

SENATOR JOHN J. FLANAGAN

2nd DISTRICT

Ranking Minority Member
Education

Committees

Aging

Codes

Consumer Protection

Higher Education

Cultural Affairs, Tourism,
Parks & Recreation



**THE SENATE
STATE OF NEW YORK**

February 25, 2010

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Ms. Carol Ash, Commissioner
Executive Offices
NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
Agency Building 1
Empire State Plaza
Albany, New York 12238

Dear Commissioner Ash:

It has been almost two weeks since I wrote you regarding your agency's proposal to close as many as 10 State Park facilities on Long Island. Prior to writing, I had a telephone conversation with your senior staff who assured me that a written response would be immediately forthcoming, particularly since your plan appeared to be close to implementation.

Instead of receiving a prompt written response, I continue to read in Newsday and in press releases the unfolding details of your park proposal, including some of the budgetary figures I specifically asked for in my letter. It is clear from all the news accounts that the information I requested was already compiled by your department as part of the behind-the-scenes planning for this proposal. The fact that the information was not provided immediately to my office is unacceptable.

First, you should know that going forward I will be advocating for the complete reversal of your plans to close any of the State Parks on Long Island. Second, I will vigorously fight against any attempts by the Office of Parks to use this as an opportunity to divest itself from jurisdiction over and responsibility for remediating and redeveloping all the property located at the former Kings Park Psychiatric Center, which is now part of the Nissequogue River State Park.

Thank you for your consideration and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John J. Flanagan". The signature is stylized and cursive, with the first name "John" being particularly large and prominent.

John J. Flanagan

P.S. – I still expect to receive a response to my letter of February 12, 2010.