



February 13, 2010

New York State Governor
David A. Paterson
The State Capitol
Executive Chambers
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Paterson,

During these difficult economic times, when most people cannot afford to travel long distances, New York's State Parks play an especially important role in the lives of our residents. The countless recreational and cultural opportunities they offer both adults and children across our state are priceless. Unfortunately, it appears these numerous benefits are being overlooked as you consider closing several state parks, including the Nissequogue River State Park (NRSP), due to today's budget constraints. This is not the time to close our state parks. In fact, it's time to promote their existence, scenic beauty and availability to all New Yorkers.

As you know, our state parks already operate on a shoe string budget. Years of underfunding have caused many of our state parks to fall into disrepair. Although current Parks Commissioner Ash has done an admirable job restoring some of their past grandeur, many people still question why the state continues to neglect its finest assets, its own state parks.

Closing our parks penalizes our residents for years of wasteful spending on so many other fronts. With limited funding, the Office of State Parks continues to carry out its mission, which includes providing a safe and enjoyable recreational opportunity for all New York State residents. You must not allow this mission to fail. We cannot afford to deprive the people of this state use of its public lands.

The Nissequogue River State Park Foundation, which is dedicated to helping the state enhance and beautify the NRSP, hopes you will reconsider closing any one of our state parks. They contribute greatly to our quality of life and remind us everyday why we call New York our home. As our Governor, we expect that you will hear our voices and respond to our pleas to keep our parks open for the joy and pride they offer our residents each and every day.

Sincerely,

Michael Rosato
Nissequogue River State Park Foundation