



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
OFFICE OF OPERATIONS  
OFFICE OF LONG-TERM  
PLANNING & SUSTAINABILITY  
253 Broadway - 10th Floor  
New York, New York 10007  
[www.nyc.gov/operations](http://www.nyc.gov/operations)

ROHIT T. AGGARWALA  
Director, Long-Term Planning & Sustainability

(212) 788-3069  
Fax: (212) 788-1665

February 26, 2008

To Whom It May Concern:

I am pleased to offer this letter from the Mayor's Office of Long-Term Planning and Sustainability in order to endorse LANDMARK WEST!'s innovative environmental study, Urban Forests in our Midst, which seeks to analyze the environmental benefits that privately owned backyards of brownstone blocks convey to the surrounding New York City urban fabric.

On Earth Day 2007, Mayor Bloomberg released PlaNYC, the City's long-term sustainability plan comprised of 127 initiatives to improve water and air quality, ensure reliable and clean energy resources, provide access to open space, reduce our carbon footprint, and, finally, to prepare for climate change. He established my office to oversee the writing and implementation of this plan, as well as to promote other efforts related to the sustainability of New York City.

In order to achieve our water quality goal of opening 90% of our waterways to recreation and our air quality goal of having the cleanest air of any big US city, we need to compliment our efforts to green the public realm with an effort to gauge and promote private green space. The LANDMARK WEST! study will give us a starting point by assessing the current impact of backyards, including their mitigation of urban heat islands, air pollution, and stormwater runoff, as well as their benefit to wildlife.

Sincerely,

Rohit T. Aggarwala  
Director of Long-Term Planning and  
Sustainability