

Friends of LSP summary of LSP's Primary Purpose based on 47 yrs of grassroots advocacy

LSP is public green free urban scarce open space behind Lady Liberty and in a densely populated and concrete city. The overwhelming majority, the broad public consensus, many tens of thousands of people have strongly advocated during LSP's 47 years for LSP's **primary purpose to be for unstructured active recreation, passive recreation, and nature enjoyment.**

LSP is a priceless, essential, relaxing urban oasis which serves as a mental, emotional, physical and spiritual public health resource. LSP is a cultural, historical, recreational, and natural resource - a local, NJ, national and international treasure with iconic panoramic views of the Statue, Ellis Island, NYC, NY harbor, Hudson River and Upper NY Bay.

Examples of LSP **unstructured active recreation** are walking, running, bicycling, throwing and kicking balls, pickup ballgames, children using playgrounds, dog walking, kite flying, kayaking, etc. Examples of LSP **passive recreation** are picnics and barbecues, relaxing on blankets, view-watching, birding, fishing, photography, etc. Examples of LSP **nature enjoyment** are enjoying the trees and flowers and birds (300 species live in or migrate through), the pond and trail by the Nature Center, Caven Point's bird sanctuary's Natural Area boardwalk and beach, and the creation of the spectacular, Interior diverse nature habitats and six miles of paths will be created after the upcoming remediation of the low level historic fill from the railroad era.

Structured active recreation sports facilities are a secondary purpose of LSP, as in Central Park, the classic model of urban parks as a green oasis of scarce open space and nature. The DEP in 2021, changed its statewide policy and allowed such facilities LSP. The DEP is planning to establish 50 acres of such structured recreation on the south side of LSP's Interior, and also some acres outside the Interior. **The DEP Commissioner** though has made it very clear that renovating and creating such facilities is the **primary responsibility of Jersey City and Hudson County**. It's not LSP's purpose to solve their sports facilities' needs, for instance by Jersey City allowing the Caven Point Recreation Complex's Cochrane Stadium to deteriorate.

LSP has over 5 million annual visitors and is jam-packed on nice weekends, especially summer weekends when the park often runs out of parking spaces. **Most users come from Jersey City for unstructured uses**, and LSP attracts visitors from everywhere for ferries to Lady Liberty/ Ellis Island, to Liberty Science Center, and to enjoy the inspiring views, 5K and other special events. The interior habitats & paths will lead to "**eco-tourism**", and Terminal sheds' re-uses will feature small-scale commercial activities, fairs, etc. LSP features 9/11 Empty Sky monument, 9/11 Grove of Remembrance's 740 trees, Nature Center, Caven Point, public boat launch & kayak launch site. LSP includes two restaurants/wedding venues and a marina.

The essence of LSP history is that caring people have put democracy into action to advocate for a free park behind the Statue of Liberty and oppose LSP's commercialization and privatization. **As the Star Ledger editorial (4/27/2003) stated, "Parks are not supposed to make money. They are supposed to provide green oases, particularly in densely packed urban areas like Hudson County. That is why parks, as a common public good, are supported by taxes".**

LSP is a PARK and NOT an economic development project and any park's purpose is not to create jobs other than jobs for park employees. LSP's employees are represented by the NJ CWA.