

# Membership and Support

Join us in shaping a world-class future for Liberty State Park.

The Friends of LSP publishes periodic newsletters and mailings to update you on projects, activities and current issues. We have fall and spring Members Meetings.

## Membership 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 sponsorship opportunities, and volunteer opportunities for your employees in our Garden Volunteer Program.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_  
State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**Please mail to:**  
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# 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!, Jersey City, and the Office of Congressman Robert

Menendez, who has obtained millions of dollars for the natural area restoration of the LSP Interior.

**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 our nation's Bicentennial year, celebrates its 30<sup>th</sup> birthday on June 14, 2006. Ferries from LSP to the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island are available throughout the year on a regular schedule.

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, 600 acres above water

and 600 acres under water, features large lawns for a variety of unstructured recreation, picnic areas, playgrounds, 1.5 mile Liberty Walk promenade (a segment of the 18 mile Hudson River Walkway), the historic Central Railroad of NJ (CRRNJ) Terminal, an Interpretive Center for nature programs, public boat launch, fishing, Liberty House Restaurant, and Liberty Landing Marina. During its two year expansion starting in Fall, 2005, the outstanding Liberty Science Center will have a CRRNJ Terminal Exhibit.



The park is a work in progress, with several major projects planned such as the Picnic Pavilions, and an athletic field in LSP's southwest corner. The Grove of Remembrance was planted in memory of NJ's victims of September 11, 2001, and construction of NJ's 9/11 Memorial in the CRRNJ Terminal Plaza area will start by 2007. The Interior's 251 acres, former rail yards where nature is making a dramatic recovery, will be restored as enhanced natural habitat. Nature trails will provide access into this amazing natural area.

## FOLSP Goals

- To ensure 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 elected officials and the press.
- Led campaign to create one of NJ's largest playgrounds.
- Spearheaded establishment of NJ Transit's shuttle bus system that connects LSP Light Rail Station to park destinations.
- Funded thousands of dollars of improvements, including trees and flowers, interpretive signs and equipment for LSP's nature and history programs.



## FOLSP Programs and Activities

- **Garden Volunteer Program** is growing each year and is beautifying the park. In 2004, over 60 individuals volunteered over 600 hours
- **Salt marsh shoreline clean-up** each May.
- **Present History Program** in November.
- **Co-sponsor Earth Day Festival** in April.
- **Environmental education support.**
- **Co-sponsor CRRNJ Terminal's Fall Train Festival.**
- **"WALK for LSP"** in 2005 was our first annual fundraising Walk.
- **Cultural events** support, including the free "Summerfest Concert Series" which started in LSP's first year and is sponsored by Jersey City.

## Volunteers Welcomed!



Volunteers are always needed and appreciated.

To get involved:

- For **volunteering** at the CRRNJ Terminal, Interpretive Center, or at events, or for sharing any skills/talents, please call the Volunteer Coordinator at (201) 915-3402.
- For **garden volunteering**, please leave a message for Maria, the Garden Volunteer Coordinator, LSP's horticulturist, at (201) 915-3402. New volunteers are welcomed, with no experience needed. FOLSP supports the Rutgers Master Gardener Course now offered at the park.

## Fundraising Priorities

### Building Group Picnic Pavilions

Group picnic space is the most frequent request received by the park. The Group Picnic Pavilions will include picnic tables, grills, and shelter from the weather.

### Interior Natural Area Restoration with public access on trails and an open space perimeter.

One of our nation's largest urban nature restorations, this spectacular project will encompass 251 acres. There will be public access on trails into a 190 acre nature wonderland featuring a 100 acre forest, fresh and saltwater wetlands and tall grass habitats. Bird-watching will be popular as 239 species visit or live in LSP. The Interior perimeter's 60 acres will be designed with public input for passive recreation.



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### 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, and an urban gardening project.



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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