



THE REV. LINNETTE C. WILLIAMSON MEMORIAL PARK ASSOCIATION, INC.  
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May 23, 2017

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

Dear Mayor de Blasio:

Greenacre Park, as a pearl in the string of New York vest-pocket parks, knows the formula for success:

**Air + Open Space + Public Access + Sunlight + Vegetation = Vest-Pocket Park**

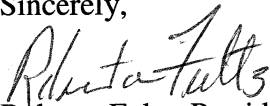
An absence of sunlight for most of the afternoon would blanket Greenacre Park in the darkness of suffocating shade. This would be the fate of one of our city's premier public spaces, at 217 East 51<sup>st</sup> Street, if construction of tall buildings blocks the sun under the proposed Midtown East Rezoning Plan.


We join Greenacre Foundation, which built the park in 1971 and now maintains it, in requesting your intervention to preserve the sunlight cast on Greenacre Park. There is no square-footage cost for any real estate in New York that could ever approach the immeasurable value of light on this public space.

Our nonsectarian, nonprofit, Harlem land trust renovated in 1994 and has stewarded for 24 years the very first vest-pocket park built in New York City and the United States in 1965. This park, at 65 West 128<sup>th</sup> Street, launched the nation-wide movement of big-city parks as small as a single building lot. Urban planners recognized more than five decades ago how parkland in the midst of residences and businesses could improve the quality of life based on the above formula for a successful vest-pocket park. Sunlight for these parks remains critical at the height of park use during the day especially in the afternoon hours. This would be forever jeopardized under the Midtown East Rezoning Plan.

Please keep Greenacre Park bathed in sunlight to preserve this unique testament to the human need for open space that brings health and well-being to its patrons. May the light be with you and this park.

Sincerely,

  
Roberta Fultz, President

  
Lusia Moskvicheva, Vice President

  
Kate Javens, Director

  
Stephen Jones, Director/Acting Secretary

  
Paul Joseph Coppa, Treasurer

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