



The City of New York

## Queens Community Board 11

Serving the Communities of Auburndale, Bayside, Douglaston, Hollis Hills  
Little Neck and Oakland Gardens

Paul DiBenedetto **Chairperson** / Joseph Marziliano **District Manager**

To: All Board Members

From: Paul DiBenedetto

Date: May 21, 2024

RE: The Preservation of Udalls Cove

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On Wednesday, May 15, 2024, the CB11 Parks Committee held a meeting to discuss the preservation of Udalls Cove.

### Present

#### *Committee Members*

Henry Euler, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair\*

George Hadjiconstantinou\*

Laura James

Ralph Ruiz\*

Christina Scherer\*

#### *CB11 Staff*

Joseph Marziliano, District Manager

Christina Coutinho, Community Associate\*

#### *Guests*

Walter Mugdan – Udalls Cove Preservation Committee (UCPC)

Matt Symons, NYC Dept. of Parks\*

Jia Zhang

\*Via Zoom

Mr. Marziliano opened the meeting by introducing Mr. Mugdan who gave a presentation on the Ecological Woodland Restoration Project that the UCPC has been working on since last September. The area in question is a 2-acre site at the northeast corner of Alley Pond Park, Old Oak Pond. Old Oak Pond is a freshwater pond located between the LIRR on the north, Douglaston Parkway on the east, Northern Blvd. on the south and the Douglaston Golf Driving Range on the west.

In the 1960's, there were plans to historic fill this area. In the 1980's, Joe Hellman lead a community effort to have the City obtain this parcel. The Joseph B. Hellmann Overlook is

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meant to view the pond and since this area was never historically filled, there is now natural habitat that blocks this view. The UCPC feels that since this area is dominated by invasive species, not just Norway Maples, they have decided that it might be valuable to organize an ecological project. Mr. Mugdan stated that Con Edison has awarded them with a \$40,000. Community Grant towards this project. Any work done to this area has to be coordinated with the NYC Dept. of Parks. The Parks Dept. agrees with this project. In March 2024, the UCPC went into contract with GEI Consults as the consulting firm for the design of the ecological system. This will take place in stages with the Parks Dept. overseeing the design. There will be meetings to discuss the phases of the design.

Once the design is agreed on and approved, there will be a meeting to discuss further grants. The cost is estimated to be between \$750, 000. to \$1,200.000. There will be a grant cycle and permits to be applied for. The UCPC will have a meeting at the 90% design complete stage and that is when they will apply for grants to fund the project.

A tree survey was required by the City and was completed mid-April. Any tree that is 6 ft. or larger in diameter must be identified. There are several Norway Maples. There are Oak trees that will be retained, along with other native species. Mr. Mugdan has met with local civics and the Alley Pond Environmental Center to discuss the project.

Information regarding this project can be obtained on the UCPC website. Mr. Mugdan wants the community and the immediate area to be aware of the project.

A question-and-answer period followed. Mr. Euler asked if plants will be replaced. Mr. Mugdan said that the City requires a one-to-one replacement for any tree that is removed that is 6 ft. in diameter or larger. This project will make the area more accessible for use.

The meeting adjourned at 8:01 PM.