



THE COMMITTEE TO PRESERVE THE UPPER WEST SIDE

**Testimony of LANDMARK WEST!
Certificate of Appropriateness Committee
Before the Landmarks Preservation Commission
Riverside Park - Dinosaur Playground
November 28, 2023**

LANDMARK WEST! is a not-for-profit community organization committed to the preservation of the architectural heritage of the Upper West Side.

The Certificate of Appropriateness Committee wishes to comment on Riverside Park - Dinosaur Playground, a playground and pathways built in the 1930s within an English Romantic-style park built in 1873-1875 and designed by Frederick Law Olmsted, with modifications and additions built in 1934-37 and designed by Clifton Lloyd and Gilmore Clarke. Application is to remove stairs, install ramps, replace walls, fencing, and guardrails, and re-grade the site.

The LANDMARK WEST! Certificate of Appropriateness Committee applauds this creative approach to redesigning the Dinosaur Playground, especially the accessibility measures that have been proposed. Our Committee would like to see the original Dinosaurs restored sometime in the future.

In terms of the site's landmark features, our Committee understands the railing has to be raised for safety reasons and we think it is a good idea to make the railing poles the same width and thickness as the existing holes in the retaining wall. Our Committee would like a confirmation that the bluestone pavement and retaining walls are being replaced in kind.

Although we are glad to see this playground receive some vital work, we are concerned that this proposed design does not address the flooding that has consistently occurred at this playground in recent years.

The LANDMARK WEST Certificate of Appropriateness Committee recommends approval.

Thank you.