



Kings Park *Civic Association, Inc.*

"A community working together to make Kings Park the very best it can be"

P.O. Box 165 • Kings Park, New York 11754

Mr. Michael White
Executive Director
Long Island Regional Planning Council
100 Veterans Memorial Hwy.
Hauppauge, NY 11788

Dear Mr. White,

A letter dated March 27, 2009 from the Long Island Regional Planning Council to New York State Parks Director of Resource Management, Thomas Lyons, calls for the development of workforce/next generation housing in the Nissequogue River State Park (NRSP). This suggestion is impractical, unreasonable and offensive to the residents of Kings Park and the State of New York. First of all, all 518 acres of the former Kings Park Psychiatric Center is now a state park. Our residents and our elected officials overwhelming support the current state park status of this property. Your board's submission would require the alienation of state parkland for residential use. This would be the first such act of its kind in state history and would set a terrible precedent, potentially putting all state parkland in jeopardy of alienation for this purpose in the future.

Your board may be aware that the Kings Park Civic Association helped establish the Nissequogue River State Park Foundation in March of 2008. The foundation is now represented by 12 community groups that are working tirelessly to enhance and beautify this park. We have also recently established a conceptual master plan (copies attached) for the property that includes adaptively reusing some of the buildings for cultural, educational, historical and recreational purposes. These uses include a theatre, amphitheater, spa, hotel, conference center, museum, restaurants, artists' studios, etc. Some of the uses depicted in our conceptual plan for the park are mentioned in your letter. The foundation would be happy to sit down with you and your board to discuss the exciting potential reuses of the park's buildings and grounds and how we may be able to work together to bring a shared vision for this property to fruition.

It's time to end the constant uncertainty surrounding the fate of the NRSP. The remaining 365 acres of the former hospital grounds were transferred to State Parks in 2006. The property will and should remain state parkland. The civic association encourages you to reach out to the Nissequogue River State Park Foundation and work with its devoted members toward a common goal. I'm certain that by working together we can facilitate the actions necessary to create a park which will enhance our resident's quality of life today and for generations to come.

Sincerely,

Michael Rosato
Kings Park Civic Association