



June 1, 2017

Honorable William de Blasio
Mayor
City of New York
City Hall
New York, NY 10007

P.O. Box 1044
Fort George Station
New York, NY 10040
(212) 795-1388, x 301
www.FortTryonParkTrust.org

Dear Mayor de Blasio:

I am writing on behalf of the **Fort Tryon Park Trust**, to urge you to ensure that the Midtown East Rezoning does not adversely affect Greenacre Park on East 51th Street.

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The Fort Tryon Park Trust's mission is to promote the restoration, preservation, and enhancement of the historic and scenic landmark Fort Tryon Park for the benefit and use of the surrounding communities of Inwood and Washington Heights, and all New Yorkers. We fund supplemental staff, help provide over 250 free public programs, foster improved park stewardship and targeted park upgrades. We see first-hand the psychological and physical health benefits New Yorkers gain from access to nature and sunlight.

Regrettably, the current Midtown rezoning plan would significantly reduce the amount of sunlight reaching Greenacre Park.

- Developed in 1971 for public use, Greenacre Park is maintained with private funds through the generosity of the Greenacre Foundation. The vest pocket park attracts residents, families, tourists, and members of the local workforce.
- Tall buildings now cast shadows on the park for two to three hours daily. Left unmodified, the rezoning would lead to even taller buildings that would double the amount of shadow darkening the park.
- The darkened park would forever diminish visitors' enjoyment – and threaten its beautiful vegetation. The park's extraordinary landscaping is already at its minimum requirements for sunlight hours.

- The park is the only green space of its kind in the rezoning study area. According to New Yorkers For Parks, park space is very rare in City Council District 4, with only two percent of its acreage dedicated to parkland – versus a citywide council district average of 19 percent.
- The Municipal Art Society has said that the City “cannot afford to allow development under the East Midtown proposal to cast such an important resource as Greenacre Park in additional shadow.”
- Developed and maintained by the Greenacre Foundation, which was founded by Abby Rockefeller Mauzé, Greenacre Park has won awards for its concept and design from such organizations as The Parks Council of New York City, The New York Society of Architects, and The New York State Association of Architects.

A modified rezoning plan would improve midtown Manhattan while also preserving Greenacre Park’s scarce sunlight, so its landscape could thrive and be enjoyed by the public. We urge you to implement a modified rezoning plan that would maintain the character and appeal of this invaluable open space.

Sincerely,



Jeff Bauml
Chairman

Cc: Gale A. Brewer, Manhattan Borough President
Daniel R. Garodnick, New York City Council Member