



JERSEY CITY
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

October 17, 2018

Dear Droyer's Pointe Walkway Association Board,

On behalf of the Jersey City Environmental Commission (JCEC), I am writing in regard to the proposed removal of 84 trees from the Droyer's Point Walkway along the Hackensack River. During the JCEC's meeting on October 16th, Denise Bailey of the Friends of the Walkway informed the JCEC that a plan to remove 84 mature London plane trees from the Droyer's Point waterfront pedestrian walkway was underway. Below, please see our concerns and recommendations regarding this issue.

First, the goal of the JCEC is to promote the protection of land, air, and water in Jersey City. Therefore, we are extremely alarmed by a plan to remove healthy trees from our City. The national average for urban tree canopy coverage is 27.1 percent and Jersey City is measured at a canopy coverage of 17 percent, well below the national average. The City must make every attempt to maintain its healthy tree canopy, especially in light of the Mayor's initiative to increase the tree canopy in the City by 2,020 trees by 2020.

In February of 2014, the JCEC requested the City avoid the unnecessary removal of trees along the walkway given the service these trees provide in terms of stormwater discharge reduction along the shoreline and erosion mitigation. On March 9, 2016, the DPW Director Mark Redfield and Planning Director Robert Cotter submitted a letter to the Droyer's Point Walkway Association (DWPA) stating that the 84 trees along the walkway provide a green buffer and tree canopy along the walkway and therefore should not be removed.

At this time, the JCEC and the Friends of the Walkway have received no notification of changes in the status of the trees' health since the correspondence in March 2016 referenced above. If the conditions have significantly changed, this should be communicated directly to the Friends of the Walkway, the JCEC, and the general public. **Since no reason for removal of the trees has been communicated at this time, we request an explanation from the DPWA regarding this plan prior to tree removal.** Additionally, we request that trees deemed healthy, as per the Jersey City Forestry Standards, remain on the walkway. Trees deemed dead or sick should be removed and replaced, as per City Code Municipal Code Chapter 321- Trees.

Should you have any questions, I can be reached at alisoncucco@gmail.com or by telephone at 908-319-8642.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alison Cucco".

Alison Cucco
Chair, Jersey City Environmental Commission