

May 8, 2017



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

Sustainability of Greenacre Park

Dear Honorable Bill de Blasio,

Town & Gardens, Ltd. has been maintaining Greenacre Park for the last two years. I am trained as a landscape architect and horticulturist and I am working closely with the park and with our staff on maintenance as well as seasonal plantings. This important park was designed by Hideo Sasaki, one of the most prominent Landscape Architects of his time, as a “vest-pocket” Park. Due to its location in the city among buildings, the available sunlight is limited from the start. To envision higher buildings that would block light even longer and possibly all around would mean further threatening the existence of the park since live plants require natural sun light for their survival. Already now our plant choices are quite limited by the available sun light. The species that were chosen by the landscape architect are varieties that can live under these conditions and have matured over the years. This includes 12 wonderful Honey Locust trees, Japanese Maples, an amazing specimen of a Star Magnolia, evergreen Rhododendron and Azalea shrubs to cover a slope, small-leaf Hollies for a perimeter planting, a very beautiful Japanese Umbrella Pine and Boston Ivy on the brick walls. If the sunlight was substantially compromised, then the plants would die. The prospect of cutting down on the choices even more is a very sad prospect that would reduce the quality of the environment that we can provide as well as impact the enjoyment of the park by citizens as well as nearby office workers.

We would kindly request that the rezoning proposal would be modified in order to preserve and protect the park.

Sincerely,

Sabine Stezenbach
Senior Horticulturist
Town and Gardens, Ltd.