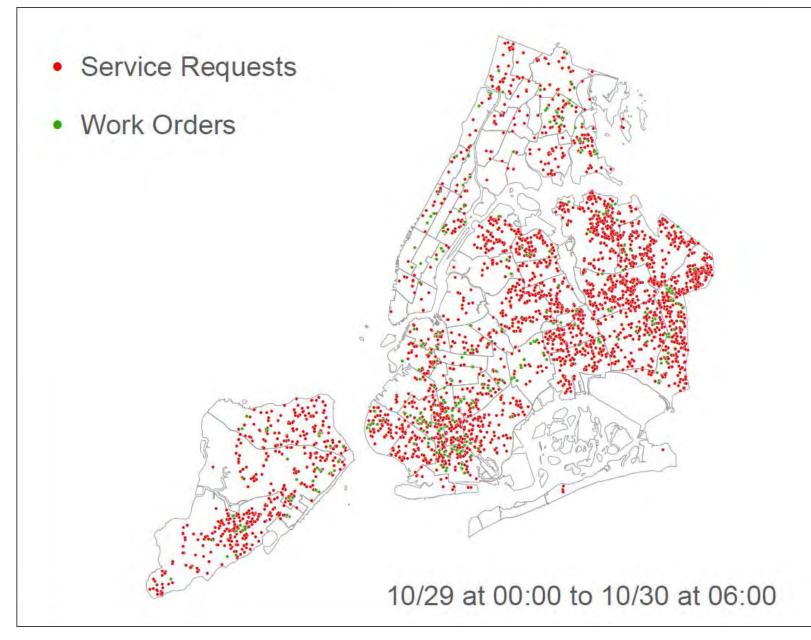




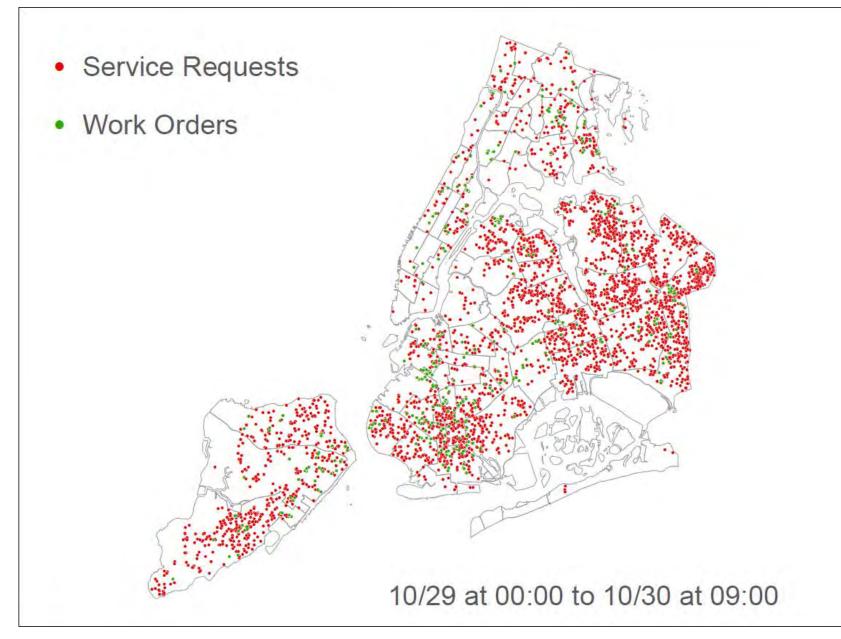




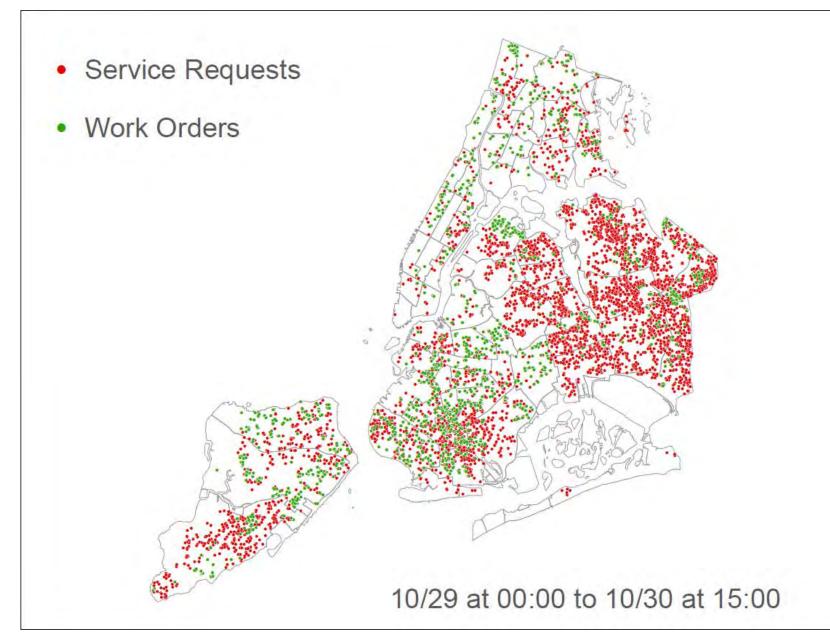




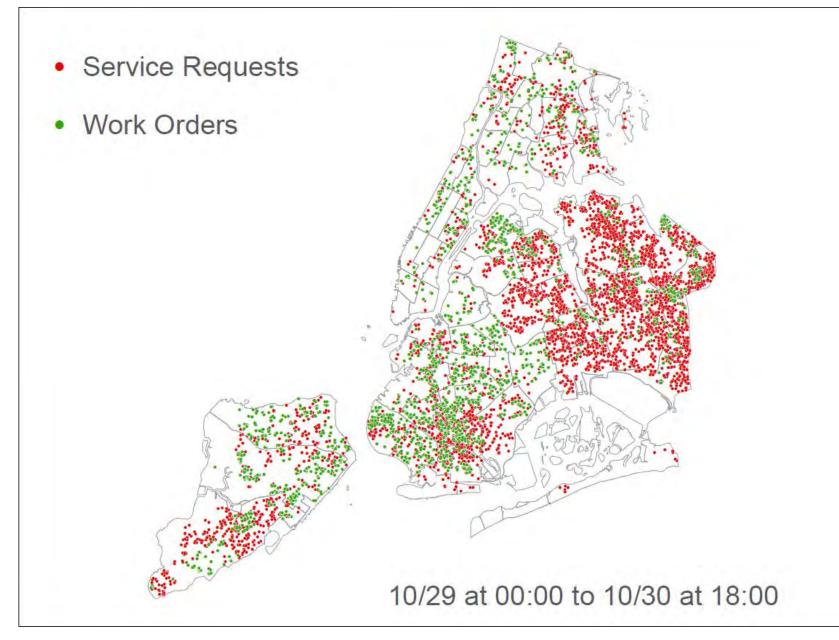




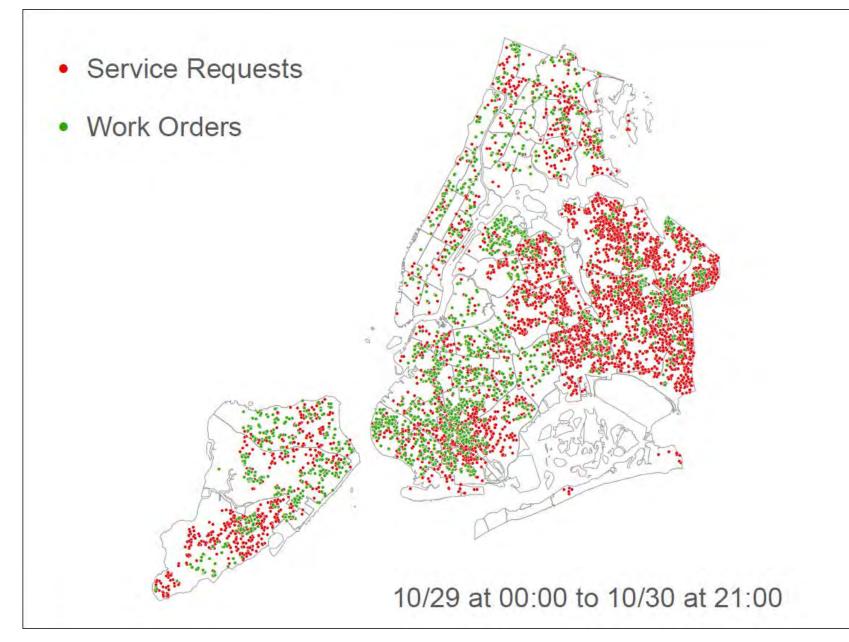




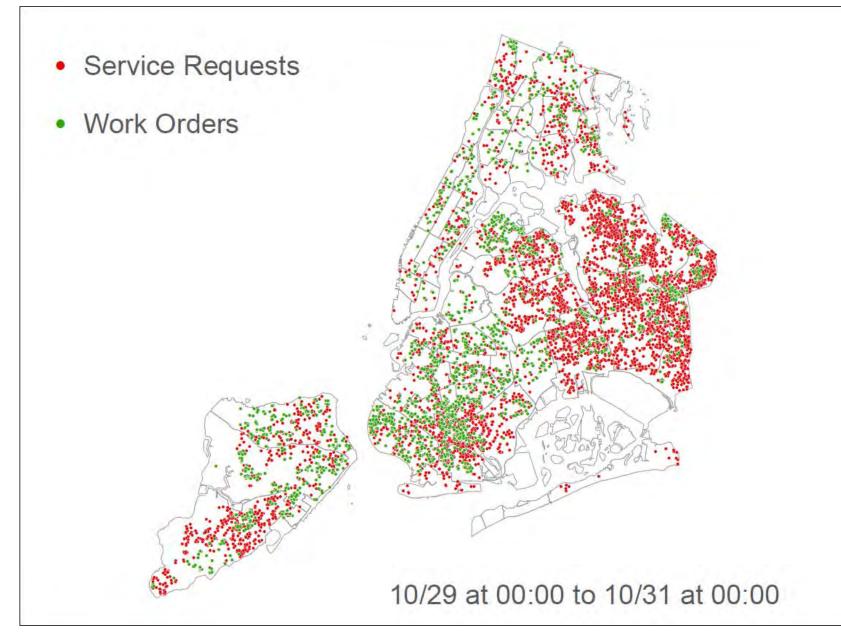




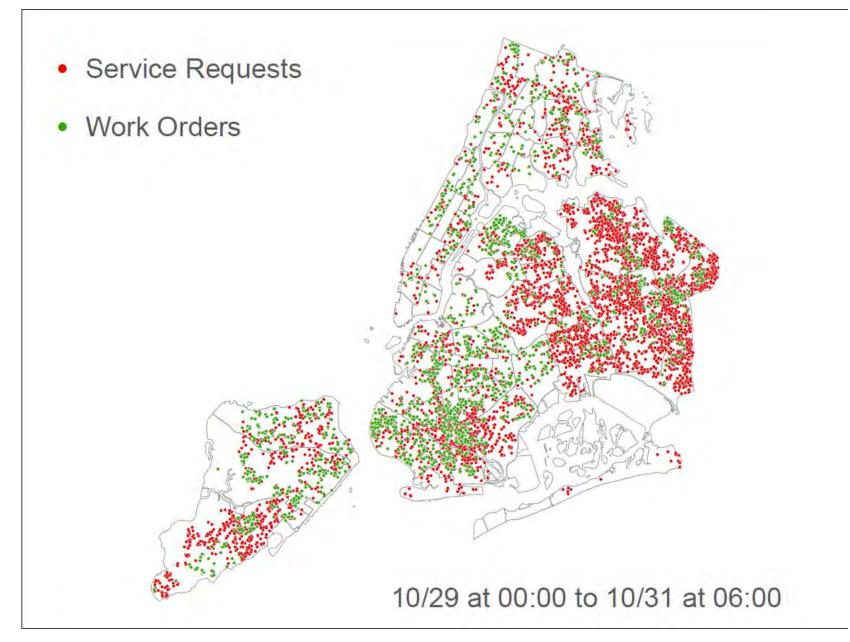




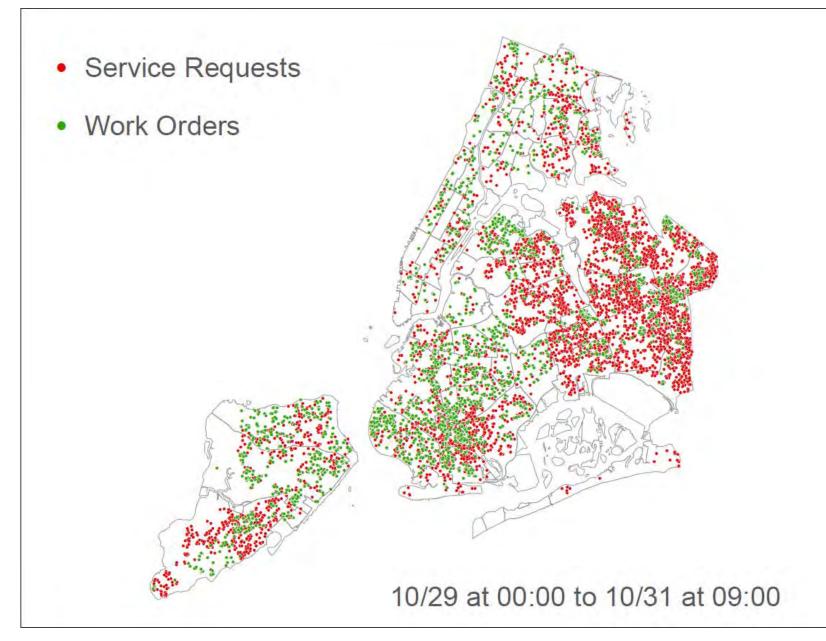




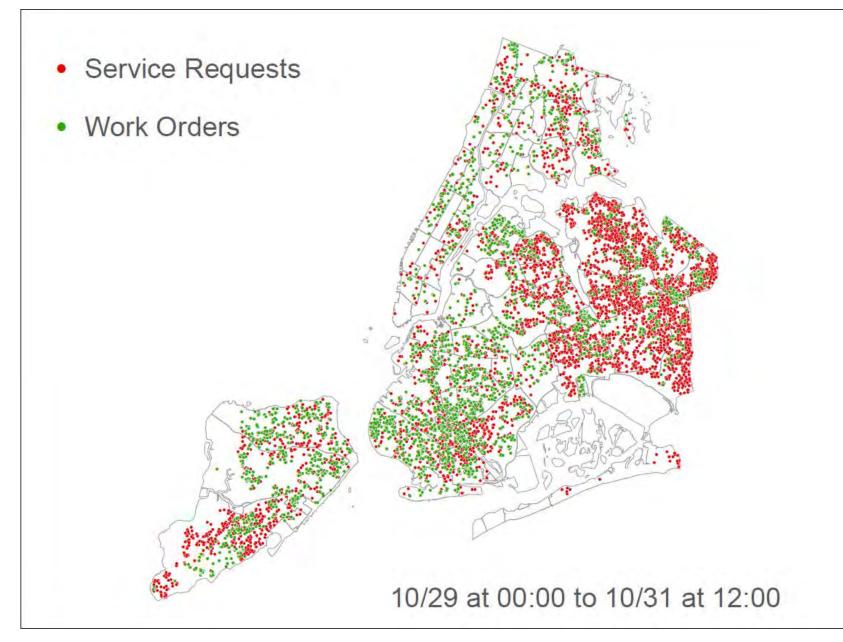




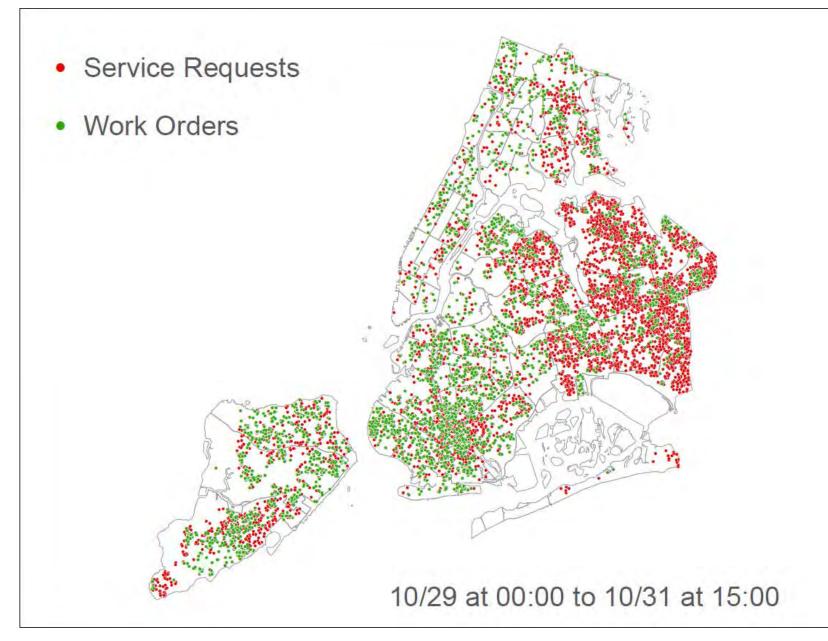




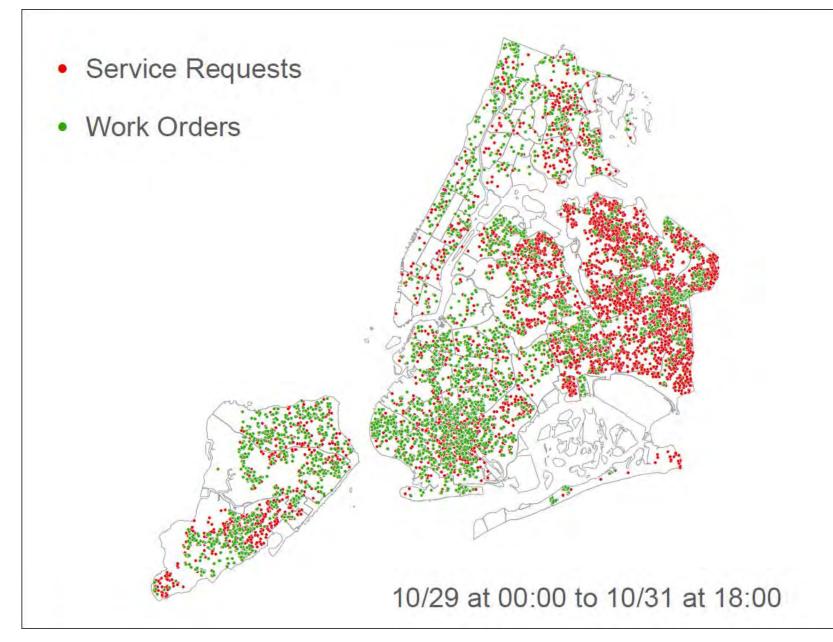




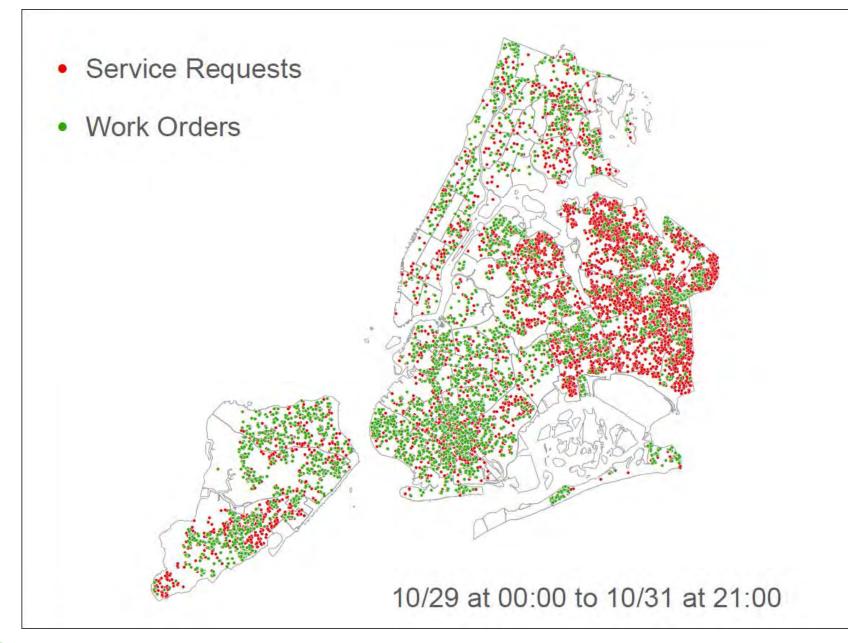




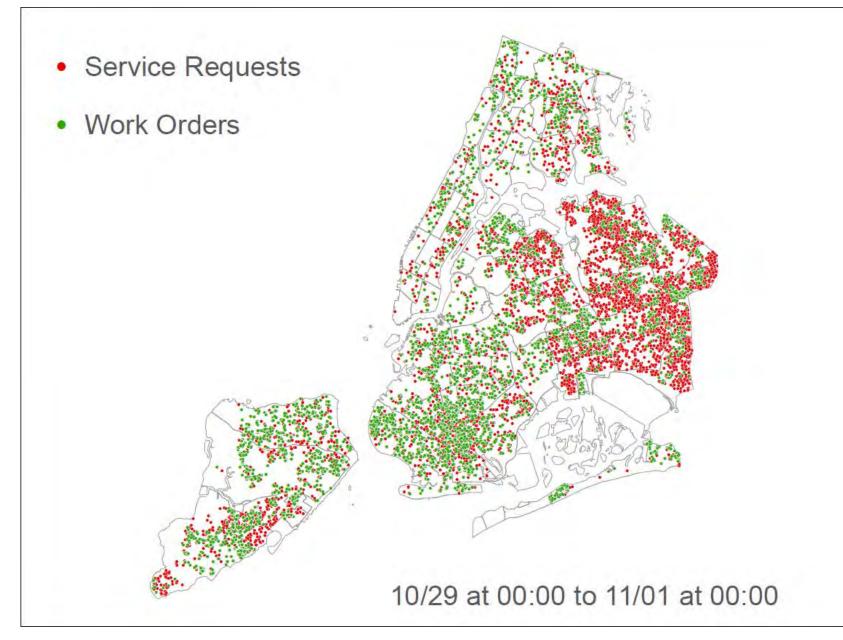
































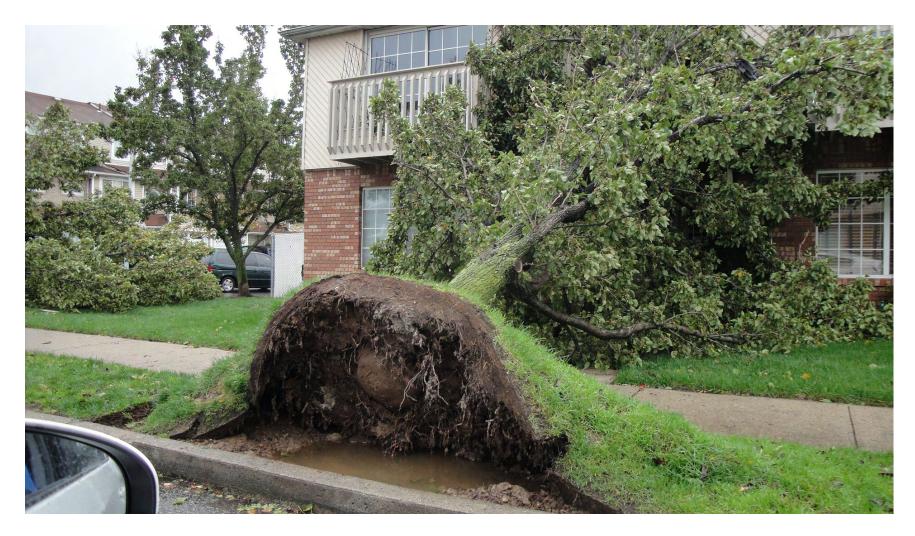


































Woody Debris Disposal





Woody Debris Disposal



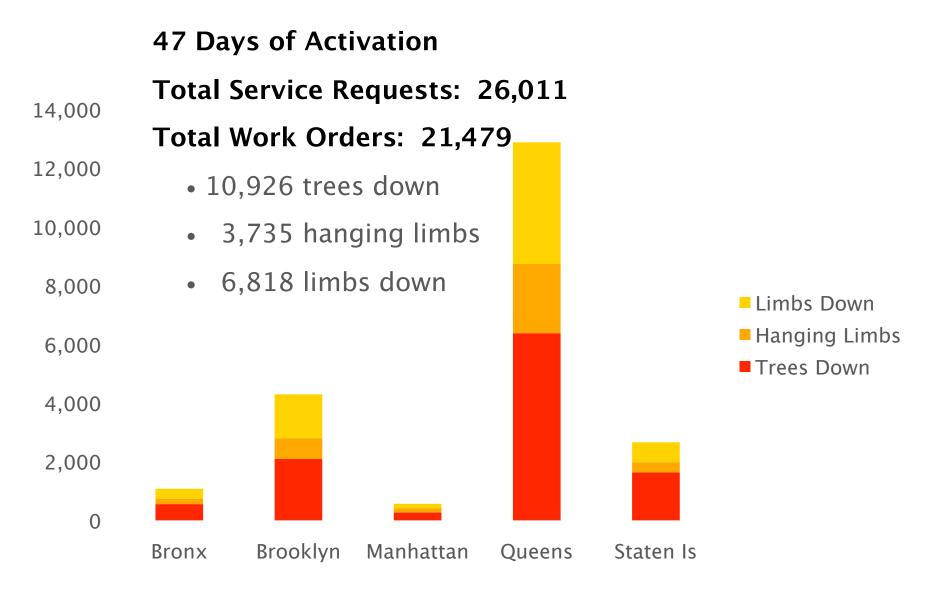


Woody Debris Disposal





Sandy vs NYC Trees





Lessons Learned From Super Storm Sandy

Situational Awareness

Utility Coordination

Develop Debris Management Strategy

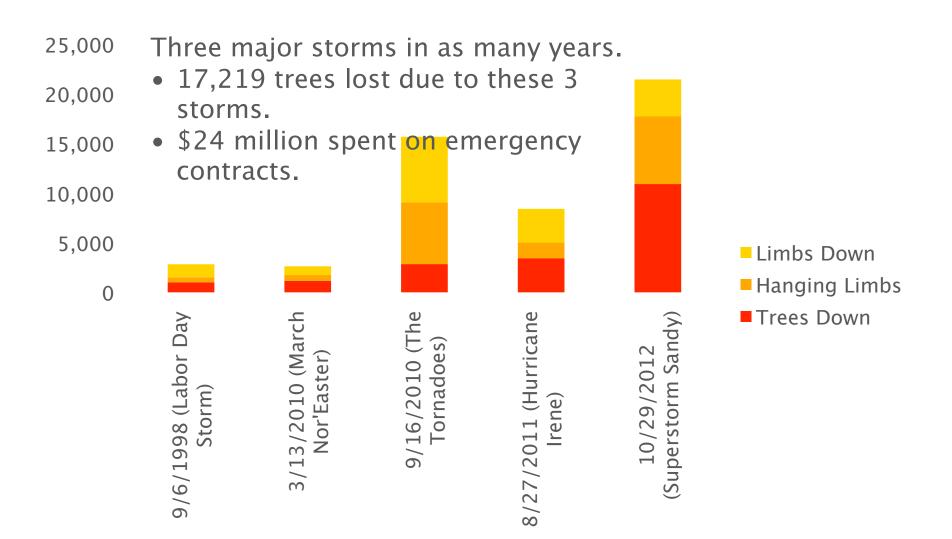




The Aftermath and Moving Forward

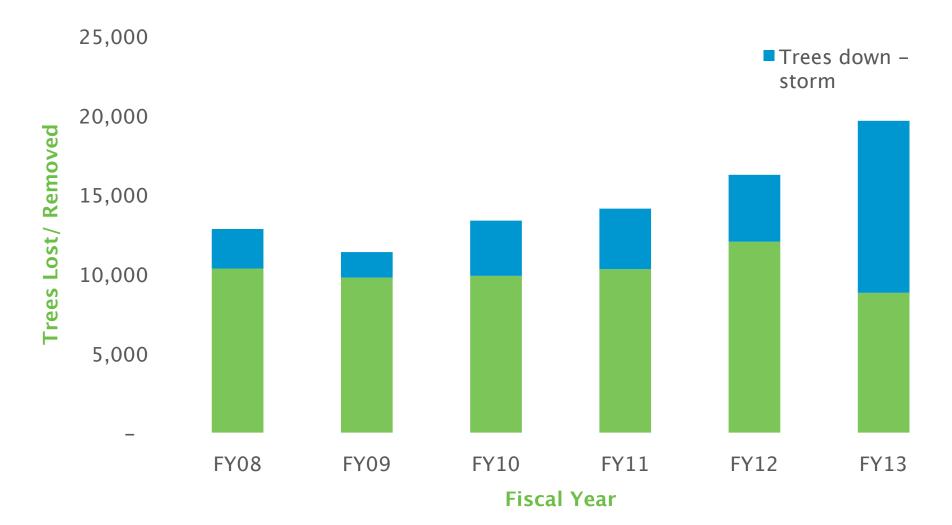


Sandy vs Historic Storms

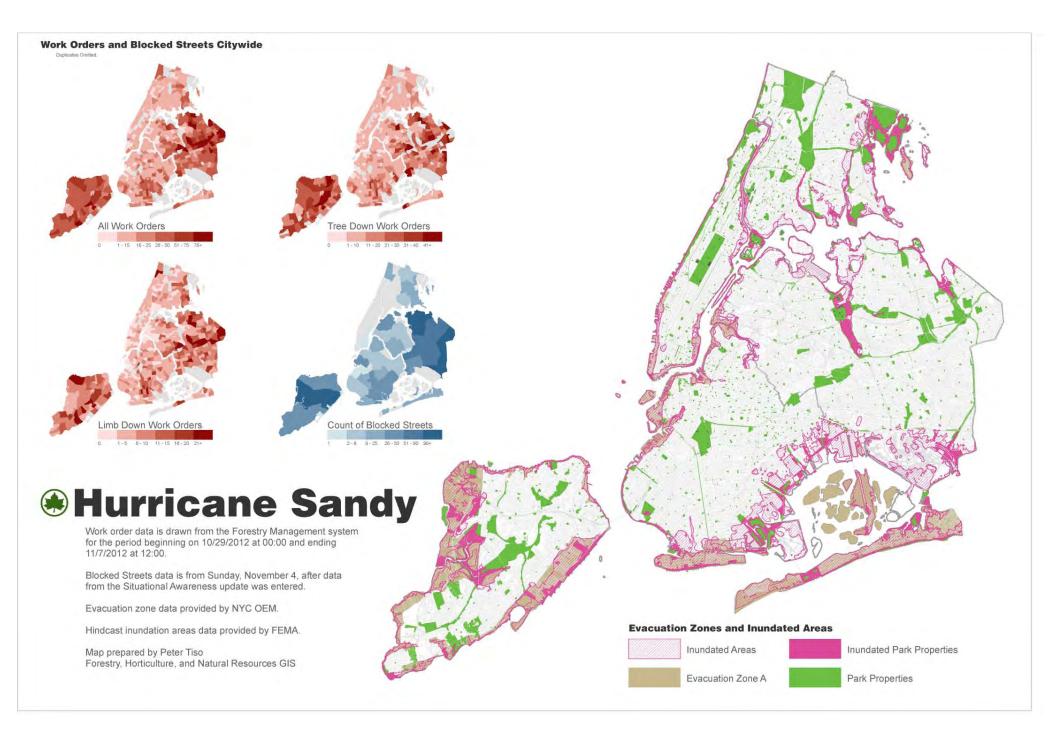




Tree Loss FY08 - 13







The New York Times

Bare Trees Are a Lingering Sign of Hurricane Sandy's High Toll



Todd Heisler/The New York Times

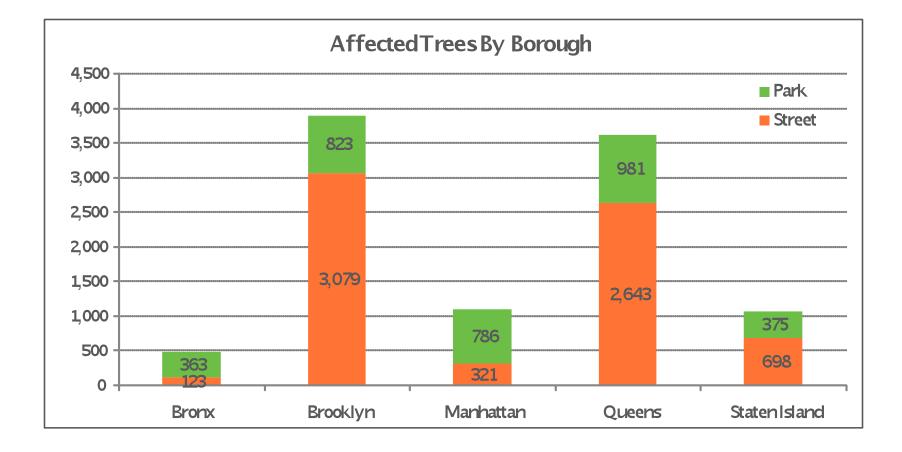
A branch on the Lower East Side should have many more leaves at this time of year.

By KIA GREGORY Published: August 18, 2013



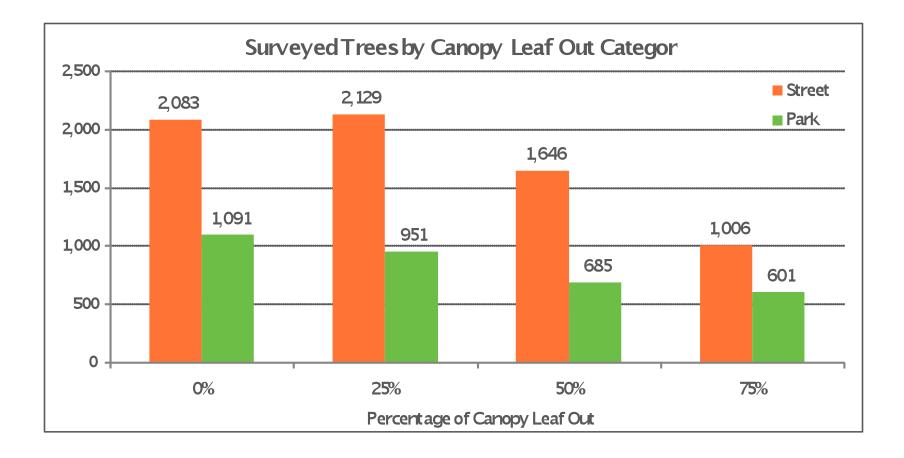
Post-Sandy Late Leaf Out Survey

Late Leaf Out Survey Results





Surveyed Trees Canopy Leaf Out Distribution





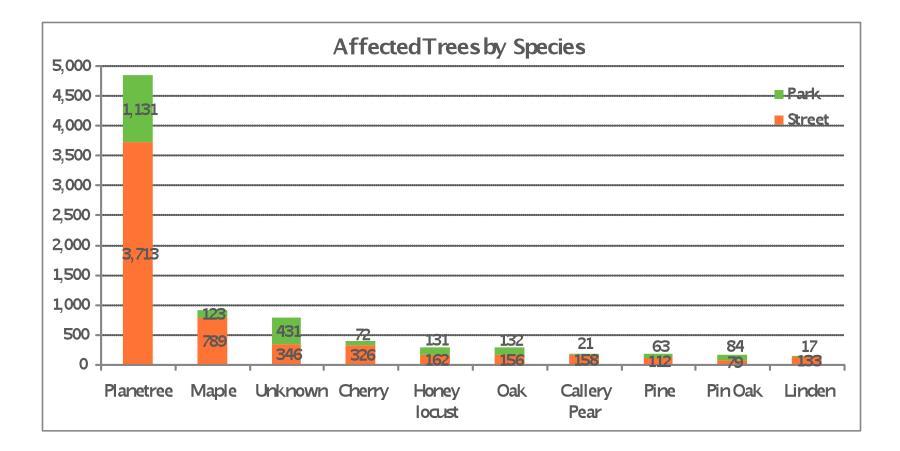
Affected Street Trees Compared to Street Tree Population in the Inundation Zone

| Borough | Inundated Street Trees | Affected Street Trees | % Street Trees Affected |
|----------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| Bronx | 749 | 123 | 16% |
| Brooklyn | 17,414 | 3,079 | 18% |
| Manhattan | 3,203 | 321 | 10% |
| Queens | 18,084 | 2,643 | 15% |
| Staten Island | 8,450 | 698 | 8% |
| Citywide Total | 47,900 | 6,864 | 14% |

* estimated number of street trees within FEMA's Sandy inundation hindcast

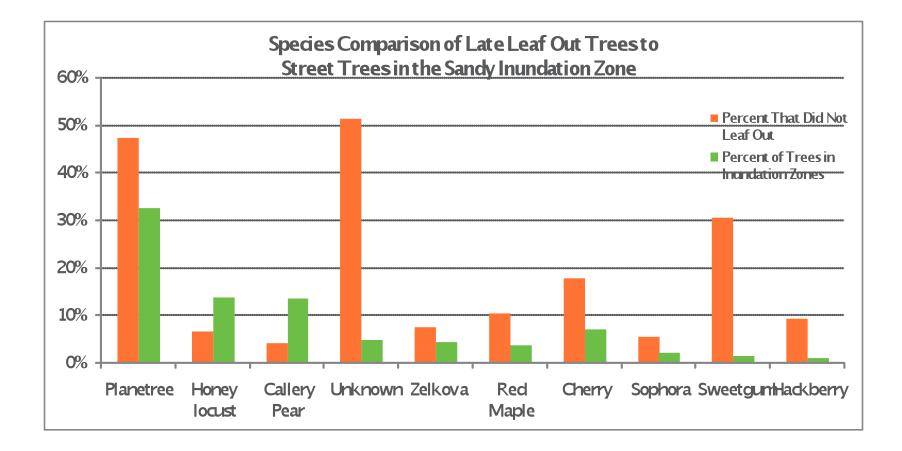


Late Leaf Out Affected Species



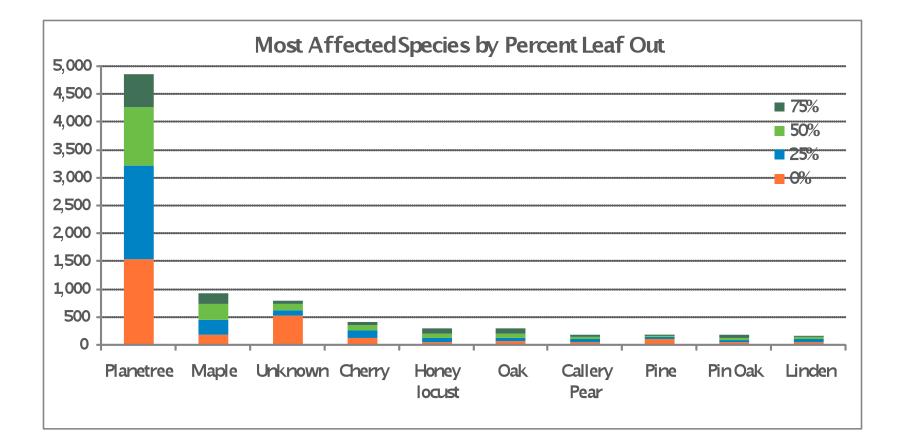


Late Leaf Out Affected Species



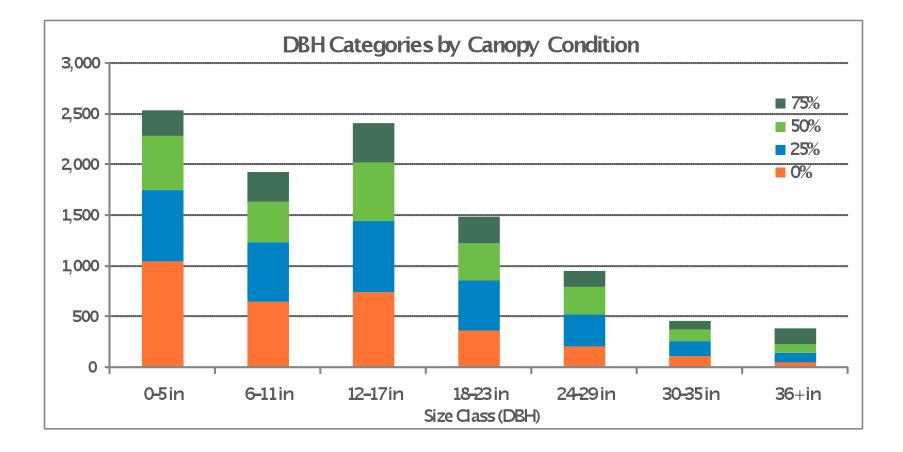


Affected Species by Canopy Condition





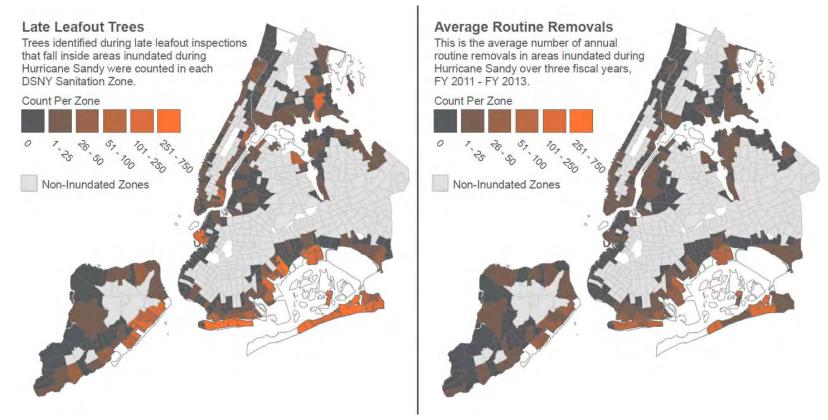
Affected Tree Diameter Distribution





NYC Parks

Comparing Salt Impacts to Routine Removals



We compared the Late Leaf Out salt impacted trees data with the average annual dead tree removals in the Sandy inundation zone from fiscal year 2011 to fiscal year 2013.



Post-Sandy Late Leaf Out Survey

Difference Between Routine Removals and Late Leafout

By subtracting the count of average routine removals from the count of trees identified during the Late Leafout inspections, sanitation zones in which the greatest differences between routine tree removal and storm-related damage may exist are visible.

Count Per Zone



Negative numbers indicate zones where more trees were removed in an average year than are identified as insufficiently leafed out in post-hurricane surveys.

> Zone 5014C 1 fewer trees were identified as insufficiently leafed out than are removed in an average year.



118 more trees were identified as insufficiently leafed out than are removed in an average year.

Zone 4142E

608 more trees were identified as insufficiently leafed out than are removed in an average year.

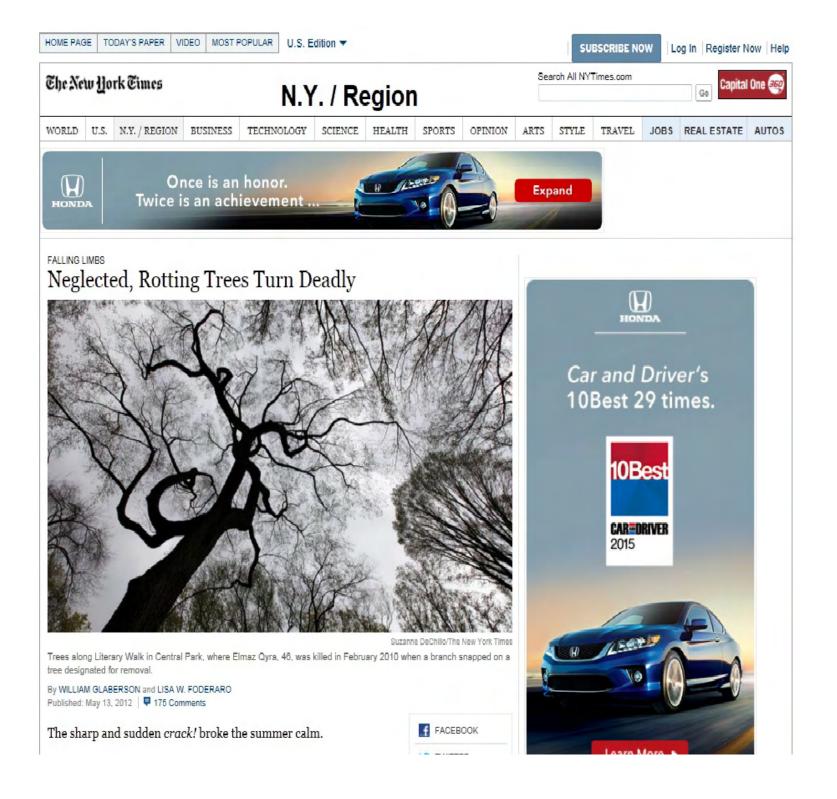
Zone 3132B

622 more trees were identified as insufficiently leafed out than are removed in an average year.



Post-Sandy Late Leaf Out Survey

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Capital Tree Removal Contracts

| Outstanding Tree Removals - by survey type | Bronx | Brooklyn | Manhattan | Queens | Staten Is | Total |
|--|-------|----------|-----------|--------|-----------|--------|
| ForMS WO (LLO 2013) | 0 | 60 | 0 | 116 | -102 | 74 |
| Late Leaf Out Surveys | 81 | 1,256 | 256 | 283 | 296 | 2,172 |
| Park Priority Surveys | 1,016 | 1,818 | 81 | 1,293 | 207 | 4,415 |
| Total Outstanding Tree Removals | 1,097 | 3,134 | 337 | 1,692 | 401 | 6,661 |
| Sites Received from Boroughs | | | | | | |
| ForMS (LLO 2013) | 0 | 490 | 0 | 428 | 558 | 1,476 |
| Late Leaf Out Surveys | 0 | 3,124 | 340 | 1,645 | 641 | 5,750 |
| Park Priority Surveys | 1,796 | 0 | 561 | 444 | 75 | 2,876 |
| Add Ons | 45 | 33 | 51 | 112 | 0 | 241 |
| Total Trees Received | 1,841 | 3,647 | 952 | 2,629 | 1,274 | 10,343 |
| Capital Removal Contracts - Marked Trees | | | | | | |
| ForMS (LLO 2013) | 0 | 464 | 0 | 317 | 317 | 1,098 |
| Late Leaf Out Surveys | 0 | 1,625 | 158 | 1,112 | 463 | 3,358 |
| Park Priority Surveys | 1,709 | 0 | 221 | 357 | 39 | 2,326 |
| Add Ons | 45 | 33 | 51 | 112 | 0 | 241 |
| Total Trees Marked for Removal | 1,754 | 2,122 | 430 | 1,898 | 819 | 7,023 |
| Capital Removal Contracts (FYTD) - Completed | | | | | | |
| ForMS (LLO 2013) | 0 | 442 | 0 | 302 | 219 | 963 |
| Late Leaf Out Surveys | 0 | 946 | 80 | 745 | 364 | 2,135 |
| Park Priority Surveys | 1,593 | 0 | 103 | 247 | 31 | 1,974 |
| Add Ons | 45 | 33 | 38 | 37 | 0 | 153 |
| Total Trees Removed | 1,638 | 1,421 | 221 | 1,331 | 614 | 5,225 |
| Total Trees to Be Removed - Proj ected | 1,800 | 2,800 | 1,200 | 2,800 | 900 | 9,500 |
| % Complete - Completed Removals v Projected | 91% | 51% | 18% | 48% | 68% | 55% |
|) | | | | | | |

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"You have to be able to take a punch."

- Don Lucia



Resiliency and Recovery:

On Earth Day 2007, Mayor Bloomberg unveiled a comprehensive sustainability plan for NYC.

Parks Primary Components:

Million Trees

- Plant 220,000 street trees
- Plant 500,000 reforestation trees

Green Infrastructure

Construct Green Infrastructure Sites





City-Wide Plans





milliontreesnyc

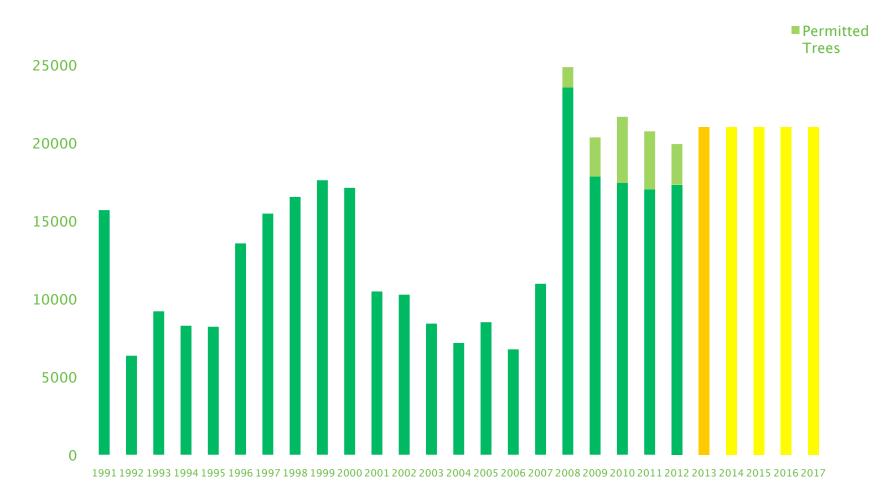
A PLANYC INITIATIVE WITH NYC PARKS AND NEW YORK RESTORATION PROJECT







Urban Forest Planning – Street Tree Planting by Calendar Year



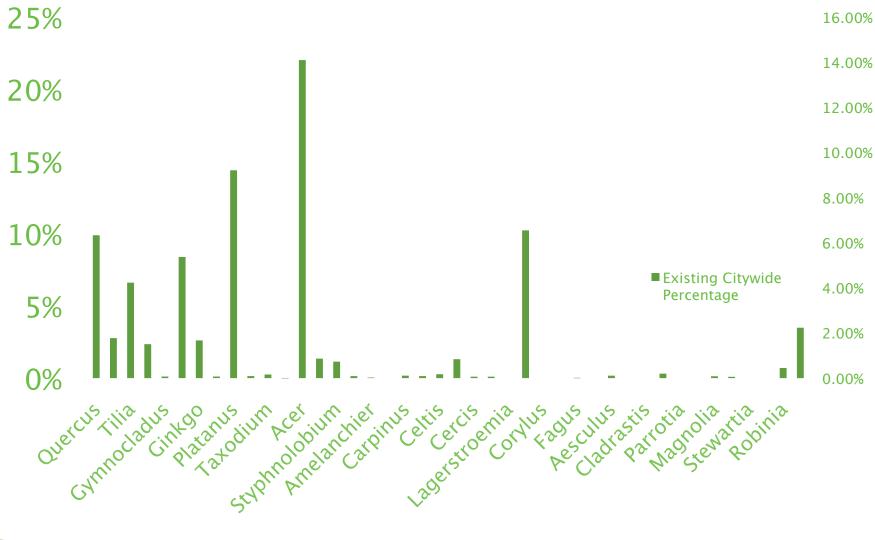
NYC Parks

Urban Forest Planning – Species Diversity

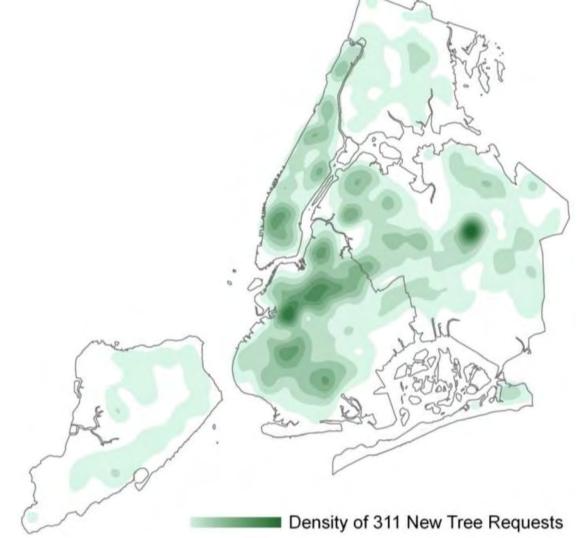




Urban Forest Planning - Species Diversity



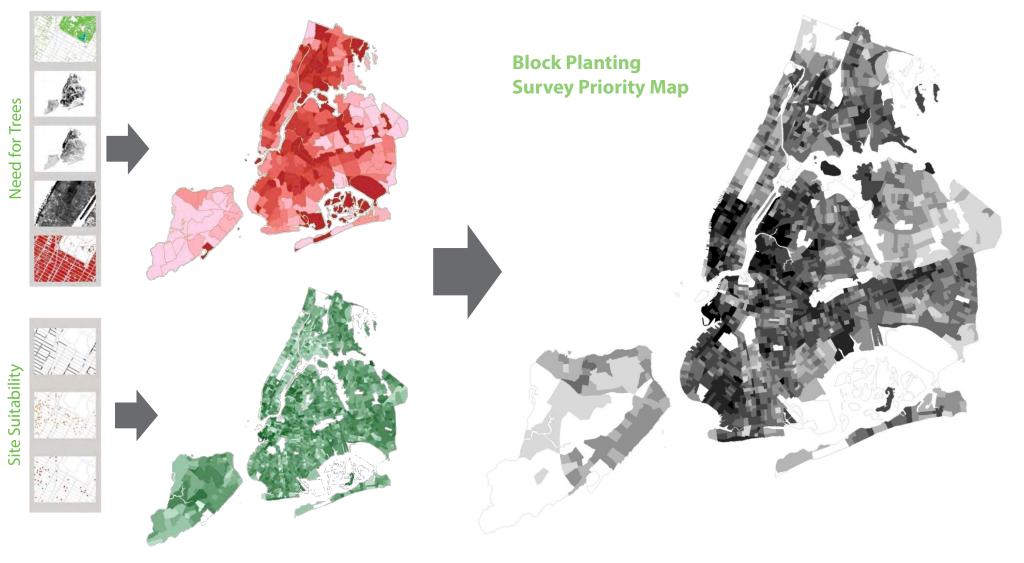






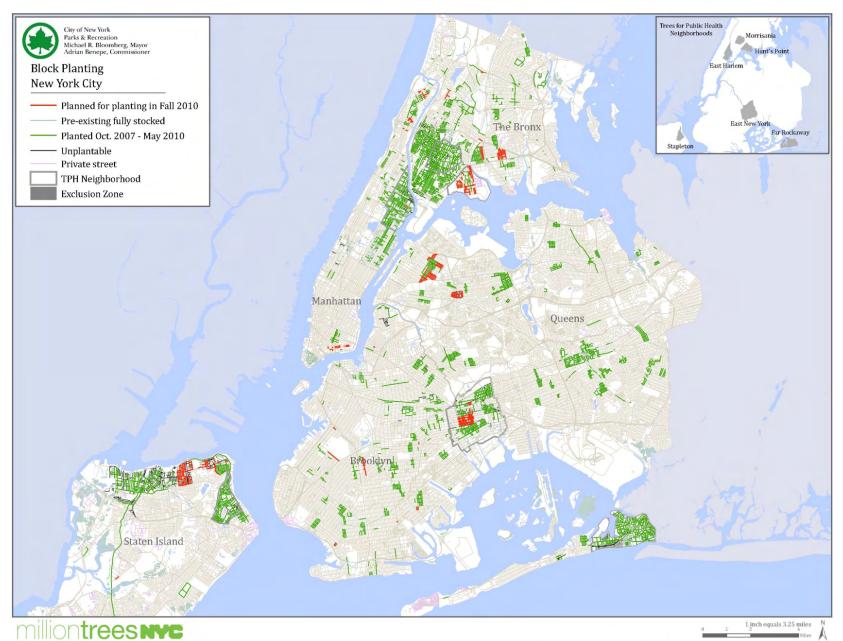
Based on environmental need combined with site suitability

• Need variables: low tree canopy cover, population, particulate matter, surface temperature and impervious surface cover



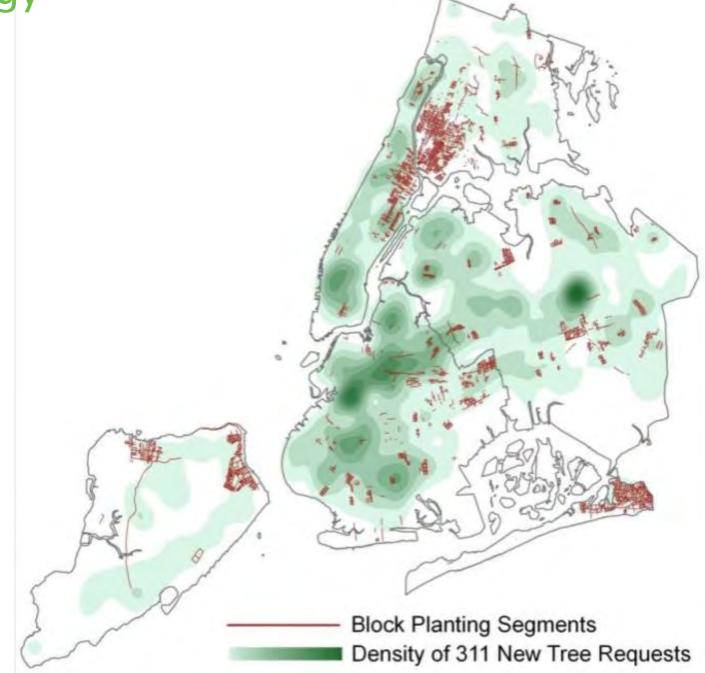








Created by Peter Tiso, Central Forestry & Horticulture, NYC Department of Parks & Recreation, October 21, 2010.







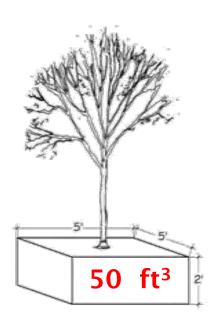


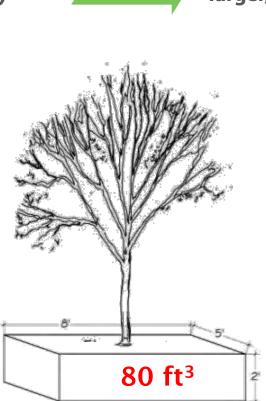
Maximize Tree Pit Size

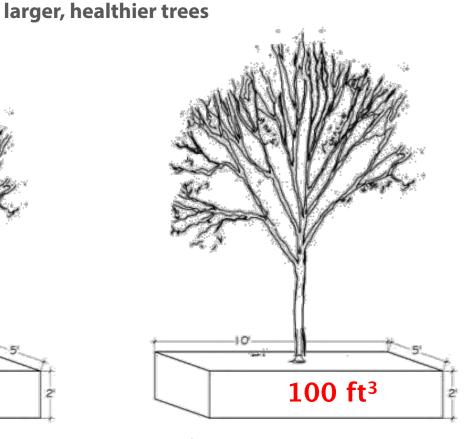
Increased soil volume

Increased water holding capacity

Increased rooting space







TREE PIT A: 5' x 5'



TREE PIT B: 8' x 5'



Maximize Tree Pit Size





Maximize Tree Pit Size





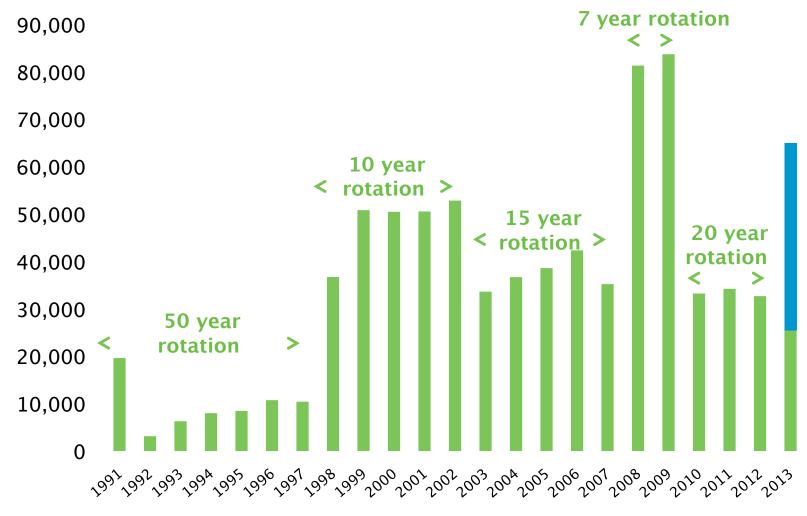
Urban Forest Management - Block Pruning





NYC Parks Urban Forestry Program

Urban Forest Management - Block Pruning



Fiscal Year



Urban Forest Management - Young Street Tree Pruning

Goal - reduce the likelihood of tree and limb failure in the future.

- Focused on structural pruning of young street trees.
- Winter work for horticultural staff
- Volunteer opportunities through NYRP
- Pruned more than 30,000 trees in the past 3 years





Green Infrastructure

Greenstreets – 2,536 sites citywide

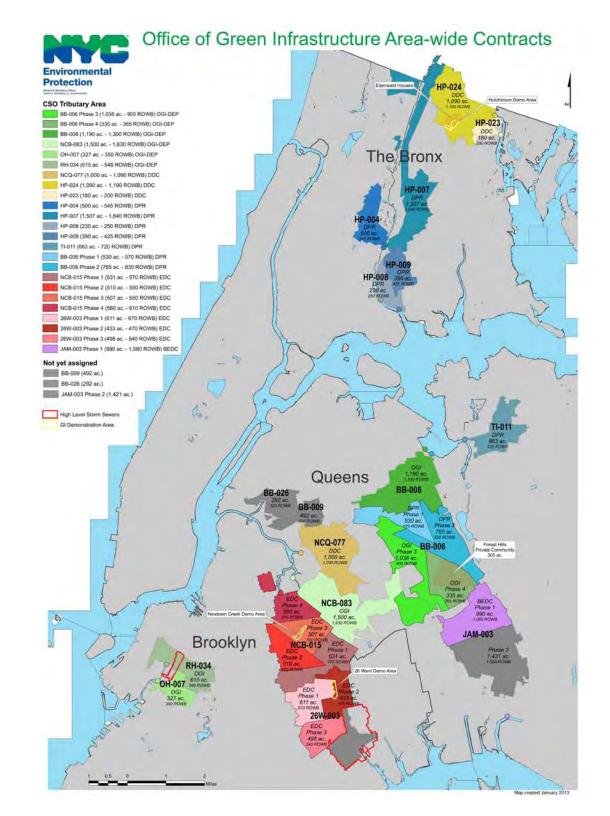






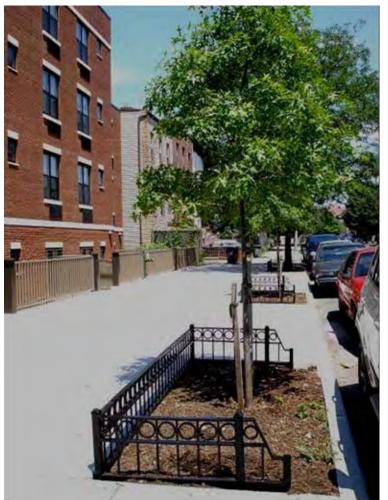
Francis Lewis Boulevard and 217th,







Tree Pits



Bioswales



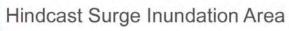




City of New York Parks & Recreation Michael R. Bloomberg, Mayor Veronica M. White, Commissioner Forestry, Horticulture & Natural Resources

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Park Properties

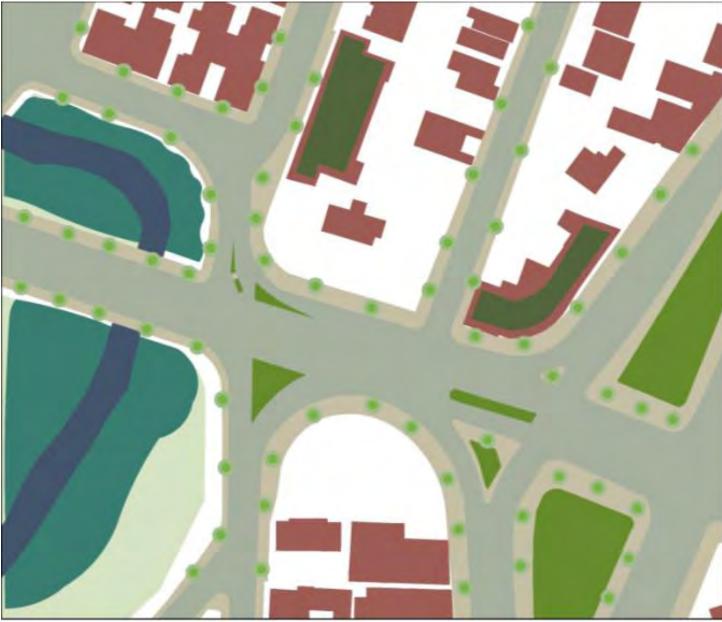
Nashville and 116th St, Queens



Landscape Connectivity

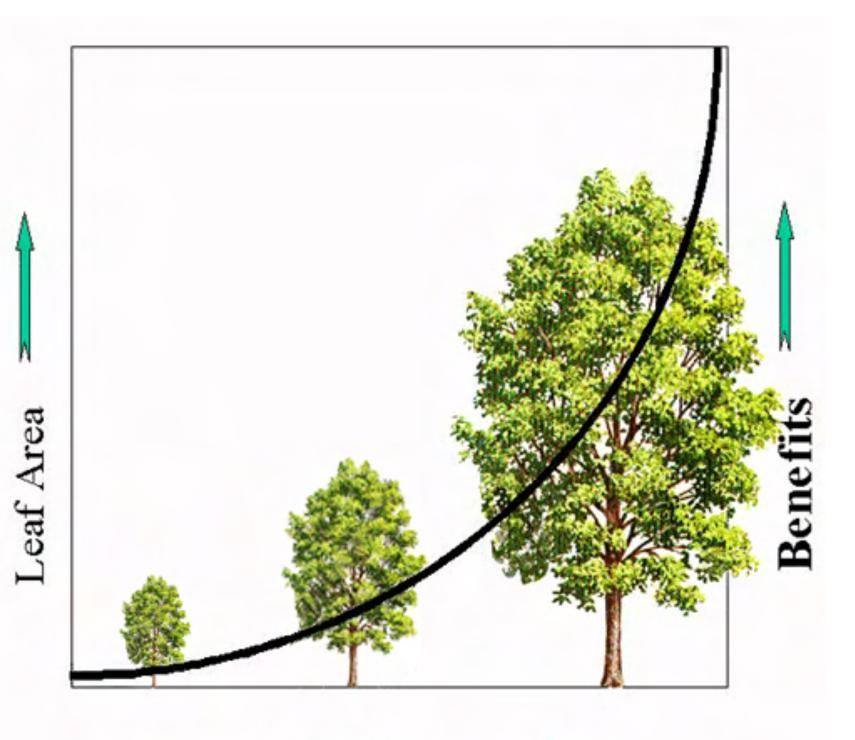
RoadsSidewalksBuildingsParklandRiver

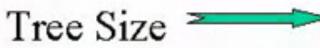
 Green Roofs
 Wetlands / Bioretention
 Greenstreets
 Street Trees & Bioswales

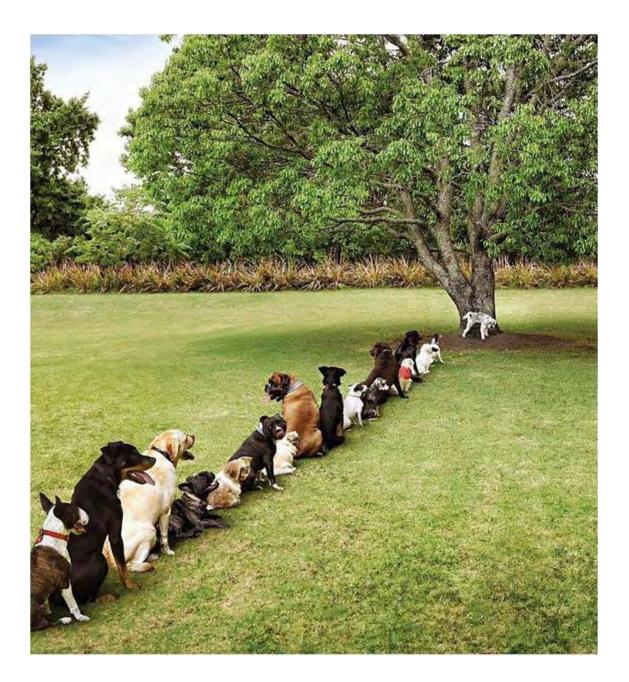


















Thank You

Jeremy Barrick

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Parks