



The Bronx Council for Environmental Quality

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President: Ira Charles Levenberg-Engel

May 18, 2010

Hon. Damian McShane, Chair
Community Board 8
5676 Riverdale Ave. Suite 100
Bronx, New York 10471

Dear Chair McShane:

The Bronx Council for Environmental Quality (BCEQ) would like to express enthusiastic support for the construction of a pedestrian bridge in Van Cortlandt Park to connect the Croton Woods section and the Shandler Recreation Area/Mosholu Golf Center.

The Bronx Council for Environmental Quality, a non-profit 501c.3 membership organization, seeks to establish — as an Inherent Human Right — a sound, forward-looking environmental policy regarding an aesthetic, unpolluted, environment protecting a natural and historic heritage.

BCEQ has a long history of supporting both Bronx and regional environmental causes. We were one of the first organizations to join the Bronx Greenway cause and we developed the concept of connecting all the parkland and trailways in the Bronx. We are strong supporters of connecting all parts of Bronx and connecting the Bronx to the other boroughs and Westchester through trails and greenways.

BCEQ agrees that all of the preferred alternatives described in the Draft Final Report are viable options. We believe that all of the alternatives should be further explored and that a final option be chosen with input from the public.

The Final Draft Report on the feasibility of a pedestrian bridge states that issues of open space (Section 4.5 in the Draft Final Report), architectural and archaeological resources (Sec. 4.7), visual resources (Se. 4.8), natural resources (Sec. 4.10), and hazardous materials (Sec.4.11) will be subjected to the more detailed analysis. We endorse this further analysis and expect that it will be completed without bias.

BCEQ look forward to a solution and long awaited connection of these two sections. Van Cortlandt Park should be re-united as one park.

Sincerely yours,

Jane E.S. Sokolow

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Chair, BCEQ Parks Committee