Healthy Trees
By Elizabeth Cameriero and Greg Sosa

Initial Observations:

• Many trees only last for about 8 years
• There’s a lot of pollution in the city from all the trucks and factories releasing CO2
• Some trees can not get enough water because the tree pit is covered in cement.
• Some insects help the soil. They decompose the organic matter.

Initial Research: Why do Street Trees have such young life spans?

• Poor soil. Street trees lose their nutrient rich topsoil.
• Compaction. The soil in a tree pit can get compacted and stop the growth of the tree. The roots can’t grow and the soil can’t absorb water.
• Inadequate drainage. If the soil around and below the tree is clay, water has a hard time dispersing. The tree may, in effect, drown.
• Utility trenches. Underground subways, pipes and cables that are underneath the roots can damage the roots.
• Girdling. This is when a tree is strangled from something wrapped around it.
• Tree grates. People decorate the trees with fences and the trees expand and the fence stops the flow of water and chemicals from the bottom to the top of the tree.
• Excessive paving. The roots grow and it cracks the cement.

• The fundamental solution to most city tree problems is simple: Give each tree access to more and better soil.

Hypothesis:

I think that the trees from the forest are more healthy than the trees that are in the city.

Experiment:

Test soil from Park trees and compare it to soil from street trees.