

**The Friends of Liberty State Park [www.folsp.org](http://www.folsp.org)  
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**File Number: NAN-2010-00733-WCA**  
**Applicant: WA Residential Urban Renewal Company, LLC**  
**Location: City of Jersey City, Hudson County, NJ**  
**Project Name: Liberty National Marina**  
**Public Notice Issued: July 9, 2010**  
**Public Notice Expires: August 9, 2010**

US Army Corps of Engineers New York District Attention: Regulatory Branch  
Jacob K. Javits Federal Building  
New York, NY 10278-0090

July 15, 2010

Dear Chief Richard L. Tomer of the USACE Regulatory Branch,

**The Friends of Liberty State Park (FOLSP) request a public hearing on Liberty National Marina (LNM) and we strongly oppose LNM.** This proposed marina would be too close to the Liberty State Park (LSP) public boat launch ramp. There would not be ample room for the public boat launch ramp users to launch and maneuver their boats! There are thousands of public boat launch ramp users every year. There are very serious safety and maneuverability concerns for the users of the public boat ramp. From our interpretation of figures 2 and 3 and google maps, it seems that LSP's boat ramp users will have less than 70 or 80 feet to maneuver in, and less if there is a docked LNM boat. We witnessed Coast Guard boats using the public boat ramp on 7/13 and this adds another element of concern regarding emergency use of these waters and the boat ramp.

The LNM would diminish LSP's important public water recreation opportunities and safety. The use of the water by boaters is a key component of LSP. Part of LSP's official Mission Statement is to "provide the public with access to the harbor's resources". The LSP public boat launch area is getting even more popular than it always been and the launching of kayaks nearby into the channel has recently become popular.

In this letter we will ask you for the omitted, necessary and important documentation for the public to fully comprehend the impacts/consequences of this project.

FOLSP is a 22 year old all-volunteer, non-profit ORFO, an Officially Recognized Friends Organization of the NJDEP Division of Parks and Forestry, with 900 members. Our mission is to preserve, protect, conserve and promote Liberty State Park.

Regarding our request for a public hearing, the users of LSP, the urban state park behind the world's greatest symbol of democracy, Lady Liberty, deserve an open public hearing on this major project so that questions can be asked and answered regarding the impact on the users of the LSP Public Boat Launch Ramp in LSP's SW corner and on the natural habitats in the Caven Point Salt Marsh Complex and in the channel leading to the bay.

LSP users deserve the right to comment in person, after 34 years (LSP opened in 1976) of citizen involvement to protect the park from inappropriate commercialization plans (and to express strong support for the Interior Restoration which USACE is very involved in).

Pending your agreement with us that these additional items below will now be required, we ask that the public comment period be accordingly extended, pending receipt of these essential documents regarding this major project.

- We urge you to demand that the applicant immediately provide a new map instead of the one in Figure 1 of 7 pages of "Figures". **The map provided by the applicant is over 34 years old.**  
<http://www.nan.usace.army.mil/business/buslinks/regulat/index.php?notices&p&month=July%202010> Such a map is very unprofessional, disrespectful, and confusing and borders on obfuscation. The USACE should not accept such an outdated map, provided by Birdsall Services Group. The owners of the Liberty National Golf Course, the most expensive golf course ever built in American history, must be held to a normal standard of providing the USACE and all of us who want and need to properly, conscientiously, and responsibly evaluate this project, with a current map showing all Liberty State Park's land and water borders. This map, under "Legend" under the Figure 1 map, indicates the map is showing the "site" and "municipal boundaries", even though the project is immediately bordering LSP. Liberty State Park's various areas, including and especially the LSP Public Boat Launch Ramp are unbelievably not on the map.

**These are the basic major flaws of the map provided as Figure 1:**

This map doesn't indicate the area which is Liberty State Park, which opened in 1976. The map calls LSP's south end "Black Tom". There is a typed-in Liberty State Park at the document's extreme top right which could indicate to those who don't know LSP's borders that LSP is only in that small space and not what is basically the top right one-fourth of the map. The map doesn't have Liberty National Golf Course at all and still has "US Military Reservation"/Caven Point Army Terminal as the description of the area where the golf course exists. Though the map has "municipal boundaries" there are no LSP boundaries at all and no mention of the nearby Liberty State Park Caven Point natural area.

There is no depiction of the LSP Public Boat Launch Ramp. In fact, in the entire 11 page document, the only place we see LSP mentioned at all, is on page 4 where it says, "**The adjoining LSP boat ramp provides launching activities immediately adjacent to the proposed marina.**"

So please demand that the company provide a current map as soon as possible to you and please send that out by email and post office mail. **We trust that you will agree that a map that is over 34 years old is totally unacceptable since it**

**omits any indication of LSP land and water boundaries and doesn't include the exact location of the LSP Public Boat Launch Ramp.**

(at Jersey City City Hall, the Tax Department maps showed that Figure 7 of 7 has outdated information regarding the "Lots" of Block 1497, as some were merged)

**-We request and public needs environmental impact studies regarding LNM's impact on intertidal and benthic habitats and associated nearby habitats in the LSP Caven Point Salt Marsh Complex and in the channel between LNM and the bay.**

**-We request and the public needs bathometric maps of the Caven Cove area including in the channel between the proposed marina and the bay. We also need to see "soundings" documentation. We need to know the water depth numbers (at "mean low water") for the entire channel leading from the bay to the bulkhead and shoreline. Since this area is underwater, the applicant should be required to show water depths from the most recent government surveys (the "official" U.S. Coast and Geodetic survey nautical charts) & from any private surveys the applicant may have already conducted.**

**In talking to people who know this channel and who know about how deep a 150 foot boat (or smaller) would go under the water (how much "it draws"), we have learned that it would be very likely that this channel would have to be DREDGED for the purposes of LNM. The application by LNM does not mention at all the possibility/probability of dredging. Therefore, we need to have all of these studies for our Public Interest responsibility of knowing about the need for dredging and the impact that dredging would have on the intertidal and benthic habitats, etc.**

There is no need for boats that are 150 feet long to dock in the area proposed for the LNM. There are other marinas in the area that can handle boats of this size and in fact the existing ferry dock of the Liberty National Golf Course could probably handle them. The private, large Liberty Landing Marina already exists at LSP's northern end.

Chief Tomer, whenever there is any project or issue that may possibly have any impact at all on Liberty State Park, please include on ACE's permanent email list, The Friends of Liberty State Park by emailing me at [pesinliberty@earthlink.net](mailto:pesinliberty@earthlink.net)  
LSP Administrator, Dr. Frank Gallagher of the NJDEP [Frank.Gallagher@dep.state.nj.us](mailto:Frank.Gallagher@dep.state.nj.us)  
LSP Superintendent Josh Osowski [lspsupt@verizon.net](mailto:lspsupt@verizon.net)

Please reply to me to confirm that you have received this email and about your response to our statement on the unacceptability of the 34 year old plus, map included as Figure 1 and our request for environmental and other documents needed to assess LNM's impacts. Thank you for your consideration of our requests.

Sincerely,  
Sam Pesin

president on behalf of the Board of The Friends of Liberty State Park  
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