

JOYCE HOGI & KAREN ARGENTI

1020 Grand Concourse, apt 24C
Bronx, NY 10451
917-743-0865 or 646-529-1990

March 31, 2010

Hon. Carol Ash
New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
Empire State Plaza
Agency Building 1
Albany NY, 12238
(518) 474-0456

by mail and email: commissioner.ash@oprhp.state.ny.us

Re: Response to your March 9th letter commenting on Feb. 16 letter on L&WCF Debarment Request on failure to follow through on commitments made on the re-development of Yankee Stadium

Dear Commissioner Ash,

Thank you for your quick response. We appreciate your comments 1 and 3 concerning the demolition of the old Yankee Stadium, the small increase in parkland, the Gate 2 debate, and the opening of Building J.

However, your second comment is wrong. In particular, you stated:

2. Ruppert Plaza, Mill Pond Park, Pedestrian Bridge, Building J. The build-out of Ruppert Plaza amenities is tied to Heritage Field, located immediately adjacent to it. It is expected to be completed along with Heritage Field in late 2011. Mill Pond Park opened on October 22, 2009. A pedestrian bridge connecting the new stadium, Heritage Field, Metro-North and Mill Pond Park opened in May 2009. Mill Pond Park can also be accessed via the new Gateway Center Mall and by 149th Street. The tennis clubhouse and café at Building J will be completed this month – rest rooms have been available to the public in the building since last fall.

We do not know who told you this, but it is not true that **“A pedestrian bridge connecting the new stadium, Heritage Field, Metro-North and Mill Pond Park opened in May 2009.”**

As you can see from a review of this photo taken of from the Metro North station, there is no connection to the waterfront park. The photo below is looking southwest and shows that to get to the new park one would have to cross the street, walk through the private parking lot, climb through a fence, then cross the street under the elevated highway to get to Mill Pond Park et.al. Hardly connected by a pedestrian bridge!



Please visit the site so you can see for yourself that there is no such connection and therefore no way for the children who used to have a park on 163rd Street to get to Mill Pond Park safely. As you could imagine, traveling to 149th Street to get to the park is 14 blocks from said child's home. Moreover, we would not encourage children to access a public parks through private commercial shopping mall.

Let us know when you can visit. We will meet you.

Sincerely,

Joyce Hogi
Joyce Hogi

Karen Argenti
Karen Argenti

c: Jack Howard, NPS (jack_howard@nps.gov)