

CITY OF NEW YORK  
**MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR**  
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**Lowell D. Kern**  
Chair

**Jesse Bodine**  
District Manager

March 11, 2021

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NYC Department of Parks & Recreation  
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**Re: fence at 48<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> DEP Site recreation area**

To Whom It May Concern,

Manhattan Community Board 4 (MCB4) thanks you for the update about the design for this new recreation area at its February 11<sup>th</sup> Waterfront, Parks & Environment Committee meeting. You

have taken suggestions we have offered and the site design is coming along very nicely. We look forward to being able to use it.

We understand that some of the changes you presented were required because of the constraints the water tunnel site placed on possible uses of the above ground area. We believe the community will be well served by what will become a passive recreation area. Primarily we are pleased with the changes to the water feature, the tree planting, the storage box for gardeners' tools (better would be the ability to roll carts into the box rather than having to lift them to put them in from the top), and bathroom access (we'd prefer a five degree walkway rather than steps and a steeper ramp, but understand there may be constraints making that difficult).

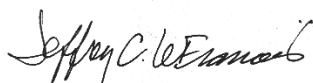
However, we remain incensed that both DEP and Parks are insisting on a fence that can easily be scaled permitting easy access to the space after hours. MCB4 has long insisted on minimum fence heights of seven feet to make those illegal entry and misuse of the park more difficult, and at its March 3<sup>rd</sup> Full Board meeting, voted by 41 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining, and 0 present but not eligible to vote, to reiterate this request. The feedback the Waterfront, Parks and Environment Committee has received from local block associations, community groups, and park gardeners support fences around local parks that may be less user friendly but that serve the community better after hours by preventing inappropriate night time activities. We have made this strong suggestion before<sup>1</sup> and have the definite feeling that it has been ignored or worse, rejected by your agency.

We strongly request a change to the design that provides for a seven-foot fence.

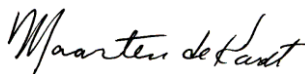
Sincerely,



Lowell Kern  
Chair  
Manhattan Community Board 4



Jeffrey LeFrancois  
Co-Chair  
Waterfront, Parks, & Environment Committee



Maarten deKadt  
Co-Chair  
Waterfront, Parks & Environment Committee

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<sup>1</sup> <https://cbmanhattan.cityofnewyork.us/cb4/wp-content/uploads/sites/10/2020/02/18-WPE-Letter-to-DEP-DPR-re-Open-Space-DEP-Site-705-10th-Ave.pdf>  
<https://cbmanhattan.cityofnewyork.us/cb4/wp-content/uploads/sites/10/2020/02/29-WPE-Letter-to-Parks-re-705-10th-Ave-Design.pdf>