

December 2, 2004

Commissioner Adrian Benepe
Department of Parks & Recreation
The Arsenal
Central Park
New York, NY 10021

Re: Recycling in City parks

Dear Commissioner Benepe,

In recent months we have been hearing about various aspects of the city's waste management plans, in particular with regard to Hudson River Park Pier 99 and, most recently, the possibility of a recycling waste transfer facility, coupled with a recycling educational center, at Gansevoort Peninsula. As a community board, we will be responding to appropriate agencies regarding these plans as this process continues - we write now with a simple, but important, request: recycle now.

Currently there is not (or appears not to be) any attempt to recycle within New York City parks. There are no separate containers for bottles, paper or other recyclables. Whether any attempt is made to separate recyclables post-collection is unknown - we suspect not.

We understand that maintaining separate containers for recyclables will result in additional collection complexities (presumably separate vehicles will need to be employed) but the benefits clearly outweigh the extra efforts.

It would be particularly vexing if we were to end up hosting a recycling center in an area meant to be parkland, and visitors leaving such a center, having been imbued with the environmental benefits of recycling, encounter a park that lacks proper containers for recyclable trash.

We urge you to begin recycling at home, within the parks of New York City, as is currently being done in other parks and public spaces nationwide and worldwide, as soon as possible.

Sincerely,



Walter Mankoff
Chair
Manhattan Community Board No. 4



John Doswell
Co-Chair
Waterfront & Parks Committee

Pam Frederick
Co-Chair
Waterfront & Parks Committee

Cc: Elected officials, Chris Paro