

Hudson Square Standard



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Hudson Square
Business Improvement
District

Program Recap

In April 2022, the Hudson Square BID (HSBID) officially completed its Hudson Square Standard (HSS) tree program – a ground-breaking, neighborhood-level approach to urban forestry.

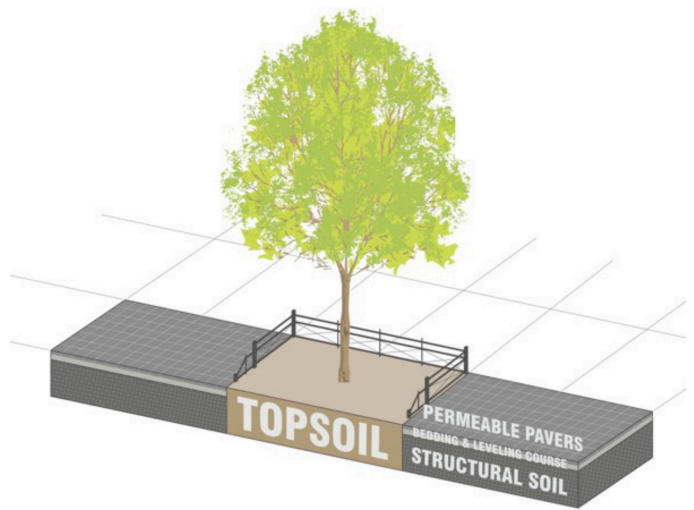
The BID launched the HSS program in 2013, in partnership with the NYC Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) and the New York Tree Trust (NYTT), to plant and retrofit trees throughout the Hudson Square neighborhood using a unique tree pit design that bolsters tree health and yields major environmental and public health benefits.

The HSS program builds upon the BID's efforts to improve the street-level experience and make the neighborhood more pedestrian-friendly. HSS trees now grow on every eligible block of the neighborhood, comprising a local forest of 500+ trees and 23 different species.

Designed by New York-based landscape architecture firm Mathews Nielsen Landscape Architects (MNLA), the HSS reimagined the potential for urban sidewalks and street tree planting.

The award-winning design includes:

- Expanded tree pits flanked by permeable pavers
- Distinctive tree guards that create a cohesive neighborhood identity
- Selection of trees that thrive in urban settings and our local microclimate



The enlarged tree pits are connected by a subsurface trench filled with structural soil and covered by permeable pavers. These enlarged and connected tree pits provide more room for tree roots to grow, fostering larger and healthier trees. The permeable pavers serve as a porous surface to retain excess stormwater, a critical intervention that helps relieve the city's overburdened sewer system and mitigate flooding.

Meet the HSS Trees

Our 500th HSS tree

Together with the rest of the HSS Urban Forest, this tree will help remove 90,440 lbs. of carbon a year.



Our first HSS trees

This block of common hackberry (*Celtis occidentalis*) needed a custom treatment to adapt to the challenges that came with being planted above the 1 train.

- New tree
- Retrofitted tree
- Tree planted by private developer

HSS retrofit tree.

The HSS was designed to be applicable for both brand new trees and retrofits. Existing trees' pits were enlarged to give their roots more room to grow.

HSS tree planted by a private developer.

Many HSBID private property owners chose to employ the HSS on their own.



532

Hudson Square Standard trees

The HSS design is applicable for both new and existing trees.

166 new trees planted by the HSBID

260 trees retrofitted by the HSBID

106 trees planted or retrofitted by private developers

\$2M+

Investment made by the Hudson Square BID

9 Years

The first Hudson Square Standard tree was planted in the fall of 2013 and the last was planted in Spring 2022.

90,000 lbs. of carbon captured per year

HSS trees' carbon reduction per year offsets emissions from **~80,000 car trips** to New Jersey through the Holland Tunnel.

3 Partners

Together, the Hudson Square BID (HSBID), the Department of Parks & Recreation (DPR) and the New York Tree Trust (NYTT) set a new platinum standard for urban forestry.

55,000 lbs. of oxygen produced per year

HSS trees produce the amount of oxygen that **34 Hudson Square residents** breathe each year.

HSS Trees vs. NYC Standard

In winter 2022, the HSBID, with the help of MNLA, conducted a cohort study comparing the growth of HSS trees to DPR trees. The study focused on two species of trees, *Zelkova serrata* and *Celtis occidentalis*, both selected for their fast growth rates. The study compared the growth rates of the trees planted to the HSS standard vs. standard DPR practice.

**HSS Zelkovas grow
12% faster than
those planted
with the NYC standard.**

The BID partnered with Temboo to install stormwater sensors and get live data on the HSS design's efficacy in capturing stormwater.



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1.6M gal. more storm water captured per year

Our annual stormwater capture is 2.4 Olympic-sized swimming pools more than the NYC Standard!



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Awards and Acknowledgements

- 2013 Norman Buchbinder Placemaking Award
- 2014 American Society of Landscape Architects Merit Award
- 2015 Named the preferred tree treatment in "Laying The Groundwork", the design guidelines for affordable housing projects issued by the Design Trust for Public Space
- 2015 International Downtown Association Merit Award for Planning
- 2015 Municipal Art Society Best New Urban Amenity Award
- 2021 Included in the NYC Urban Forest Agenda

About the BID

Since July 2009, the Hudson Square BID has overseen the transformation of Manhattan's former Printing District into a thriving creative hub. Today, Hudson Square is buzzing with the energy of more than 60,000 workers in some 1,000 businesses, complemented by thousands of students, visitors and a growing residential population. In Hudson Square, imagination and technology come together to redefine what it means to be creative.

Find us on



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