



**BOROUGH OF STATEN ISLAND
COMMUNITY BOARD #3**

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**Parks & Recreation and Environmental Committee
Public Hearing Report**

DATE: January 13, 2026

TIME: 6:30 PM

Committee Members Present

Michael Ciacciarelli, *Chair, Parks*
John Kiernan
Megi Rama

Board Members Present

Jeff Geary

Staff

Stacey Wertheim, *District Manager*
Susan LaForgia, *Community Coordinator*

Guests

Jennifer Miller, New York City (NYC) Parks Department, SI Office
Jordan Hafizi, Rep. Councilman Frank Morano
Amalia Kostalas, Rep., Assemblyman Michael Tannousis
Area Residents

Public Contact Session

An area resident raised concerns about tree roots damaging his sidewalk, driveway, and stairs. Also, about liability, should someone fall and suffer injuries. Jennifer Miller will advise.

Agenda

A representative from the National Parks Service was scheduled to speak on the status of the Gateway National Recreation Area cleanup project, but canceled due to sickness. They will reschedule.

Parks Announcements

- Lifeguards are needed – Two qualifying exams are coming up - January 31 and Feb 12 at Curtis High School. Register at nyc.gov/parks/lifeguards

- January 17, 11:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m., Birding: Owls and Owl Pellet Discovery at Blue Heron Nature Center (in Blue Heron Park) Learn all about owls and dissect their pellets to see what they eat. You will be surprised by your discovery.
- January 18, 1:00 p.m.–2:00 p.m. Winter Shoreline Wildlife Watch at Sharrott Avenue and Hylan Boulevard (in Lemon Creek Park) Raritan Bay features many species of winter waterfowl and seals can often be seen basking nearby. We will use binoculars and spotting scopes along the beach to view wildlife.
- January 22, 11:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m. Adult Hike - Old Mill Rd to Field of Dreams at St. Andrew's Church. Join us for a hike on one of the most historical trails.
- January 24, 1:00 p.m.–3:00 p.m. Winter Time Terrariums Workshop at Greenbelt Nature Center (in Blood Root Valley). Bring nature inside your home with your very own terrarium.
- February 1, 4:30 p.m.–5:30 p.m. Astronomy: The Snow Moon at Freshkills North Park Entrance (in Freshkills Park). Winter is the prime season for stargazing. The cold air clears the night sky of clouds, creating ideal conditions for seeing stars, planets, and other celestial highlights.
- February 14, 11:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. Valentine's Day Love in Nature Hike at Blue Heron Nature Center (in Blue Heron Park). Join the Urban Park Rangers in learning about the courtship habits of our local wildlife while taking a scenic stroll on the nature trails of Blue Heron Park.

Capital Projects Updates

- Lemon Creek dredging project is out of design and in the procurement phase. Tot Lot is still closed – play equipment is installed, but the opening is delayed.
- Conference House roof replacement - It is at the end of the design phase.
- Annadale Green – construction will be complete spring of 2026
- Greencroft Playground – should be open by summer 2026
- Bloomingdale Park Basketball Courts are under construction.
- The playground at Bloomingdale Park will be reconstructed- Community input meeting date TBA.

Old Business

- Is there an update on the sand erosion at Yetman Avenue? No update
- Manee-Seguine Homestead – status?
- Seguine Mansion looks in disrepair – status of upkeep?
- Beachcomber – Can it run further along the shoreline? No, it only runs where beach swimming occurs.
- Street trees - Can trees be planted in medians instead of in front of homes? Medians may be owned by DOT.
- Feral Cats are eating possums, raccoons, etc. This is leading to a tick problem. Status of the Columbia University study? DPR will follow up.

New Business

None

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Ciacciarelli

Michael Ciacciarelli, Chairman