

THE PARK ADVOCATE

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ATTORNEY AT LAW

February 16, 2010

New York State Governor

David A. Paterson

The State Capitol

Executive Chamber

Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Paterson,

In response to various newspaper articles revealing that 10 local state parks will be closing in the near future, we ask that you reconsider the depths of your funding cuts to the New York State Parks Department.

In these difficult economic times, our state parks are a vital source of recreation for the residents of New York State. They are affordable places where families can gather and engage in both recreational and cultural activities. The last action the State should be taking during difficult economic times is closing state parks.

If cuts need to be made, they should be done with scalpel like fashion so as to be fair and equitable to all New York residents. The Nissequogue River State Park, for instance, has a thriving marina and a soccer field that is used by countless children. During the summer months, a science adventure camp is held at the park and it is a safe, educational and affordable place for children to spend their summer hours. Complete closure of this park would necessarily have a negative effect on so many New York residents.

It is imperative that these closures do not happen. It is requested that the amount of funds being cut from the State Parks budget be reevaluated and the operational costs of all parks be reviewed so that any necessary cuts be conducted in a fair and equitable manner.

Respectfully,

Linda A. Henninger

Cc: Commissioner Carol Ash

Senator John Flanagan

Assemblyman Michael Fitzpatrick

Assemblyman Steven Englebright