



NEW YORK STATE
OFFICE OF PARKS, RECREATION AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

CAROL ASH
Commissioner

DAVID A. PATERSON
Governor

March 9, 2010

Ms. Joyce Hogi & Ms. Karen Argenti
1020 Grand Concourse, Apt. 10C
Bronx, NY 10451

Dear Mss. Hogi and Argenti:

Thank you for your letter. I appreciate and share your desire to ensure that the replacement parkland and facilities required to be built around the new Yankee Stadium are indeed built and opened to the community in as timely a manner as possible.

You have raised some specific concerns that I address below, after consulting with the City of New York:

1. Demolition of old Yankee Stadium and construction of Heritage Field. Interior demolition, involving removal of fixtures and abatement of asbestos, commenced in April 2009. Demolition of the exterior commenced in January 2010 and is scheduled to be completed in June of this year. When that is complete, construction of Heritage Field will commence. It is now expected that Heritage Field will be completed in late 2011, approximately one year later than projected.
2. Ruppert Plaza, Mill Pond Park, Pedestrian Bridge, Building J. The build-out of Ruppert Plaza amenities is tied to Heritage Field, located immediately adjacent to it. It is expected to be completed along with Heritage Field in late 2011. Mill Pond Park opened on October 22, 2009. A pedestrian bridge connecting the new stadium, Heritage Field, Metro-North and Mill Pond Park opened in May, 2009. Mill Pond Park can also be accessed via the new Gateway Center Mall and by 149th Street. The tennis clubhouse and café at Building J will be completed this month—rest rooms have been available to the public in the building since last fall.
3. Gate 2. While you are correct that a group of interested citizens asked that Gate 2 be saved, as of February 22, 2010 the City has the approvals necessary to proceed with its demolition. That will now be undertaken.

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I note in addition that since the project began, an additional 0.75-acre parcel that was originally held out of the replacement land at Heritage Field has been added to it.

Please be assured that I appreciate both of your vigilance in serving as community watchdogs over this project. For my part, I visited the site last year to view progress personally and will return again this year. I have also asked Commissioner Benepe to keep me up to date on the City's progress.

Thank you again for writing.

Sincerely,



Carol Ash
Commissioner