

FACT SHEET

ALIENATION AND CONVERSION OF MUNICIPAL PARKLAND

Using Parkland to build Affordable Housing

When Mayor Adams ran for office, he promised he would raise the City's Parks Budget to 1%. Once he was elected, he cut the budget more severely than previous administrations. Now we learn in a August 21, 2024 [press release](#) that he is giving away the people's parkland. Park employees were forced to cut away land in our parks so the mayor can lower the cost of building affordable housing. Why weren't other alternatives reviewed? Why wasn't affordable housing created in the City of Yes to meet the need? What is the need?

NYS Alienation Process

There is a process that needs to be adhered to, and that is the NYS Alienation Process. We expect our elected officials to protect parks as described in the following: "Parkland alienation is the process required when a municipality seeks to convey parkland or change its use. The parkland alienation process applies to parkland owned by municipalities, including cities, counties, towns and villages. In general, in order to alienate parkland a municipality must receive authorization from the State in the form of an alienation bill. Such a bill must pass in the Legislature and be signed by the Governor before the municipality may act. Municipal parkland that has been the beneficiary of State or Federal funding via grants may be subject to additional limitations on alienation as conditions of the funding statute and regulations." ([Handbook on the Alienation and Conversion of Municipal Parkland](#), NYS Parks Recreation and Historic Preservation)

Taking Parkland should require reimbursement from the private builder.

If we are to move forward with this unrealistic policy, we demand the cost be equivalent and greater than simply signing away the people's land. Parkland is not for free. We demand the following.

1. State Parks supports a no net loss of parkland; the city should too. While Concessions are allowed, they should not be for the private gain of the grantee. Therefore, the required Environmental Assessment Statement (EAS) of any park alienation should be described in [CEQR](#) as the declaration of a positive impact, or a positive declaration.
2. The Acquisition and Land Replacement must be presented in a transparent memorandum of understanding (MOU). The EIS for such a project should describe the MOU replacement land and/or capital project funding be within half a mile of the property in question and in the same sub-watershed drainage area. Maintenance costs should be built in and allocated permanently.
3. The DEIS should describe the purpose and need, any alternative sites reviewed (including first look at privately owned properties from the City of Yes for Housing Opportunities), and the mitigation for the Alienation, among other concerns for the DEIS.
4. Runoff on the property should be solely contained on said property and not on the surrounding parkland. In addition, green infrastructure (GI) standard should be increase as to direct discharge in situ, and not on the people's land.
5. All utilities needed, such as sewers, should be paid for and built by the applicant grantee, not from the City's Budget or City Employees; and be deeded to the city as appropriate. If the sewers are inadequate, the cost of enlarging the sewer shall be the responsibility of the builder.

Press Coverage:

NYPOST, [NYC Mayor Eric Adams to push plan for public sites across Big Apple for affordable housing projects](#), Jan. 24, 2024

AMNY, [Housing crisis: New NYC task force aims to find city-owned land to build new homes](#), August 21, 2024

CBSNEWS, [Mayor Eric Adams on the hunt for affordable housing sites, orders NYC agencies to review own properties](#), August 21, 2024

