

FRIENDS OF THE EDGEWOOD PRESERVE

Friends of the Edgewood-Oak Brush Plains Preserve, Inc. is an all-volunteer, non-profit organization dedicated to protecting the natural beauty and improving the conditions of the Edgewood-Oak Brush Plains Nature Preserve.

Denis Byrne

President & Founder

Paul Tomko

Vice-President

Sid Cherry

Treasurer

Patricia Burkhart

Secretary

Mary Beth Tomko

Board Member

April 6, 2007

FRIENDS TO LEAD TOUR OF THE PROPOSED SITE FOR

NYS DOT's TRUCK TO TRAIL INTERMODAL FACILITY (TRIM)

The future of a Long Island wildlife habitat (Edgewood Nature Preserve) is at risk!

Quality of life for the families of Dix Hills, Deer Park and Brentwood threatened!

Come see for yourself on Saturday, April 28, 12noon to 2pm.

Dear Friend,

The NYS Dept. of Transportation wants to build a truck-to-rail intermodal (TRIM) facility on the site of the former Pilgrim State Psychiatric Center. Much of the planning and discussion about the project (since 2004) has been done under the radar, without the proper public airing and involvement. Those whose quality of life will be most directly affected by this ill-conceived project (residents of Dix Hills, Deer Park and Brentwood) do not know much about it, which is not acceptable to us.

This site was chosen because of its proximity to the Long Island Expressway and the Long Island Railroad. The DOT has made the argument that it is far enough away from residential communities, but that is, in fact, not true. In their own brochure and on their website, they state that it is ¼ mile away from homes...a mere five city blocks! This is not nearly far enough way to protect families from air, noise and light pollution.

The Edgewood-Oak Brush Plains Nature Preserve is adjacent to the site, but the DOT has conveniently left this large, green space unidentified on the map of the proposed facility. We find this a curious omission, especially because the DOT says that this facility is "compatible with adjacent development".

We do not see how a large, noisy, polluting truck facility is compatible with a nature preserve (a rare, remnant ecosystem, the second largest remaining parcel of oak brush habitat in New York State and a special groundwater protection area) and residential communities just blocks away.

Although we recognize the need for traffic mitigation on Long Island, we are opposed to any kind of trucking facility being built near a nature preserve and only ¼ mile from residential communities. It is irresponsible and shows a deep disregard for our communities, our wildlife habitats and hence, our future. ***A similar facility was planned for Maspeth, Queens and the residents there fought hard and won. We are prepared to fight and hope we can count on the help and support of other environmental and civic groups. There is strength in numbers. Please, if you care about Long Island, then you must join us for this tour.***

CONTACT: Patricia Burkhart 631-242-7402/patricia@friendsofedgeswood.com or Denis Byrne 631-836-2616.

P.O. Box 162, Deer Park, NY 11729



631-242-7402



info@friendsofedgeswood.com

OUR CONCERNS

ECOLOGICAL LIGHT POLLUTION

The ecological effects of artificial night lighting are profound and increasing. Most species depend on light and dark for some portion of their daily or seasonal life cycle. Increased night lighting associated with human civilization disrupts important behaviors and physiological processes with significant ecological consequences. Ecological light pollution includes chronic or periodically increased illumination, unexpected changes of illumination, and direct glare. Animals can experience increased orientation or disorientation from additional illumination and are attracted to or repulsed by glare, which affects foraging, reproduction, communication, and other critical behaviors. Artificial light disrupts interspecific interactions evolved in natural patterns of light and dark, with serious implications for community ecology.

- The rare buckeye moth (an endangered species) has been documented at Edgewood. (Billions of moths and other nocturnal insects are killed each night at lights—this facility will have many, many bright lights on throughout the night!)

The issue of light pollution is not even considered or included when doing environmental impact studies because it is not mandated. Until it is, we will not truly know what affect future development on Long Island will have on the environment, our health and our communities.

FRAGMENTATION DUE TO DEVELOPMENT

The Edgewood-Oak Brush Plains Nature Preserve is the second largest remaining parcel of oak brush habitat in New York State and a rare, remnant ecosystem that supports a wide array of animals, birds and plants, some on the state's own endangered, threatened and special concern lists. Biodiversity is the number one crisis facing Long Island and the world. The planet loses one plant or animal species every twenty minutes due to fragmentation and the planting of non-native/exotic species.

- Owls and owl nests have been spotted in an area of tall, old pines, which would be cut down if the facility is built.
- Special-concern species have also been documented at Edgewood (just a few are the Whip-poor-will, Box turtle, Cooper's hawk)

BRUSH FIRE CONCERNS

How will the preserve (and surrounding areas) be protected in the case of a fire or explosion at this facility? Trucks will be serviced here (the maintenance shed is currently proposed to be just over the fence to the preserve) and more importantly will get re-fueled here. A facility with an enormous volume of trucks having diesel fuel pumped into them is clearly not compatible to a nature preserve, where fire is already a constant threat, when the forest floor is dry. And how do you then protect nearby homes and businesses?

AIR POLLUTION

Suffolk County already has the worst air quality and highest rate of pollution-related diseases and deaths than any region in NYS. We do not see how this facility will help alleviate traffic or cut fuel consumption. Also, we only foresee an increased wear and tear on our roadways as well as increased noise and air pollution in this area and we are concerned about the lack of enforcement regarding truck idling. Who will monitor the monitors?

- Most container intermodal facilities get bad marks for efficiency because they often use one-way haulers. Rarely do those who haul the containers attempt to get freight both ways, so there is actually twice as many trucks as really needed.
- Trucks from all over Long Island and beyond will end up here. Air pollution, due to idling/diesel fumes will not just stop at buffer zones. Not only will this have a devastating effect on the preserve but the nearby communities of Dix Hills, Deer Park, Brentwood (and beyond) will be affected.

GROUND CONTAMINATION

Edgewood is a Special Groundwater Protection Area (SGPA). We are concerned about the contamination from leaks of gas, oils, and solvents to the ground (water) and the protection of critical drinking watershed lands that may be at risk.

WHAT DO WE WANT?

- **STOP THIS FACILITY FROM BEING BUILT AT THIS SITE AND WORK WITH THE NYS DOT, LAWMAKERS AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS TO FIND A SITE THAT IS MORE SUITABLE TO SUCH A PROJECT.**
- **MAKE SURE THAT A PROJECT OF THIS KIND BE BUILT ONLY IN TRULY INDUSTRIAL AREAS, FAR FROM NATURE PRESERVES AND RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITIES, SO THAT OUR QUALITY OF LIFE WILL BE PROTECTED.**
- **MAKE SURE MAPS AND RENDERING ARE LABELED CORRECTLY AND CLEARLY POINT OUT WHERE PARKS, PRESERVES AND RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITIES ARE LOCATED.**
- **KEEP COMMUNITIES INFORMED! FROM THE START OF ANY SUCH PROJECT, THE COMMUNITIES DIRECTLY AFFECTED SHOULD BE ASKED FOR INPUT AND INVOLVEMENT IN A MEANINGFUL WAY. BEFORE LAND IS PURCHASED FOR SUCH PURPOSES, THE STATE SHOULD BE SURE IT IS TRULY COMPATIBLE WITH ADJACENT DEVELOPMENT.**
- **CONSIDER BUILDING SEVERAL SMALLER FACILITIES ACROSS LONG ISLAND, SO THAT NOT ONE AREA OR COUNTY IS CARRYING THE BURDEN OF SUCH A FACILITY. AND AGAIN, MAKE SURE THEY ARE BUILT IN INDUSTRIAL AREAS ONLY.**
- **LIGHT POLLUTION AND ITS DEVASTATING EFFECTS ON WILDLIFE HABITATS (AND HENCE, OUR FUTURE) MUST BE CONSIDERED A MANDATORY REQUIREMENT WHEN DOING ANY KIND OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STUDY. TO LEAVE THIS ISSUE OUT OF ANY DISCUSSION OR INVESTIGATION IS DOING ALL OF US A DISSERVICE.**
- **THE EDGEWOOD NATURE PRESERVE IS NOT JUST A STRIP OF TREES. IT MUST NOT BE CONSIDERED A BUFFER! IT IS A LARGE AND RARE WILDLIFE HABITAT THAT SUPPORTS MANY SPECIES OF ANIMALS, BIRDS AND PLANTS IN AN AREA WITH FEW PARKS AND LITTLE OPEN SPACE. IT SHOULD NOT BE COMPROMISED IN SUCH A WAY.**

We are asking for your help in putting pressure on the powers that be to stop this project from going forward, not because it is or is not in your backyard or within your jurisdiction, but because you care about Long Island – all of it – and because it is the right thing to do. Someone else will not take care of it. We are and must be that someone else. Words and good intentions won't save our planet...only our sincere and determined actions will. Our parks and preserves are responsible for the quality in our lives. We need trees. We *must* protect the Edgewood Preserve – all of us – together. By protecting Edgewood, we protect our communities and our future. We ask for your help.

*Who leaves the pine-tree, leaves his friend,
Unnerves his strength, invites his end.*

~Ralph Waldo Emerson, "Woodnotes"