



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Tony Avella

## DEC Releases MacNeil Park Storm Water Outfall Permits

TONY AVELLA April 13, 2017

**Queens, NY** – Against the recommendation of local marine biologists and complaints from the community, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) has approved the City's plans for a new stormwater outfall pipe at MacNeil Park in College Point.

The plan proposed by the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) will install a new 4-foot, 6-inch by 3-foot, 6-inch stormwater outfall to the East River at College Point's MacNeil Park. This outfall will be spilling directly onto a salt marsh oyster reef that has shown successful oyster and ribbed mussel growth over recent years.

"Although I disagree with the plans as they are, I feel that the public should be aware of what is occurring in their community," **said Senator Avella**, who has been fighting this plan which is expected to destroy years of restoration that has turned the wetlands at MacNeil Park into a thriving ecosystem. The public comment period that was opened for this project yielded 222 formal complaints.