



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**STATEMENT FROM FRIENDS OF LIBERTY STATE PARK AND
NY/NJ BAYKEEPER ON NEW MAJOR PRIVATIZATION THREAT TO
LIBERTY STATE PARK'S PUBLIC SPACE AND OPEN HARBOR
VISTAS**

***NJDEP and Suntex Marinas plan for marina along entire LSP non-
commercial Southside***

“As the Christie administration heads out the door, The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) is moving forward with a backroom secret lease for a second massive private marina on Liberty State Park property. This Southside marina is a major threat to the public’s access to the precious waterfront open space and open harbor vistas that this park provides. The construction of a “Millionaire’s Marina” along the park’s non-commercial Southside will severely harm its use by families who treasure this area right behind Lady Liberty as their backyard for picnics, barbecues, exercising, kayaking and fishing. A new private marina will also result in a tremendous loss of public parking and land for marina facilities.

New Jerseyans refuse to allow public lands fall into the hands of private interests without a fair and open public process. Thus, we urge NJDEP to schedule public hearings at Liberty State Park on Saturdays after January 1st to maximize substantive public input. All commercial development decisions concerning the park must have a broad public consensus.”

[GROUP PHOTO PROTEST](#) to oppose this proposal for LSP’s non-commercial Southside hosted by Friends of LSP and NY/NJ Baykeeper

WHEN: Saturday, December 2nd at 11:00AM

WHERE: Southside Picnic Area, 200 Morris Pesin Drive, Jersey City, NJ 07505

About NY/NJ Baykeeper

NY/NJ Baykeeper is the citizen advocate of the NY-NJ Harbor Estuary. Since 1989, we’ve worked to protect, preserve, and restore the environment of the most urban estuary on Earth benefiting its natural communities. Through our Estuary-wide programs we seek to end pollution, improve public access, conserve and restore public lands, restore aquatic habitats, encourage appropriate and discourage inappropriate development, carry out public education, and work with federal and NY/NJ state regulators and citizen groups as partners in planning for a sustainable future for the NY-NJ Harbor Estuary watershed. [Click here](#) for more information.

About Friends of Liberty State Park

The Friends of Liberty State Park is an all volunteer, nonprofit, 501(c) (3) organization that is dedicated to preserving, protecting, conserving and promoting Liberty State Park, the inspiring urban state park on the Jersey City waterfront behind Lady Liberty and Ellis Island. Since 1988, we have advocated for the protection and improvement of this urban open space park with its open vistas of the Manhattan skyline, the Hudson River and the Upper New York Bay. Our primary volunteer program is our Volunteer Garden Program which is continually beautifying LSP and always welcomes volunteers. Over 4.5 million visitors come annually to enjoy this recreational, natural, historic, and cultural public resource, which opened in 1976. Visionary citizens, Morris Pesin, the park’s “father,” Audrey Zapp, the park’s “godmother” and historic preservationist Ted Conrad, had led a citizens movement for 18 years to transform a waterfront wasteland of abandoned rail yards

and decaying piers into one of our nation's most special public spaces.
[Click here](#) for more information.

Friends of LSP battle webpage: <http://bit.ly/2hidNkx>

Protecting, preserving, and restoring the NY/NJ Harbor Estuary since 1989.
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