



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

May 22, 2017

Dear Mayor de Blasio:

I am writing on behalf of the Lower East Side Ecology Center to urge you to ensure that the Midtown East Rezoning does not adversely affect Greenacre Park on East 51th Street.

Our organization works toward a more sustainable New York City by providing community-based recycling and composting programs, developing local stewardship of green space, and increasing community awareness, involvement and youth development through environmental education programs.

We would like to make you aware of our concerns about the current rezoning plan, which would significantly reduce the amount of sunlight reaching the park and diminish its value as a green oasis in an area of our city that lacks green open space.

Many small public open spaces were developed in midtown to alleviate the lack of open space, and Greenacre Park, which was developed in 1971 for public use is maintained with private funds through the generosity of the Greenacre Foundation. This vest pocket park is a resource for the community and attracts both residents and people working in the area as well as tourists. Tall buildings now already cast shadows on the park, but the rezoning would lead to even taller buildings that would negatively affect the sunlight, and with the darkened park the landscaping of the park would not be able to be sustained, and the inherent recreational value of the space compromised.

Greenacre Park is the only green space of its kind in the rezoning study area, and is located in City council District 4, which has only 2 percent of its acreage dedicated to parkland – compared to a citywide council district average of 19 percent. These numbers speak for itself, the community can not afford to have its few open space be compromised

A modified rezoning plan would improve midtown Manhattan while also preserving Greenacre Park's scarce sunlight. We urge you to implement a modified rezoning plan that would maintain the character and appeal of this popular and essential open space.

Sincerely,

Christine Datz-Romero  
Executive Director

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