

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release: Archdiocese of Boston to Sell Beloved Pocket Park

SOUTH BOSTON, MA – The Archdiocese of Boston has announced plans to sell the iconic Sister Mary Veronica Park located in South Boston on West 8th St. (190-198 West Eighth St), a move which has aroused deep concerns among local residents. The park, a cherished neighborhood hub for over half a century, represents more than just green space; it stands as a beacon of community spirit, heritage, and the abiding impact of one of South Boston's own, Sister Mary Veronica.

Why this matters:

- **A Rich Tapestry of History and Community:** First dedicated on November 23, 1968, the park stands as a tribute to Sister Mary Veronica, a South Boston native who dedicated her life to the service of God and her community.
- **A Testament to Community Care:** Maintaining the park has always been a collective endeavor. From taking out trash to shoveling snow, residents have upheld the spirit of the park, showcasing the closely-knit essence of the South Boston community.
- **A Haven for Young and Old:** For 55 years, the park has served as a place to play for children and a sanctuary for adults. Be it the echoing laughter of children, the crack of a baseball bat, or an elder reminiscing on a park bench.
- **An Ecological Oasis:** Nestled within the park are five mature trees, invaluable not just for shade but also improving air quality. As South Boston is a neighborhood that has one of the [lowest canopy covers in Greater Boston](#) (and, more recently, the [Boston Tree Equity Map](#)), the park is an irreplaceable asset.

In response to the sale and potential development of the park, neighbors of the park have swiftly mobilized, forming "The Committee to Save Sister Mary Veronica Park". This proactive group has initiated a [petition on change.org](#), urging the community and beyond to show their support to keep the space as a park. Moreover, a stand-out event is scheduled for October 28th at 1pm at the park. All are invited to join, proudly support, and echo the sentiment of saving this invaluable community asset.

The sale of Sister Mary Veronica Park isn't merely a sale of property, it represents a potential severance of community ties, loss of history, loss of open space, and a negative ecological impact. We urge media outlets, community leaders, and every concerned

individual to come together. Let's shield our green heritage, history, and the undying legacy of Sister Mary Veronica.

For more information, to support the cause, or to attend the event, please [sign our petition](#) or contact us at SaveSMVPark@gmail.com.

About Sister Mary Veronica Park: Centrally located in South Boston on West 8th St., between Grimes St. and F St., Sister Mary Veronica Park has been a radiant symbol of community spirit since 1968. Named to honor Sister Mary Veronica of the Sisters of Notre Dame Order, the park came about through the relentless efforts of several South Boston Neighborhood groups, residents, and land donated by the Archdiocese. For 50+ years, the community has been maintaining, cleaning, shoveling and generally caring for the park sometimes with help from the city but mostly on their own.

Press Contact: SaveSMVPark@gmail.com, The Committee to Save Sister Mary Veronica Park

Referenced Links:

- Petition: <https://www.change.org/save-sister-mary-veronica-park-in-south-boston>
- Tree Canopy Assessment: https://www.boston.gov/sites/default/files/file/2020/09/Change-assessment_w_MJW-letter.pdf
- Boston Tree Equity Map: <https://treeboston.org/tree-equity/>

Attachments:

1. Article regarding the naming of the park (unfortunately, no attribution)
2. Copy of the program from the Park Dedication
3. Boston Globe article about the dedication
4. Article from the Herald Traveler specifically mentioning the donation of the park to the "community betterment program"
5. Copy of the Resolution by City Council President Bill Linehan to John Itri (Grimes St resident unaffiliated with the city or Archdiocese) for his tireless work in the park
6. Article about the Resolution that appeared in the South Boston Tribune
7. Another, unattributed, article about the park dedication
8. 10/13/23 Letter of support for preserving Sr. Mary Veronica Park from Councilors Flynn, Flaherty, and Murphy
9. Also available, by request, personal photos from the park over the years

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