

The
City
Of
New York



COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8 BRONX

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August 2, 2009

National Park Service
River Trails and Conservation Assistance Program
1849 C Street, NW Code 2220
Washington, DC 20240

Dear National Park Service,

Our district is located in the extreme northwest corner of New York City, bounded by the Hudson River on the west, Westchester County on the north and extending to Van Cortlandt Park and the Jerome Park reservoir on the east. To the south we are bordered by West 225th Street and Kingsbridge Road, and the Harlem River. This area of 3.4 square miles encompasses the neighborhoods of Fieldston, Kingsbridge, Kingsbridge Heights, Marble Hill, Riverdale, Spuyten Duyvil and Van Cortlandt Village in the Bronx.

We are responsible for reviewing complaints from our 100, 000+ community residents, and resolving them by working with the appropriate city agency.

For many decades our residents have been deprived of use of the riverfront and the natural beauty of the Harlem River valley due to the lack of access brought about by the construction of railroads, expressways, and connecting viaducts and ramps. Unlike our 19th century counterparts we are cut off from the High Bridge, part of the historic Croton Aqueduct, and its promenade, which offers stunning views of the valley. The promenade and the riverfront also once offered outdoor recreation to all, but with the advent of modern transportation, residents have been cut off from this essential resource.

Therefore, we strongly support the application of the Harlem River Working Group (HRWG) to organize activities for the entire Bronx and to restore the river to its natural state to the degree that can be done in an urban setting.

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PAGE 2

The need for a person like Jerry Willis, New York Director of River, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program, as well as someone dedicated to working on Harlem River issues is essential in order that the HRWG is able to coordinate the wide range of projects that are ready to go.

We have asked to be placed on the mailing list of the group so we can participate in any and all activities to open up the waterfront to our constituency.

Sincerely,



Damian McShane
Chairman, CB8



Saul Scheinbach
Chair, Environment & Sanitation Committee