

The Friends of Liberty State Park P.O. Box 3407 Jersey City, NJ 07302
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Dear Friends and all Liberty State Park supporters,

Summer 2025 Newsletter

We hope you enjoy LSP this summer in this year before its 50th birthday on June 14, 2026. The People's Park behind Lady Liberty – still free and green thanks to LSP advocates opposing privatization and commercialization for 49 years - needs our continuing vigilance and involvement to protect LSP and guide improvements on behalf of future generations.

Please support the Friends' mission in our fiscal year starting July 1, for this crossroads year for the park by mailing or donating online at www.folsp.org/donate/donate.html

The DEP will soon release a “**master plan**” to guide improvements for LSP's future based on over 5000 public comments in Commissioner Shawn LaTourette's **Revitalization Program's** democratic public participation process to guide consultants' proposals. The first phase will start to be implemented with current funds, and LSP will need a ton of money from supportive, strong anti-privatization governors and legislators. The DEP's excellent, comprehensive Revitalization website is at www.dep.nj.gov/revitalizelsp. After this letter was sent to our print shop, the Master Plan may already be on the website.

Though we all yearn for a peaceful era of positive, popular improvements, our engagement continues to be essential because billionaire Paul Fireman and his funded surrogates including two front groups still want to control LSP's future with their destructive plans. They pushed lies and smear attacks to kill the Protection Act and wanted and still want to replace the amazing flood-resiliency habitats with an exclusionary, admission-fee sports and entertainment complex. They recently had a website with lies attacking the DEP's free active recreation plans. Please see the DEP's active recreation video on the Revitalization website.

The Commissioner listened to LSP advocates and to his own anti-privatization values and heroically stood up to political pressure and rejected Fireman's commercial assaults. LSP is safe as long as he's Commissioner. Unless LSP champion Senator Raj Mukherji is able to get the propagandized legislative leaders to pass the Protection Act, new battles against Fireman are inevitable. Please follow us on social media and send us your email address.

New wonderful LSP photo history book by Gail Zavian: "Images of America ~LSP", the Friends' fundraising book will only be available in person at Summerfest concerts & festivals.

Saturday 11/1 "Run for Liberty" 5K Run & Walk. *Early bird* registration is at <https://bit.ly/36oaSSd>

Have a great summer!

Sam Pesin, President. Eliza Wright & Rafael Torres, Co-Vice Presidents. Alison Cucco, Secretary. Rick Cordner, Treasurer. Trustees Gladys Vasques, Roberta Fluellen, Sara Schultzer.