

Nissequogue River State Park Foundation

P.O. Box 159, Kings Park, NY 11754

631-848-8587 • www.ourstatepark.com

December 29, 2011

Dear Resident & Park Supporter,

You may have recently received a Nissequogue River State Park progress report from Senator Flanagan's office. It provides a timeline for the beginning of the 1st phase of the park's cleanup. It also asks our residents to provide him with their personal vision for the park, which he plans on forwarding to State Parks Commissioner Harvey. The Nissequogue River State Park Foundation appreciates the Senator's efforts to clean up the park and what remains of the former Kings Park State Hospital. We also agree that it is now time to plan for the park's future.

In order to begin transforming the grounds from a former state hospital into an active state park and recreational facility, the state must, first, create a master plan to determine the most appropriate potential reuses of the park's buildings and grounds. A master plan will also decide what infrastructure (roads, electric, water, gas, parking, etc) will be needed to help support and guide its emergence as a viable multi-use facility. The park could, possibly, host a variety of recreational, cultural and educational activities that would function as a resource to provide both economic and quality of life improvements to the Long Island region. Much of the progress could potentially be financed by public/private partnerships, which would also be outlined within the context of a master plan.

State Parks agrees that a master plan is needed for the park. They have also made it clear that they will not consider any capital improvement project until a plan is approved. The Nissequogue River State Park Foundation has been calling for a master plan since we were established back in 2008, and even created our own conceptual master plan for the park in 2009. There are many wonderful ideas that would help facilitate the remediation and enhancement of the park, but they are all inconsequential unless there is a mechanism in place to move those ideas forward.

So, when responding to the Senator's request to provide him with your vision for the park, please include the following:

A master plan, involving community input, will help determine the best reuse of the park. It's time to move forward with the Master Plan to help facilitate the cleanup and enhancement of the NRSP!

If you did not receive the Senator's progress report, you can send your response to:

Senator John Flanagan
260 Middle Country Rd.
Smithtown, NY 11787

Or e-mail him at flanagan@senate.state.ny.us

Thank you for your support!

Mike Rosato
Nissequogue River State Park Foundation