

9/11 memorial on track for anniversary

The controversial "Empty Sky" memorial on the waterfront in Liberty State Park in Jersey City is slated to open on the upcoming 10th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks. The \$11.9 million project, which is being bankrolled by the state of New Jersey and the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, is the product of the New Jersey 9/11 Memorial Foundation.

The nonprofit Friends of Liberty State Park has long opposed the project because it says the structure will obscure the very view that it is meant to honor — that of Ground Zero. According to FOLSP President Sam Pesin, the wall is 30 feet high by 200 feet long, inserted into a hill which is 200 feet long and ten feet high.

Pesin told the *Jersey City Reporter*, "The Empty Sky memorial destroys the most important urban skyline view in the world from the closest and busiest area of LSP. In the great urban park behind Lady Liberty, democracy was cast aside as this \$12 million monstrosity was chosen with zero public hearings. The priceless and spiritually powerful views toward Ground Zero, the entire New York City skyline, and the Hudson River are blocked and the popular public plaza is gone, confiscated from future generations by this wrongly located memorial. The design is not 'integrated' into LSP and it vastly diminishes the state and national historic landmark, the adjacent CRRNJ train terminal. LSP already has an inspiring 746-tree 9/11 'Grove of Remembrance' on the south side of the cobblestone Audrey Zapp Drive, with New Jersey's victims' names engraved in its 'memorial circle.' Empty Sky is a travesty of justice and common sense."