

**Classic statement on LSP's tremendous emotional force in opinion
piece entitled, "LSP – One of the Nation's Great Urban Oases"
by Bill Neil for NJ Audubon Society November 16, 2000**

For this is one of our nation's and world's most special sites. We think that 300 years from now, when history books describe American and indeed, world civilization in the late 20th century, they will have a picture of the lower Manhattan skyline as one of the era's signature images. And that view of the very nerve center of the world economy is nowhere more spectacular than from Liberty State Park. The view, however, contains much more than this. The view from Liberty State Park also encompasses the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island, two icons of American culture that still resonate with tremendous emotional force. That's because so many of our own families came through and by them, and America, to this day, remains a symbol of freedom, a nation built by and open to, immigrants from around the world. In other words, the view from Liberty State Park, a free public park, carries such emotive and very personal force for so many park visitors that it borders on the nature of a religious feeling. It is a place that evokes memory, the recollection of the hardship endured by millions to get here and the hope for success in their struggle up and out of poverty. It seems to us that these feelings and recollections are built into this site, making it virtually one with these powerful American cultural emblems.

And that means, for us, a proper attitude and disposition towards a place with such sacred views and memories. Thus, a quiet, green park, where one can commune with the Nature that has long held such significance for Americans, almost a religious significance, and where families can walk, run, and picnic together against a backdrop of the world's greatest visual settings – fits perfectly together with the character of the site.