

NYBG/125

October 18, 2016

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in support of the creation of the Hill Sreet Community Garden on the undeveloped strip of DOT land located at East 159th Street between St. Ann's and Eagle Avenues. We support this collaborative effort to transform this area into a community garden which will benefit the surrounding community.

Since 1988, Bronx Green-Up, the community gardening outreach program of The New York Botanical Garden has helped Bronx residents transform vacant, abandoned lots into vibrant green spaces, the community gardens, school gardens, and urban farms of the Bronx. Bronx Green-Up provides horticulture education, training, and technical assistance to Bronx residents, community gardeners, urban farmers, local schools, and community organizations interested in growing food and improving urban neighborhoods in the Bronx through greening projects.

With the help of 596 acres, neighbors and local organizations have come together to develop a design for the site. Allowing the group to move forward with this plan will bring beauty, healthy food and educational opportunities, among other benefits to this underutilized parcel.

We are looking forward to bringing our horticultural resources and expertise to support this initiative. Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



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