



**New York State Office of Parks,
Recreation and Historic Preservation**

Long Island Region - Belmont Lake State Park, P.O. Box 247, Babylon, NY 11702-0247
www.nysparks.com

David A. Paterson
Governor

Carol Ash
Commissioner

MAR 10 2010

March 9, 2010

Dear Elected Representatives:

We have, as Commissioners, always felt that we are the ombudsman for the 2.5 million people of Long Island with reference to our parks system.

Obviously, each and every one of us were extremely upset when the news reached us of the closing of some of our parks and historic sites. We are quite aware of the serious budgetary crises that not only the State, but the local governments in New York and elsewhere face.

Nevertheless, we believe it is a serious mistake to "close" parks. We have reviewed the Budget Service Reduction spreadsheets and, while it does set forth a "net financial benefit", I believe it is inaccurate (a copy is enclosed). For example, closing Orient Beach shows a total budget savings of \$145,799.00, which includes temporary and non-personal service against the current revenue of \$74,560.00, leaving a net savings of \$71,239.00. It does not include any costs to maintain the Park. I am sure that no one is suggesting that the Park be abandoned. Maintenance still has to be done and security must still be maintained. Consequently, the net financial benefit plan is unrealistic and unfair and not calculated.

We believe that you, as the elected representatives, must take steps to save the parks and keep them open. The true dollar savings have not been shared with us and, in our opinion, are substantially less than contemplated by the budget submitted. We must do everything within our power and you are the ones to do it, to save our parks and keep them open.

Yes, we can curtail hours and "downsize" somewhat, but the parks should stay open for the benefit of all of your constituents.

Please let the Commissioners know how we can help you to keep the parks open.

With utmost respect,

New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and
Historic Preservation, Long Island Regional
State Parks Commission

By: 

Herbert M. Balin, Chairman, for
Commissioners: Barbara Bancroft, Bernadette Castro,
Bryan Erwin, Larry Mahon, Desmond Ryan, Lisa Stoll
and Paul Tonna

2212502.1

2010-11 Executive Budget Recommendation - Revised
 Revised plan reflects recommended 21-Day Budget Amendments

OPRHP Region	Park or Historic Site	County	Description of Action	Annual Visitation	Staff (Reassign)	Temporary Service	Non Personal Service	Total Budget Savings	Current Revenue	Net Financial Plan Benefit (Total Plan)	Closed 2010-11 (Exec Budget)	
Total / Statewide Summary												
2010-11 Executive Budget				4,238,440	85	\$ 5,208,068	\$ 2,957,031	\$ 8,163,099	\$ 2,119,471	\$ 6,043,628	\$ 6,043,628	
Long Island	Heckscher	Suffolk	Close pool	41,910		\$ 110,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 160,000	\$ 75,000	\$ 85,000	\$ 85,000	
	Orient Beach	Suffolk	Close Park	111,160	3	\$ 102,166	\$ 43,633	\$ 145,799	\$ 74,560	\$ 71,239	\$ 101,239	
	Caleb Smith	Suffolk	Close Park	30,690	4	\$ 69,470	\$ 41,273	\$ 110,743	\$ 36,910	\$ 73,833	\$ 113,833	
	Bethpage	Suffolk	Eliminate winter sports; reduce picnic area	N/A		\$ 75,000	\$ 175,000	\$ 250,000	\$ 150,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	
	Nissequogue River	Suffolk	Close Park	87,516	5	\$ 139,359	\$ 276,744	\$ 416,103	\$ 155,489	\$ 260,614	\$ 310,614	
	Jones Beach	Nassau	Close West Pool (East Pool closed in 2009)	102,518	1	\$ 195,000	\$ 65,000	\$ 260,000	\$ 188,000	\$ 72,000	\$ 82,000	
	Montauk Downs	Suffolk	Close pool	13,428	1	\$ 82,545	\$ 16,582	\$ 99,127	\$ 40,370	\$ 58,757	\$ 68,757	
	Connetquot	Suffolk	Close Weekdays	101,005	-	\$ 50,000	\$ -	\$ 50,000	\$ 35,000	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000	
	Trail View	Suffolk	Close Park	111,068	-	\$ 19,708	\$ 4,605	\$ 24,313	\$ 500	\$ 23,813	\$ 23,813	
	Cold Spring Harbor	Suffolk	Close Park	151,438	-	\$ 18,620	\$ 4,605	\$ 23,225	\$ 1,000	\$ 22,225	\$ 22,225	
	Brookhaven	Suffolk	Close Park	6,693	-	\$ 84,372	\$ 19,074	\$ 103,446	\$ -	\$ 103,446	\$ 103,446	
	<i>Staff to be Reassigned</i>						\$ 140,000	\$ -	\$ 140,000	\$ -	\$ 140,000	\$ -
	Regional Subtotal				757,426	14	\$ 1,086,240	\$ 696,516	\$ 1,782,756	\$ 756,829	\$ 1,025,927	\$ 1,025,927
	New York City	Riverbank	New York	Close Outdoor pool	22,000	-	\$ 190,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 215,000		\$ 215,000	\$ 215,000
			Reduce Operating Hours from 6 am to 11 pm to 11 am to 9 pm)	870,750	-	\$ 400,000	\$ 75,000	\$ 475,000	\$ 125,000	\$ 350,000	\$ 350,000	
			Eliminate Seniors Classes and Community/Cultural Events	700		\$ 80,000	\$ 200,000	\$ 280,000	\$ 60,000	\$ 220,000	\$ 220,000	
Bayswater		Queens	Close Park	8,730		\$ 4,500	\$ 1,000	\$ 5,500	\$ -	\$ 5,500	\$ 5,500	
<i>Staff to be Reassigned</i>						\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Regional Subtotal				902,180	-	\$ 674,500	\$ 301,000	\$ 975,500	\$ 185,000	\$ 790,500	\$ 790,500	