



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

James Sanders Jr.

## Senator James Sanders Jr. Concerned About Rockaway Beach Closures; Sends Letter to NYC Parks Department; Seeks Alternate Plan

JAMES SANDERS JR. May 19, 2022

Commissioner Susan Donoghue  
NYC Parks and Recreation  
The Arsenal, Central Park  
830 Fifth Avenue  
New York, NY 10065

Dear NYC Commissioner Donoghue,

I was deeply alarmed to find out about the planned closures of beaches along the Rockaway Peninsula during the busiest time of year from Memorial Day weekend to the end of July, when residents enjoy going to these areas for recreation and businesses depend on the influx of patrons to stay afloat, especially after being hard-hit by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Closing any of our beaches during this time would be disastrous for our community and I respectfully ask that NYC Parks work with the Army Corps of Engineers to create an alternate plan. I am ready to join my colleagues in government to offer my support in creating a strategy that works best for the community while still allowing the necessary construction that needs to take place to proceed.

I have reviewed the most recent NYC Parks schedule, which allows swim, sand and recreation at a handful of beaches, and only sand and recreation at others. However, it says no access from Beach 92nd Street to Beach 95th Street, no access from Beach 109th Street to Beach 111th Street, and periodic sand and water

In light of recent announcements regarding Rockaway Beach closures over the summer, Senator James Sanders Jr. sent a letter to the NYC Parks Commissioner seeking an alternate plan. The entire letter can be read down below.