

# Tree Inventory & Community Forest Management Plan

## Educational & Environmental Justice Components

### Environmental Justice:

- The Project is being conducted citywide (population 14,452) covering under-served neighborhoods. Our poverty rate is 22.8% (NYS 14.1%) and the School District is in a USDA low income area designated with a Community Eligibility Provision. Based on HUD guidelines, 3 out of 4 Census Tract Groups & 9 out of 15 Block Groups are low-income.
- The Pines Nursing Home serves approx. 120 elderly & disabled residents. The County asthma rate is 12.3% (NYS 10%) & COPD rate is 47.5% (NYS 30.3%). Investing in the community forest benefits everyone, not just the privileged, thus adding an element of social justice.

### Health:

The Plan will provide long-term solutions to human & environmental issues.

- Higher quality of life having trees in the view-shed.
- Social well-being by reducing stress, encouraging physical activity and promoting social ties to the community.
- Aesthetically pleasing.
- Provide a canopy cover from the elements for both humans and habitat.
- Provide a shield from ultra-violet rays.
- Trees clean the air. Absorb odors and pollutant gases and filter particulates out of the air by trapping them on their leaves and bark.
- Enhances air quality due to emissions caused by manufacturers.

### Safety:

- Trees help prevent soil erosions.
- Combat climate change by absorbing CO<sub>2</sub>, removing and storing carbon while releasing oxygen back into the air.

### Economic:

The City recognizes the importance to raise awareness of the urban forest and to promote the value of trees by the community as an essential resource and asset.

- Act as a wind barrier.
- Provide shade and lower cooling costs (energy conservation).
- Reduce sewer system demand.
- Well-planted and manicured trees increase property values.
- Trees provide fruit for humans and food for birds and wildlife.
- Smartgrowth: Our urban forest is an asset that adds value to all of the properties and facilities in our City. This inventory will enable us to more accurately manage and enhance the value of our urban tree canopy.