



Trees Testimonial
NYC Council Hearing
September 27, 2021

Thank you for the opportunity to give testimony about trees in NYC. Marine Park Alliance advocates for Marine Park by championing its programs, ecology, and natural beauty for the all New Yorkers.

Since humans are an integral part of this city's ecology, trees are a necessity. It's stunning to me when someone requests the removal of trees because they create so many leaves that have to be picked up. That requestor doesn't remember that plants create the oxygen we need to breathe; nor that the plants that provide the most oxygen are mature trees.

Iconic images of Marine Park are of the near-mile long oval path of majestic pin oaks planted in the 1930s. They are huge, glorious oxygen and shade producers that are now nearing the end of their lives. They shed branches regularly and loose large ones in the big storms that have become regular with the largest storms uprooting entire trees. Park users are concerned how the health of the trees affect their safety while walking, running or biking underneath them. When we recently shared at our Community Committee of representatives from seven groups who use the park that the pruning cycle is every seven years for these trees, they had to laugh. That cycle might be sufficient for young trees but for older, mature trees like those planted in the 1930s, that is not enough care. Careful consistent pruning helps prolong a tree's lifetime as well as public safety.

Marine Park Alliance advocates not only for its flagship park, but all NYC Parks through the Parks and Open Space Coalition, which insists that NYC Parks deserves a full 1% of the City's budget. With the current Parks budget less than one half a percent, there is no way the iconic trees in Marine Park will get the care they need. Our visitors are concerned for the trees' health and their own safety. More resources are needed to address this important issue.

Submitted by Karen Eichel, Board Secretary