**Good Neighbors**

MANHATTAN—Fences and ivy trim East 62nd Street's trees.

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What a difference trees make. Good neighbors throughout New York City are finding this out.

All over the two boroughs, block associations are sprouting. These groups have one major concern: to improve their environment and one of their best ways is to plant trees.

Many of these programs are started by individuals who often are new homeowners on the block. In addition to planning renovation of their own brownstones, they are aware that the entire block often needs sprucing up.

Block associations are formed. To invite the participation of other property owners and tenants on the block, letters are sent out to make a plea for trees and to ask those who would contribute dollars for planting them. Fines for example include extra costs when in致使棕色的棕色，小花园围绕着棕色，一般树，主要街道，一般树，一般树，更好行为的邻居。

Typical of this citizen's awareness is the improvement of West 103rd Street between Riverside Drive and Broadway. The block association was formed by four young mothers who got together and mailed out letters asking for funds. Each city street tree costs from $100 to $125. The association's letter invited property owners and tenants to send whatever contribution they could. Deductions (tax deductible) were collected by the Salvation Army, with which is paid by New York Central, and by the Albert and Mary Lasker Foundation.

The fund works with block associations which are improving their neighbor- hoods. It arranges for planting contracts and obtains city permits.

The contract guarantees replacement of the trees within one year, if it fails to grow. After the first year, the city takes over tree maintenance.

"We collected $1,800 for our block," said Mrs. George Keller, who heads the 103rd Street association. "There are 12 London plane trees plus three that the city put in front of the Frederic Douglass Houses. It just shows what can be accomplished when ordinary people get together." The association is continuing to encourage more trees and "greening up" the city block.

These associations are not only tree planters, they are also neighborhood improvers. The group on West 77th Street formed a committee to send with the city authorities to help rid the block of derricks and dog pushers. It also enlisted the block's children to act as war- dens of the trees.

Even if a block is already tree-lined, neighborhood associations are still being formed to replace trees lost from drought and to brighten the block. Improvements often include street-side gardens of ivy, begonia or geraniums near the shade trees where city-in- stalled Belgian blocks once were. Metal hoop fences, painted white, add decorative trim. Association funds pay for the private maintenance contract for these gardens. Such plantings can be seen on Beckman Place and on East 62nd and 63rd Streets between First and Second Avenues.

The Park Association of New York City is also vitally interested in neigh- borhood improvement, city parks and conservation. It presents awards to block improvement associations and encourages window box plantings and street trees. The association expects to launch a gift and memorial tree cam- paign in the near future.

The city has also presented Honor Citations to some of the block improve- ment associations. "But the pot on the back doesn't mean very much to us," said one Manhattan property owner, "when the city does an about face and raises our tax assessment for an improved neighborhood. It's discourag- ing and we hate to ask our friends to follow our lead."

The favorite tree for New York city's streets is the London plane. It grows fast and withstands city conditions. "But we don't want to see the streets with plane trees," said Arthur Murphy, architect in charge of planting and de- sign for the city's Department of Parks. "Other trees we recommend are sugar maple, willow oak (near the shore), silver lin- den, upright maple and honey locust. The city has planted 10,000 trees in the past few years. The goal is 18,000 trees by 1968."—J.L.F.