

Summary of the Liberty State Park Protection Act A1957 and S907 and the assault on the Act by billionaire golf course owner Paul Fireman who wants to privatize priceless LSP's Caven Point Natural Area for private golf holes

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The purpose of the essential LSP Protection Act is to protect the entire priceless urban state park behind Lady Liberty for FREE passive and active recreation for future generations by ending decades of privatization threats. The Act allows for small-scale commercial activities and requires public meetings.

Since LSP opened in 1976, the essence of park history is that the overwhelming majority, the broad public consensus - 10's of 1000's - have opposed exclusionary privatization plans for this invaluable taxpayer funded public parkland no matter what money was promised. **"The Coalition to Pass the Liberty State Park Protection Act and Save the Park's Caven Point Natural Area"** has 111 local, regional and statewide groups and the Protection Act petition has over 31,700 signers as of 2/2/22.

Liberty National Golf Course billionaire owner Paul Fireman's public land grab plan is to privatize and destroy LSP's Caven Point Natural Area to relocate golf holes for multimillionaires. His well-connected lobbyists, his PR firm, his vicious "astroturf" phony front group and other bought-off opportunists have been conducting a smear campaign of shameless total lies to discredit the Protection Act and park advocates on behalf of Fireman's obscene plan to take over parkland.

LSP's Caven Point is a "significant natural resource" (NJDEP, 1984) a priceless and irreplaceable urban Natural Area, a "Migratory Bird Habitat and Nesting Area" on the Atlantic Flyway, and an urban science education STEM resource for over 600 students annually, and a peaceful oasis for urban and all visitors.

LSP is sacred public land because it is very scarce free and green urban open space and urban nature in this crowded and concrete area – our "urban backyard"- and because it's "America's Park" next to Lady Liberty and Ellis Island with incomparable views of the Manhattan skyline, craved by profiteers.

The park provides major quality of life benefits and the pandemic has shown even more clearly that LSP is an emotional, mental, spiritual, and physical health public resource. LSP is our local, state and national People's Park - a recreational, historical and natural treasure where people of all ages, colors, religions and cultural backgrounds enjoy themselves together with a multitude of free outdoor activities. This DEP has changed a long-term policy and has committed to establishing 61 acres of active recreation in LSP.

Retired Senator Loretta Weinberg's quote in The Star Ledger editorial on 12/9/21 "In what world should the interest of one billionaire outweigh the public interest?" asks Sen. **Loretta Weinberg**, a longtime LSP champion. "This bill is unique, in that there is no logical reason to oppose it."

Protection Act key news & editorials links - https://folsp.org/preservation/protection_laws.html

The Star Ledger iconic powerful editorial 12/9/21 www.nj.com/opinion/2021/12/last-chance-mr-speaker-hands-off-liberty-state-park-editorial.html