



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

George D. Maziarz

Efforts to Save Wilson-Tuscarora State Park Underway

GEORGE D. MAZIARZ February 19, 2010

| ISSUE: **STATE PARKS**



Wilson Town Supervisor Joe Jastrzemski and Senator George Maziarz reacted to today's news that Wilson-Tuscarora State Park is recommended for closure by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation. The two elected officials see a silver lining to the unwelcome announcement: an opportunity now exists for the Town to take over the park so local residents can continue to enjoy its offerings.

Supervisor Jastrzemski said, "The Town of Wilson relies on the park in many ways. It has a well-used boat launch. Our summer recreation program is held there. Our businesses benefit from the visitors who go there. If the state can't keep it open, we can. We would like the opportunity to develop it further to be an even greater asset to the community."

Senator George Maziarz said, "I will do all I can to facilitate a dialogue between the Town of Wilson and New York State Parks. If the town sees an opportunity here, I'll work hard to help them capitalize on it. This is a beautiful area on Lake Ontario, and we have to find a way to keep it open."

Wilson-Tuscarora State Park consists of 395 acres of diverse natural settings along the Lake Ontario shore.

Popular activities at the park include boating, fishing, hiking, and picnicking.

Today the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation announced that, due to the state's budget constraints, Wilson-Tuscarora State Park and 54 other state parks and historic sites are being recommended for closure. Service reductions would occur at another 24 locations.

Senator Maziarz and Supervisor Jastrzemski sent a joint letter to Parks Commissioner Carol Ash today to formally propose the transfer of the park from the state to the town.

#####