

# Jersey City Times September 15, 2025

<https://jcitytimes.com/editorial-an-oversized-home-depot-has-no-place-in-liberty-state-park/>

## **Editorial: An Oversized ‘Home Depot’ Has no Place in Liberty State Park**

Longtime Jersey City resident Tony Sandkamp may have described the boat storage facility slated for Liberty State Park best.

“The seven-plus story boat storage building would be the largest structure in the park, much taller than a Home Depot, but with the same approximate footprint,” wrote Sandkamp in an email to the Department of Environmental Protection last week. Imagining its effect, Sandkamp added, “This, to me, is the opposite of what visitors from all over the country and our great state of New Jersey visit this crown jewel of a park for.”

We agree.

**Next to the now-rejected “mini-Meadowlands” that the billionaire Paul Fireman tried to foist on the park two years ago, the construction of a 500-unit boat storage facility at the entrance to the park is one of the worst ideas we can imagine.**

Last month, DEP announced the plan to allow Texas-based Suntex, which operates Liberty Landing Marina, to build the gargantuan facility and simultaneously extend its lease for another 60 years. In exchange, Suntex would contribute approximately half of the \$60 million needed to rebuild the bulkhead around the marina. Suntex would also give up 8.7 acres of marina land so DEP can build Marina Green, a key feature of its park revitalization plan.

DEP Commissioner Shawn LaTourette has defended this deal as necessary given the limited funding coming out of Trenton.

**State Senator Raj Mukherji doesn’t buy it, calling \$60 million “practically a rounding error” in New Jersey’s massive budget.** “I don’t know where we got this idea that state parks should have to sustain themselves through revenue. Fundamentally, what should be driving all decision-making about Liberty State Park is what does the community, which owns the park, want to see there?”

Not a Home Depot, for sure. That’s what this structure will look like, but bigger.

If it gets built, you can say goodbye to the views of the Hudson River and Manhattan from the Jersey Avenue Bridge and Phillip Street. Say goodbye to that wonderful feeling of open space as you walk down Audrey Zapp Drive. **Say hello to Liberty Landing Marina Industrial Park.**

And, of course, where does this stop? Are we to sell off a piece of the park each time lawmakers fail to adequately fund it, or will we force Trenton to get its priorities straight? The question answers itself.

**LaTourette has rightly been called a “hero” for his work advancing Liberty State Park’s revitalization. We hope he continues to be one by killing this terrible plan.**