



THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK

250 Broadway, Suite 1762
New York, NY 10007

****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****

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Contact: Rush Perez [CM Chin] 646-592-0499

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN CELEBRATES AS NEARLY \$10 MILLION RECONSTRUCTION OF LUTHER GULICK PARK BEGINS



LOWER EAST SIDE—With a third grade class from nearby P.S. 110 in attendance, **Council Member Margaret S. Chin** today celebrated the groundbreaking of a new and improved Luther Gulick Park. When the reconstruction of the space is complete, there will be brand new lawn areas, new seating, separate playgrounds for toddlers and older children, and recreation areas for basketball, handball, and table tennis.

“I started working with David Bolotsky, a fourth generation Lower East Side resident, nearly a decade ago,” said Council Member Chin. “Back then, we both recognized that the neighborhood deserved a green space, but that Luther Gulick Park could not meet this need in its current state. Eventually, David founded the Friends of Gulick Park and, working with the Parks Department and other local leaders, we were able to secure the funding needed for the reconstruction of the park. Today’s groundbreaking signifies the culmination of these efforts and sends a message that every New York neighborhood deserves a truly communal space to call their own.”

Council Member Chin worked with her colleagues to secure **\$1.8 million** of New York City Council money out of the total **\$9.9 million** provided for the project.

At today's groundbreaking, Council Member Chin joined Bolotsky, New York City Parks Commissioner Mitchell J. Silver, Rosie Mendez, Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer's Director of Community Affairs, the great-grand-niece of Luther Guilck, Lisa Gulick, and Trever Holland, chair of the Parks Committee for Manhattan Community Board 3.

The reconstruction of Luther Gulick Park marks the first time in 20 years that the space will receive improvements. By 2020, the park is expected to be fully refurbished, giving Lower East Side residents a new open space with top-of-the-line facilities they can enjoy year round.

Acquired by the City in 1931, the park is named for Luther Gulick and his nephew, also Luther Gulick. The elder Gulick was known as the "godfather" of basketball, and the younger Gulick was a member of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's administration.

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