

Membership and Support

Please join us in shaping a great future for LSP. We send periodic mailings/emails on activities and current park issues. We have fall and spring members meetings.

Contributions

Contributions are tax deductible. FOLSP is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

Individuals \$5 ___ \$10 ___ Other ___

Small Businesses and Corporations: Please contact us about donations and volunteer opportunities for your employees in our Volunteer Gardening Program.

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Email _____

Phone _____

Please mail to:
The Friends of Liberty State Park
P.O. Box 3407
Jersey City, NJ 07302

To donate online, please go to:
www.folsp.org/donate/donate_now.html

Contact Information

Friends of Liberty State Park
(201) 792-1993
pesinliberty@earthlink.net - www.folsp.org

Liberty State Park
(201) 915-3400 ext 101
lspoffice@verizon.net
www.nj.gov/dep/parksandforests/parks/liberty.html
LSP 200 Morris Pesin Drive Jersey City, NJ 07305



The Friends of Liberty State Park

www.folsp.org

The Friends of Liberty State Park

The Friends of Liberty State Park (FOLSP), incorporated in 1988, is an all volunteer, non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization. FOLSP is dedicated to the preservation of open space and the continued improvement of Liberty State Park (LSP). We are an Officially Recognized Friends Organization of the NJ Division of Parks and Forestry.

FOLSP is dedicated to the goal of a beautiful, free and green park behind Lady Liberty.

Our Mission is to preserve, protect, conserve and promote Liberty State Park. We encourage public

participation in park decision-making and in volunteer activities.

FOLSP advocates and works for a broad range of park improvements. We work with and listen to local and statewide citizens to shape a park for present and future generations.

We serve on the LSP Planning Advisory Committee of NJDEP's Division of Parks and Forestry. Committee members also include the NY/NJ Baykeeper, Liberty Science Center, NJ Audubon Society,

Save Ellis Island!, and Jersey City.

OUR MISSION IS TO PRESERVE, PROTECT, CONSERVE AND PROMOTE LIBERTY STATE PARK.

Liberty State Park

Liberty State Park is an inspiring and popular urban state park, located on the Jersey City waterfront. Its spectacular views of Lady Liberty, Ellis Island, the New York City skyline, and the New York harbor make the park one of the nation's and the world's most special public spaces.

People of all cultures and ages enjoy this green oasis, which has over 5 million visitors annually. LSP, opened in 1976, our nation's Bicentennial year, celebrates its 36th birthday on June 14, 2012. Ferries from LSP to the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island are available throughout the year on a regular schedule by "Statue Cruises".

Visionary citizens led by Morris Pesin, the park's "father", Audrey Zapp, the park's "godmother", and Ted Conrad, a historic preservationist, worked hard for 18 years to transform a waterfront wasteland of abandoned railroad yards and decaying piers into a beautiful and beloved open space jewel behind the world's greatest symbol of freedom.

LSP is a great recreational, natural, historic, and cultural public resource. LSP, 1200 acres, of which 600 acres are dry uplands, features large lawns for a variety of unstructured recreation, picnic areas

including new Group Picnic Pavilions, playgrounds, 1.5 mile Liberty Walk promenade (a segment of the 18 mile Hudson River Walkway), the historic Central Railroad of NJ (CRRNJ) Terminal with exhibits, a Nature Interpretive Center, public boat launch, fishing, Liberty Science Center, Liberty House Restaurant, Maritime Parc restaurant, and Liberty Landing Marina. The Grove of Remembrance was planted in memory of NJ's victims of 9/11.

The park is a work in progress, with the planned Interior's 235 acre nature restoration of former rail yards where nature is making a dramatic recovery. Nature trails will provide access into this amazing natural area.



FOLSP Goals

- To encourage citizen involvement in guiding the park's progress
- To cooperate with the NJ Division of Parks and Forestry to carry out LSP's Mission to "provide the public with access to the harbor's resources, a sense of its history and the charge of responsibility for its continued improvements"
- To raise funds to assist in shaping a great park
- To increase volunteerism in the park

FOLSP Accomplishments

- Worked in lead role with the public and organizations to keep LSP free and green
- Promoted beneficial aspects of the park and communicated its needs to the public and elected officials
- Led campaign to create one of NJ's largest playgrounds
- Funded hundreds of thousands of dollars of improvements, including trees and gardens, and equipment for LSP's nature and history programs
- Helped fund construction and landscaping of Group Picnic Pavilions



FOLSP Programs and Activities

- Volunteer Gardening Program has beautified LSP since 2002 by creating and maintaining over 16 different garden areas
- Salt marsh shoreline clean-up each Spring
- Present Friends' History or Nature Program in November
- Support LSP's history and nature programs
- Co-sponsor Earth Day Festival in April
- "WALK for LSP" in 2005 was our first annual fundraising WALK
- Cultural events support, including periodic festivals, and the free "Jersey City Summerfest Concert Series" which started in LSP's first year

Volunteers Welcomed!



Hudson County Community College Honor Society Volunteers

Volunteers are always needed and appreciated.

Our Gardening Program is 9 AM to Noon all year on Saturdays (no experience necessary).

For more info, please contact:
Maria, LSP's Gardener,
at lspgardening@verizon.net or (201) 915-3418.

For corporations or non-profit groups wanting mid-week dates, please also contact:
Volunteer Coordinator Michel
at friendslspgardening@gmail.com

Fundraising Priorities

Friends' Ongoing Park Beautification Program

Funding new trees for beauty and shade, and continuing to create and maintain gardens throughout Liberty State Park.



Photo by Jim Legge

Interior Natural Area Restoration with public access on trails

One of our nation's largest urban nature restorations, this spectacular natural area will encompass 235 acres. There will be public access on trails into a nature wonderland featuring a forest, fresh and saltwater wetlands and tall grass habitats. Bird-watching will be popular as 239 species visit or live in LSP. "Liberty Hills" will provide open space for unstructured recreation.

More info is at www.folsp.org/interior/index.htm

Restoration and Re-Use of the Historic CRRNJ Train Sheds

The world's largest "Bush-type" train sheds, covering 4 football fields in size, are part of the CRRNJ Terminal facility. This historic structure is in need of stabilization and restoration. Once the sheds are restored, the space under them will be ideal for re-uses such as large special events, train exhibits, farmer's market, etc.

Besides donations to FOLSP and garden volunteering, another way to help LSP is to buy LSP specialty license plates.

Children bicycling near South Overlook Lawn Picnic Area.



The park is one of the best places on the East Coast for flying kites.



Scenic "Liberty Walk" along the Hudson River is 1.5 miles long.



Playing and relaxing behind Lady Liberty.

Photos on this page: © Derrick Henry