

ROCKAWAY PARK Residents, Inc.



Riis Park Natatorium - Rockaway Park will be represented by our civic group to create a state-of-the-art swimming pool and diving center through the efforts of Congressman Anthony D. Weiner. Currently we are trying to secure funding from Congress. Letters to the Chairman of the House Subcommittee on Interior, Ralph Regula have been in support of the future of Riis Park.

Jamaica Bay - At our March meeting, we heard from Friends of Rockaway, Inc. (<http://pages.prodigy.net/rockaway/friend5.htm>). There seems to be a bureaucratic agenda for using Jamaica Bay for contaminated dredge spoils disposal and calling it restoration. We would appreciate your writing a letter to the Army of Engineers about such tidal flow restoration for wetlands restoration and mosquito control. A sample letter is found below for your convenience. Please write to: Thomas J. Shea, III, Project Planner, Flood Control and Navigation Section, USACOE-NYD, Jacob K. Javits Federal Bldg., New York, NY 10278-0090.

Dear Mr. Shea:

We oppose the disposal of contaminated dredge spoils from NY/NJ Harbor into Jamaica Bay Borrow Pits or for other purposes. Disposal is not restoration and there is no faith in the testing devised for permitting such disposal. The National Park Service has opposed such disposal into the bay pits even with clean fill given its mandate to protect Gateway NRA and its confidence that the pits are not as degraded

as some agencies believe. We, therefore, agree with the Parks Service and others that the management strategy of the installation of culverts (big pipes), through Runway 22R/4L and Broad Channel should be emphasized in the study and JABERP. The Park Service, we are informed, has cautioned against pit falling also because of its view that flooding will result from overflow and changes in bay hydrology. Since the Runway Bypass and that at Broad Channel culvert are listed among the Jamaica Bay sites for JABERP to restore the circulation, please have them retained and explored for this important goal in this study too. Thank you for your attention. Sincerely,

Please send a copy to Robert Will, USACOE, JABERP Scientist, Jeanne Fox USEPA Region 2 Administrator, Robert Nyman-Chair toxics Work Group all at 290 Broadway NY, NY 10007-1866, Henry Stern-Parks Commissioner, 830 5th Ave., The Arsenal at Central Park, NY, NY 10021, Bernard J. Blum-president, Friends of Rockaway Inc. 67-11 Beach Channel Drive, Arverne, NY 11692.

Videotape - John Baxter videotaped our last monthly meeting. If you would like to view a copy, please contact John Lenihan at our next general meeting or by writing to Post Office Box 940820 Rockaway Park Station.

Annual Beach Clean-Up - The annual Beach Cleanup was postponed from May 20 to June 3 due to rain. Thank you to all who participated and helped prepare the beaches for Summer.