



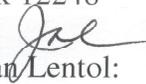
NEW YORK STATE
OFFICE OF PARKS, RECREATION AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

CAROL ASH
Commissioner

DAVID A. PATERSON
Governor

June 7, 2010

Honorable Joseph Lentol
New York State Assembly
Legislative Office Building 632
Albany, New York 12248

Dear Assemblyman  Lentol:

We write to express our appreciation for your support for New York's State Parks.

We are pleased to inform you that as a result of the \$11 million restored to the State Parks operating budget, all 213 state parks and historic sites are now open. At the 55 parks and sites that had been slated for closing, we are hard at work mowing lawns, charging water systems, opening restrooms, preparing picnic areas and campgrounds, filling swimming pools, scheduling historic site tours, and hiring seasonal staff and lifeguards. These facilities should be fully operational in the next ten days.

We particularly appreciate your support for parks and historic sites in the New York City region, including East River State Park. We are gratified that the public will continue to enjoy these facilities.

In these difficult financial times, public demand for our state parks and historic sites remains very high. During the three-day Memorial Day weekend, more than 1.7 million people visited our parks and sites across the state – which is a 16 percent increase in visitation over Memorial Day attendance in 2009. This summer promises to be a busy and rewarding operating season for State Parks.

Again, thank you for recognizing the vital role that state parks and historic sites play in New York's quality of life, outdoor recreation, history, and economic vitality.

Sincerely, 



Carol Ash
Commissioner



Andy Beers
Executive Deputy Commissioner