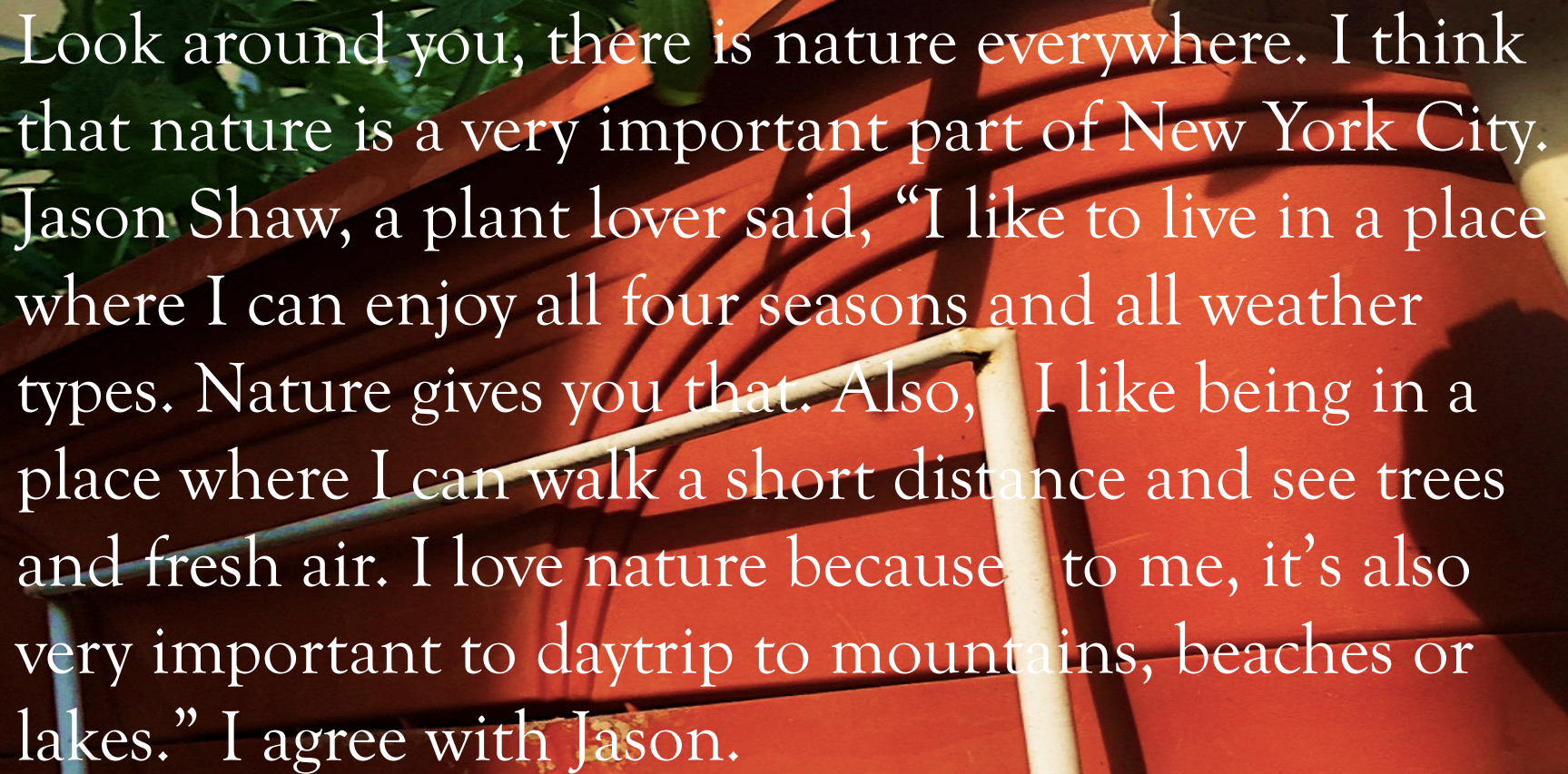




Nature in the City  
By Natalie Shaw

A photograph of a red planter box with green plants growing in it, set against a brick wall. The planter box is a vibrant red color and has a white pipe running along its side. The plants are lush and green, with some long, thin leaves extending upwards. The background is a brick wall with a grid pattern.

Look around you, there is nature everywhere. I think that nature is a very important part of New York City. Jason Shaw, a plant lover said, “I like to live in a place where I can enjoy all four seasons and all weather types. Nature gives you that. Also, I like being in a place where I can walk a short distance and see trees and fresh air. I love nature because to me, it’s also very important to daytrip to mountains, beaches or lakes.” I agree with Jason.



Nature is good for the environment, it gives people resources, it is good for our health, and nature is beautiful. I think that it is our job as people who live in the city to keep nature in our lives.

Nature is part of our environment, and nature helps the rest of our environment grow and thrive. *Tree people*, an environmental group says that trees clean the air, prevent soil erosion, stop climate change, and when you eat “Eco-Friendly” you help the economy.





Jason Shaw says, “I try not to waste, whether it’s food, or anything else. I also recycle. When I’m gardening on the balcony I will compost and use leftover food to help richen the soil. And also when I’m on the beach and I see any garbage on the sand or in the water, I pick it up and throw it out. If everyone picked up a piece of trash, the whole world would be much cleaner.” This is important because when you clean up natural environments, you are helping to clean up nature.

It is important to have nature in the city because nature gives us resources. Jason Shaw says, “I like to garden on our balcony which includes growing flowers and vegetables. This year, we are growing carrots, tomatoes, radishes, string beans, and broccoli. It takes a lot of work and time, to take care of the plants from seeds, but to watch them slowly grow is very satisfying and special.”



Now, in our house we will always have fresh vegetables. Jason Shaw also says that nature is incredibly important because it gives us the water we drink, use and bathe in. Also, nature gives us the air we breathe.”





One time I got to use the natural resources of nature. I was on the beach with my friends and we were all craving a coconut. We threw a football up at the palm tree. After many throws we hit one down and peeled it with our bare hands. Soon enough we were slurping up the cool, sweet coconut milk. That experience was so much fun and we were able to rely on nature for its resources. Also, people use nature for wood. *Tree People* says that a study proved that in one year, one acre of trees provides enough oxygen for 18 people.





Nature is also good for humans' health. According to *The New York Botanical Garden*, a Kachin woman and her baby rely on nature for medicine. They use an ointment for their face made out of the bark of a plant called *Limonia Acidis*. *Tree People* says that nature prevents mental fatigue, and kids with ADHD show fewer symptoms around trees. I know that trees create shade which blocks UV exposure, which prevents skin cancer. One time, someone I know was diagnosed with a formation of skin cancer because she got too much UV exposure. If she were in the shade more (or wore more sunscreen) this wouldn't have happened. Luckily she got the skin removed, but it could have lead to something worse.



Lastly, nature is just beautiful and nice to look at. On my street, I have two ways to walk to school. Even though one side is a quicker walk, I always want to walk to the other side of the street because it has very pretty flowers and trees.

The other side of our street has construction on it. Trees have to squeeze through scaffoldings and are getting cut down. I wish there was more nature, and less construction on 87<sup>th</sup> street.

# Sunny Side



# Side With Construction





Caralee Caplan-Shaw, a plant lover said, “Nature definitely affects my choices. Even living in a city, I like to know that natural environments such as hiking areas and lakes are nearby. Nature’s so beautiful. Having a garden on the terrace is also very beautiful.”

Isabella Sparrow, a student at PS290 said, “Every summer I go to Rhode Island and we have a big backyard with lots of grass and pretty flowers. I keep choosing to go to Road Island every summer because it’s different from New York City. I really love the beautiful flowers and fresh green grass.”

Nature  
Attracts  
Sport  
Players





Nature  
Gives  
Kids  
Space to  
Play  
Games

# Nature Attracts Animals



I really love nature. Nature makes the city balanced. I also think because nature is so important, we have to not litter, and not waste. Since nature provides space, nature attracts many sport players, and children to go to the park where there is a lot of nature. I think it's important to keep nature in our city.

# Plant Nursery





THE END

