

RIDGEFIELD PARK ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
VILLAGE OF RIDGEFIELD PARK
COUNTY OF BERGEN

January 24th, 2019

Whereas the Ridgefield Park Environmental Commission welcomes prudent remediation of land and economic development in our area,

Whereas, the Village of Ridgefield Park gifted land in Overpeck to the County for the express purpose of developing it for “park purposes”, which includes free public access to public lands, and

Whereas, the current proposal to permit a sizeable privately operated Dinosaur amusement park in Overpeck’s Area II is neither prudent nor consistent with the commitment to develop the land for traditional “park purposes” and would require the public to pay a fee to gain access to public lands, and

Whereas the size and scope of the commercial enterprise for Area II would set a dangerous precedent potentially subjecting other areas of Overpeck County Park to over commercialization as well, and

Whereas the current Area II proposal is in a undeveloped forested natural area intended to be kept as a nature preserve with nature trails/walking bridges and threatens to jeopardize one of few remaining NATURAL OPEN SPACE areas remaining, and

Whereas the available natural open forested land in SOUTHEASTERN Bergen County is rapidly dwindling in the face of overdevelopment, and

Whereas, the natural habitat of numerous flora and fauna would be disrupted and likely destroyed through the placement of a substantial commercial Dinosaur Amusement Park complete with ziplines, a 300 - 500 car AND BUS parking lot, RESTROOMS, amphitheater, GIFT SHOP, and food vending stalls, and

Whereas, the natural fauna will logically seek other areas to live including deer who will exacerbate an already serious concern, and

Whereas, there are elements of the current plan which positively contribute to the public good including the remediation of land in Area II for the building of new nature trails, boardwalks and a footbridge across Teaneck Creek to expand public access to these open spaces without disturbing the ecosystems or the equilibrium of the open spaces themselves, and

Whereas, maintenance of these undisturbed ecosystems provides Bergen County youth with a “living laboratory” that provides them with the opportunity to learn about and conduct first-hand research in the biological and environmental sciences, and

Whereas, Ridgefield Park residents have expressed their objections to the negative aspects of the proposal and have appeared before the Bergen County Board of Freeholders,

Therefore, Be It Resolved, The Ridgefield Park Environmental Commission urges Bergen County officials to re-think the proposal for Overpeck’s Area II consistent with the expressed concerns stated here by the Ridgefield Park Environmental Commission while doing their best to enhance the listed positive elements.

Therefore, Be It Resolved, The Ridgefield Park Environmental Commission opposes the further development and commercialization of Overpeck County Park and urges Bergen County officials to undertake remediation of Overpeck County Park lands that is limited to the building of new, unpaved trails, boardwalks and footbridges that are needed to cross waterways/wetland areas and that expands free public access to one of the last remaining NATURAL open spaces within southeastern Bergen County.

I hereby certify that the above is a true copy of a Resolution adopted by the Ridgefield Park Environmental Commission of the Village of Ridgefield Park at a regular meeting of said Governing Body on January 24th, 2019.

Barbara DeLuca

Barbara DeLuca, Secretary
Ridgefield Park Environmental Commission

**Motion made by Stephen Quinn
Seconded by Guillermo Lopez-Acosta**

ROLL CALL VOTE				
MEMBER	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Peggy Conversano				X
Jin Ah Jong				X
Harry Menta	X			
Leslie Olson	X			
Mark Olson	X			
Linda Quinn	X			
Stephen Quinn	X			
G. Lopez Acosta Alternate #1	X			
Asai Maschang Alternate #2				X