

THE FRIENDS OF LIBERTY STATE PARK

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LSP Protection Act voted out of Senate Environment and Energy Committee with Liberty National Golf Course reviving its 1%-er" plan which was rejected by Governor Murphy in May, 2018.

Sponsors' great bills S3357 and A4903 are on right side of social justice history

Billionaire owner of golf course again shows why Protection Act is necessary

Yesterdays Senate Environment and Energy Committee hearing on the landmark LSP Protection Act produced good news and bad news. The good news is that the park-championing sponsors Senator Sandra Bolden-Cunninghams and Senator Loretta Weinbergs bill, S3357 was voted out of the Committee unanimously (it passed the Assembly AAN committee in March).

The bad and obscene news is that right after a dozen diverse Liberty State Park advocates spoke passionately about the importance of LSP to the quality of life of urban people; the importance of LSP to all Americans as the free and green public land behind Lady Liberty; and the importance and need for this Protection Act **to end over 4 decades of grassroots battles against exclusionary privatization plans** - the Liberty National Golf Course (LNGC) lobbyist despicably wanted the priceless LSP Caven Point natural area exempted from the Acts protection and he revived LNGCs arrogant, rejected plan to lease and destroy this priceless natural area. **LNGC has clearly proven exactly why the Protection Act is needed.** LNGC wants to enrich itself by this land grab.

Caven Point, is described in the LSP Protection Act as the 21.5-acre Caven Point Peninsula of LSP, commonly known as Caven Point, the estuarine ecosystem for plants and animals, critical bird breeding habitat, and urban environmental education resource, and which stretches into the Upper NY Bay. The Caven Point is a rare urban natural area, a special peaceful, urban wildlife sanctuary, and is enjoyed by nature explorers, birders and is used for environmental education for hundreds of young urban residents.

LNGCs billionaire owner is arrogantly casting aside the 4 decade overwhelming majority, broad public consensus against LSP privatization. His lobbyist uttered the same debunked and ridiculed nonsense excuses for seizing public land that they did in 2018 and hiding the fact that LNGC really just wants their multi-millionaire members to have relocated golf holes a little closer to the bay. (Liberty National already owns land on their property, where they wanted the 90 story casino/hotel and where they can locate back of the house" for the PGA tournaments they already host, or they can find nearby private land or army reserve land to acquire).

The Protection Act will specifically and fully protect Caven Point from commercialization, and for the rest of LSP, the Act only allow park-appropriate, small-scale commercial activities; revives a park Advisory Committee with open public meetings to review park plans and create a park master plan; and ensure a comprehensive public process for any proposals for leases or transfers of property, etc.

A Star Ledger 2003 editorial, 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's why parks, a common public good, are supported by taxes

We have faith that the legislature, with the dedicated Senate sponsors, Senator Sandra Bolden-Cunningham, Senator Loretta Weinberg and Senator Teresa Ruiz and Senator Brian Stack, and the Assembly sponsors of Asm Raj Mukherji, Asw Angela McKnight and Asm Nick Chiaravalloti, will pass a strong and effective Protection Act and that Gov. Phil Murphy will do the right thing for social justice, urban people and all New Jerseyans and sign this epic, historic bill into law with the essential protecting of this NJ and American sacred public land behind Lady Liberty for future generations.

The **official LSP Caven Point fact sheet** is at

[http://www.folsp.org/preservation/Caven%20Point%20area%20facts%20\(3\).pdf](http://www.folsp.org/preservation/Caven%20Point%20area%20facts%20(3).pdf)

The **LNGC battle history** is at

http://www.folsp.org/preservation/no_privatization_lspcavenpointnaturalarea.html \

Shayna Marchese's Caven Point webpage history and bird photos

<https://www.shaynamarchese.com/caven-point-liberty-state-park/>

The circled map of where Caven Point is

http://www.folsp.org/preservation/caven_point_marion_highes_rogers.html

The Coalition to Save LSP sign on letter is at http://www.folsp.org/coalition_2_23_18.pdf

The Record editorial about the Governor's decision, "Making the right call on Liberty State Park" is at <https://www.northjersey.com/story/opinion/editorials/2018/05/07/editorial-making-right-call-liberty-state-park/587240002/>