

**Response by the Flushing Meadows - Corona Park
World's Fair Association
to
Attack by the New York City Commissioner
of Parks & Recreation, Adrian Benepe**

February 12 , 2007

**Statement by Parks Commissioner Adrian Benepe in response to
“State of the Park Report 2007” by the Flushing Meadows – Corona Park
World’s Fair Association.**

Association report available at www.theparkwatchdog.org

Benepe’s Response issued to the press, February 8th, 2007:

“The Parks Department welcomes community engagement and works closely with other city agencies, community members, and private organizations to preserve and improve Flushing Meadows Corona Park. Over the past thirteen years, we’ve invested more than \$420 million for natural areas, athletic fields, and playgrounds, and we’re not done yet - the largest recreation facility ever built in a City park is currently under construction, just one piece of the Master Plan we are initiating to ensure Flushing Meadows Corona Park stays one of New York City’s prized flagship parks.”
“There is not the slightest consideration of removing Flushing Meadows Corona Park Administrator Estelle Cooper from the position she has held for the past 13 years. She has done a wonderful job and the personal attacks against her are uncalled for.

We are proud to support the largest and most comprehensive outreach and volunteer recruitment program of any park system in the world. To my knowledge, the Flushing Meadows Corona Park Worlds Fair Association has not raised funds or actively done anything to improve the park. We encourage the organization to join the efforts of other organizations dedicated to Flushing Meadows Corona Park, such as the Flushing Meadows Corona Park Conservancy and Unisphere, Inc., in helping to raise funds and coordinate volunteers to maintain and improve this important flagship park of Queens.”



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Chairman/ Founder: David Oats | President: Greg Godfrey

February 12, 2007

To: Mr. Adrian Benepe
Commissioner
N.Y. City Dept. of Parks and Recreation

Mr. Benepe:

Last week our Association presented to you, the Mayor, the press and the public a 40 page report on Flushing Meadows – Corona Park called “State of the Park 2007.” It detailed a number of the severe problems we believe must be addressed in this, New York City’s largest land-area park.

You responded to this report to a reporter of the NY Daily News which ran on February 8, 2007 (article reprinted following this letter.) Unfortunately your comments in the article tend to confirm the very out-of-touch mismanagement policies of your agency towards Flushing Meadows-Corona Park. Our report was based on both a 40 year history of our association’s monitoring and fighting for the historic park in the face of a Parks Dept. that is Manhattan-oriented and a bloated bureaucracy and our desire to bring current critical problems to public light.

This reply is not what we would normally want to spend our energies on. We are all volunteers, neighbors of the park and interested citizens in the goal of preserving this park’s natural and historic features and keeping its environment safe and protected for all parkgoers and future generations.

However, we could not let your comments go unanswered and the fact that you, as Parks Commissioner, would directly attack a group of citizens who are only acting out of a love and passion for this park, requires this response.

We will deal with each of your statements, followed by our answers:

“I don’t think the Association has done one thing to raise money or do things for the park,” you said.

Well, Mr. Benepe your ignorance of our Association’s four decades of work for this

park should be settled by the summary of our activities contained in the back of this response. But we want to make it very clear that our organization never has solicited funds from anyone - governmental, business or private. We are not, unlike some of your city employees, in the "fund raising" business. We have always relied on the work of dedicated citizens and everything is volunteer work. Our philosophy is very simple - we consider our fundraising for the park to be - paying taxes - for a municipal necessity important to the health and safety and well-being of our city- our parks and open spaces.

Our time and efforts and energies are focused on everything from being a constant watchdog of the park's conditions through everything from monitoring Flushing Meadows as neighbors by bike and by foot and communicating our findings by our websites and the media. Maybe you should check out our website at www.thepark-watchdog.org and you might learn a few things about this park and how your agency is woefully neglecting it. In short, Flushing Meadows is not a charity - it is a city resource that the hard working taxpayers of New York pay for and expect and deserve the respect by your agency for this historic spread of green.

In response to our call for the removal or retirement of the park Administrator (and Assistant Queens Parks Commissioner) Estelle Cooper you vehemently defended her and said, "she will stay in the post she has held for 13 years. There is not the slightest consideration of removing her. She's done a wonderful job."

Well, if you looked at our 'State of the Park Report 2007,' how could anyone say this is a wonderful job? Her office sits just feet away in the park from a historic monument that was destroyed by a speeding vehicle on its way to one of the park's illicit 'parking fields', and the tower of the NY State Pavilion whose critical aviation warning light was out for months - and the park administrator was oblivious to both of these safety concerns until our Association brought them to public attention and demanded action.

You say she raised money for the park. Mr. Commissioner that is her job. And her on-the-side private "fundraising" efforts are raising serious questions. You said to the Daily News that "these personal attacks are really uncalled for." There is nothing personal in our criticism here.

It has to do with accountability of public servants and placing a qualified park manager and administrator in charge of this park (twice the size of Central Park) instead of someone without any credentials for the job other than being a Queens Republican Party functionary. And if the Mayor, the Comptroller, the Public Advocate, the entire City Council and the Borough President are term-limited to eight years, should not there be consideration to gracefully ending the 13 year reign of someone who has held this job for longer than the whole two terms of Rudy Giuliani and six years of the Bloomberg Administration? Especially in light of the current conditions in this park?

No Mr. Benepe, this is not personal towards Ms. Cooper. It is about competence in managing this gigantic urban oasis. It is time for a change.

Next, Mr. Benepe, your response in the Daily News to our call for a mini or sub-police precinct in the park, something Central Park has had for years and an idea backed by the five city council members whose districts surround the park, was this, "Benepe said the park is safe." Well, sir, tell that to Mr. Jae Woo Park who while jogging by the Unisphere was punched, kicked, robbed and stomped and left to die on Christmas Day and has been in a coma ever since.

Tell it to Mr. Carlos Flores who on December 4th, was hacked to death with a machete and his body dumped in Meadow Lake. Tell it to the scores of others who were robbed, attacked and threatened while trying to jog, bike or walk in the park. And another question: when similar attacks happened in Central Park a few years ago, the Parks Commissioner, the Mayor and other officials were visible dealing with the crisis. You Mr. Benepe and your litany of deputies and administrators were nowhere to be seen during this recent crime spree at Flushing Meadows.

Perhaps, Mr. Benepe, you should go out to that Unisphere and see what park you are in and indeed, what planet you are on. The park is not safe.

In the interview you dismiss the disgraceful neglect and decay of the parks tallest structure, the iconic NY State Pavilion by saying "if money was no object, we'd restore it." Well sir, we have been waiting forty years and the Parks Dept. has let this structure deteriorate to the point where when that aviation safety light went out last year for months, you had to hire mountain climbers to put it back on - and only after our Association had notified the FAA! It's ironic that your parks department erected a plaque on the building calling the structure a historic and important landmark. Perhaps you might like to look at that plaque and think about why this building is not an officially designated landmark and has been allowed to decay. That very plaque bears the signatures of yourself and Mayor Mike Bloomberg.

The list goes on and on. But perhaps your most outrageous quote was in relation to our complaint about the dangerous practice of herding thousands of automobiles through the park during Mets games and the US Open and parking them over acres of lawns, grasslands, ballfields, etc. and having a private concessionaire actually charge outrageous fees to park on these grassy areas. The photos of this obscenity can be viewed on our website. Your response was "the city is contractually obligated to offer parking for some park events."

To whom sir are you "contractually obligated"? Who made this contract? Who made the concession deal and where is the money going?

Did this giant concession ever get reviewed by the community boards surrounding

the park? Or by elected officials? Or the public at large?

Would you ever consider using the Great Lawn or the Sheep Meadow in Manhattan's Central Park as a gigantic parking lot because parking on the East Side or West Side was scarce? You sir, had better wake up and read your job description.

You are not the city's parking commissioner.

You are supposedly the city's Parks Commissioner. Flushing Meadows is a Park. Not a Parking Lot.

To sum up, this park's legacy, environment and safety are in danger. That was the message of our "State of the Park 2007" report.

Instead of listening to the voice of the people who use the park and love the park, you chose to attack our Association for exposing the failures of your department. You chose to libel us by saying that you don't think our Association has done anything for the park. We are hereby providing a list of just some of the things we have done for the park.

But before your attack, we were intent on providing, at our expense a report that would outline the problems - and the positives- about the park. We would like to remind you Mr. Commissioner, that you work for us - the taxpayers who pay your salary and the bloated Bureaucracy you run. How dare you blast those who are the citizens who act free of charge to be a vigilant watchdog over your domain.

There is great resurgence of interest in Robert Moses lately.

We are proud that this giant of New York history and the creator of this great park was the force behind the suggestion that we create this Association back in 1967. He became our first Chairman. He was a skeptic from the beginning that the Parks Dept., of which he was the first citywide Commissioner, would know how to properly take care of this great park in the future.

It is obvious that you may be a successor to that job as city Parks Commissioner. But you cannot fill his shoes. Or walk in his shadow.

David Oats
Chairman

Greg Godfrey
President

Flushing Meadows- Corona Park World's Fair Association

CC: Mayor Michael Bloomberg
Local Media and Public Officials

Flush boss out of park, sez World's Fair group

BY MELISSA GRACE
DAILY NEWS STAFF WRITER

A WAR OF WORDS is heating up over Flushing Meadows-Corona Park.

Claiming mismanagement on a "vast scale," a watchdog group is demanding Parks Assistant Commissioner Estelle Cooper be fired.

The Flushing Meadows-Corona Park World's Fair Association wants Cooper replaced immediately for allowing the iconic New York State Pavilion to decay, and turning playing fields into parking lots during the U.S. Open tennis tournament and Shea Stadium events.

"We're calling for the removal of Estelle Cooper, and replacing her with a competent manager," association Chairman David Oats said.

In a letter sent Monday to Mayor Bloomberg and Parks Commissioner Adrian Benepe, Oats and association President Greg Godfrey labeled Cooper a "political hack."

City Parks officials vehemently defended Cooper and said she will stay in the post she has held for 13 years.

"There is not the slightest consideration of removing her," Benepe said. "She's done a wonderful job."

Benepe listed Cooper's achievements — raising \$420 million for the park, restoring sports fields and enhancing cultural centers — and blasted Oats' group.

"The personal attacks are really uncalled for," Benepe said. "I don't think [the association has] done one thing to raise money or do things for the park."

Through a Parks spokesman, Cooper declined to comment.

While recognizing some of the civic group's complaints as valid, other park advocates defended Cooper.

"Estelle Cooper ... has done a stellar job in that park," said the park's Conservancy President Patricia Dolan.

The demand to replace Cooper first came in a report, "The State of the Park 2007," released by Oats late Monday.

The document chronicles what the group, which boasts 500 members, sees as "neglectful management" of the park.

Complaints range from an uptick in crime to a broken monument that took months to repair.

The group wants money spent to fully open the Willow Lake sanctuary. It also wants a police precinct built inside the park.

Police Department officials did not respond to calls for comment, but Benepe said the park is safe.

The group pointed to problems at the pavilion, including broken elevators that forced officials to hire mountain climbers to replace a red light bulb atop the pavilion's 226-foot tower that alerts airplane pilots to the structure.

The association said the temporary parking lots are illegal and threatened a lawsuit to stop them. Benepe countered that the city is contractually obligated to offer parking for some park events.

The commissioner said many of the problems are the result of tight budgets, but said upgrades, including a \$70 million swimming pool and skating rink, are underway.

As for the pavilion, Benepe said, "If money was no object, we'd restore it."

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Greg Godfrey (l.) and David Oats stand their ground in Flushing Meadows-Corona Park in call for booting of Estelle Cooper. Photo by Susana Bates

Flushing Meadows - Corona Park World's Fair Association

Record of Activity

1967 - 2007

June 3, 1967.

The completed Flushing Meadows-Corona Park is dedicated and turned over from the 1964-65 N.Y. World's Fair Corporation to the N.Y. City Department of Parks. The Mayor does not even show up for the opening of the city's largest land-area park. Fair President Robert Moses, who guided the transformation of the site in 1936 from a huge ash and garbage dump into the grounds for the first World's Fair of 1939, expresses deep concern about the Park's Departments ability to take proper care of the newly restored 1, 258 acre park. He privately encourages the creation of a city watchdog group to monitor and advocate for the park. The group, the Flushing Meadows-Corona Park World's Fair Association is created and Moses has the World's Fair flag that flew over the grounds from 1962 lowered for the last time and formally presented to the new organization's founder and president, David Oats in a ceremony at the Fair's Administration Building (now the Parks Dept. Olmstead Center) that day.

1967 - 1970.

The Association concentrates on organizing local residents, civic and political leaders and former Fair employees and to educate residents about the unique history of the park through a series of free slide show presentations, tours of the park, talks before school children, senior centers, historical societies and civic groups and exhibits of the Association's extensive historical collection on the history of the Park and the World's Fairs.

April 22, 1970.

The Association enters into a new more activist role on the very first Earth Day (and the 6th anniversary of the opening of the 1964 Fair) by staging a protest walk to the Willets Point junkyard area adjacent to the park and calling for the elimination of this environmental eyesore and for the cleaning up of the polluted Flushing River.

1970 – 1971.

It soon becomes apparent that Moses' worst fears for the park were coming true. A seemingly arrogant and Manhattan-oriented city administration was ignoring many

safety and maintenance issues in the park and major structures such as the \$14 million U.S. Pavilion, the \$12 million N.Y. State Pavilion, the former 18,000 seat Singer Bowl arena were left deserted, open targets of vandals and the grand series of fountains and lawns unveiled just three years before were dried up and decaying. The Association began extensive local petition campaigns to save the abandoned structures and held numerous meetings in the community to draw attention to the growing plight of the park.

On October 4, 1970, the Association holds its first cultural event in the park called "Day of Peace" to highlight the park's international role as host to two World's Fairs and first home of the United Nations. It attracts thousands and begins with a Mass for Peace celebrated by the Bishop of the Diocese of Brooklyn and Queens on the site where Pope Paul VI visited the Vatican Pavilion on his peace mission to the UN exactly five years before. A commemoration is also held at the NY City Building (where the UN met from 1946 to 1950) to mark the vote taken in that structure which created the State of Israel and where the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and UNICEF were adopted.

In December of that year, Oats and the Association's Vice-President Eric Ierardi undertake a private trip to major European cities to investigate how they have preserved and maintained their former World's Fair sites and parks and buildings such as Hyde Park in London (the first World's Fair in 1853 known as the Crystal Palace) and the Eiffel Tower in Paris (built as the symbol of the 1889 exposition.) The exploratory trip was highlighted by a private meeting in Rome with Pope Paul VI who thanked the Association for preserving the park as a symbol of world peace and he accepted a special commemorative album on the park from the Association.

1971 – 1972.

The Association prepares a Master Plan for the park and issues a 70 page report detailing the increasing and ongoing problems at Flushing Meadows. The report outlines for the first time a comprehensive view that the park should be developed as a major cultural and recreational center for the region. Its proposals include a call for the creation of a Queens Museum (the borough of two million had no museum of its own), the establishment of a Queens Theater in the abandoned Theaterama of the NY State Pavilion, and the saving of the other neglected Fair structures such as the US Pavilion and the Singer Bowl.

The Master Plan receives wide-spread attention including front page coverage in major papers and large articles in the New York Times.

Robert Moses accepts the title of Chairman of the Flushing Meadows – Corona Park World's Fair Association and acts as an ongoing advisor to the organization.

1972.

The association issues a 39 page update on its Master Plan and presents it to the city and community officials. Major elements of the Plan begin to take shape. The Borough President agrees on the need to develop a Queens Museum in the shuttered New York City Building and the Association volunteers to move and install seats and material from an old Brooklyn movie house to create a working theater in the State Pavilion. The theater becomes a reality, first called The Queens Playhouse (today it has grown into the Queens Theater in the Park.) A darkened gallery space in the NY City Building opens as the fledgling Queens Museum (then called the Queens Art & Cultural Center.)

The Association collects over 10,000 petitions to save the old Singer Bowl Arena which had become a vandalized wreck and our campaign forces the city to spend thousands to fortify the building from further vandalizing but the city still harbors plans to possibly demolish it. The Association suggests the facility would be an excellent stadium for athletic and concert events.

1973 – 1974.

Louis Armstrong, the legendary jazz great, international ambassador of goodwill and a longtime neighbor of the park in Corona becomes our first Honorary Member. Immediately after his death, we propose renaming the Singer Bowl after the great “Satchmo” and we get the re-naming bill through the City Council and signed by the Mayor. A major jazz concert is held for its rededication and Armstrong’s widow, Lucille, accepts her Honorary Membership in the Association at the ceremony. But after the concert, the Parks Dept. refused to consider any use for the structure - but at least they could no longer tear it down.

The Association fights a city plan to allow developer Sam LeFrak to develop a huge commercial and residential complex along the wildlife preserve at Willow Lake. The Association fights the proposal, including holding demonstrations and walking tours, to show that this project would destroy a fragile eco-structure of this unique part of the park. With behind the scenes help from Robert Moses, the project fails.

1975 - 1976.

The Association’s attempts to save the once beautiful U.S. Pavilion fail when the structure is torn down after years of outright neglect.

Our group finds a marble monument marking the once magnificent Fountain of the Planets torn from the ground and floating in the neglected pool. We waded into that pool, retrieved the heavy monument and demanded the city restore not only the marker but the fountain itself. The effort succeeded and the fountain turned back

on providing beauty and refreshment to parkgoers. And, the monument was placed back.

During this period, our Association played a major role in having the park designated as an official U.S. Bicentennial site and we sponsored a number of major events including a Revolutionary War battle recreation and festival and designed the official Queens Bicentennial logo. We also were a major contributor to the Queens Museum's Bicentennial exhibition called "The Tulip and the Rose" (after the symbols of the borough's flag) and provided the exhibitions catalogue essay.

1977 – 1989.

One of our proudest projects was in saving the old Singer Bowl from demolition and re-naming it the Louis Armstrong Stadium. But it wasn't until we learned the US Open, a longtime fixture in nearby Forest Hills was planning to leave in 1977, that we approached the president of the USTA, W.E. "Slew" Hester with the idea of using the Armstrong Stadium as the new site for the tennis championship, thus keeping the premier international sporting event in the city and Queens but also finally putting the long neglected structure to use. Hester jumped at the idea, the USTA agreed to keep the Armstrong name on the stadium and they began a rapid program to enlarge and improve the facility and it was ready for the US Open in 1978. At the on-court opening ceremony right before the first match at the Open's new Flushing Meadows home, Association president David Oats spoke along with Slew Hester and Mrs. Louis Armstrong and made them both Honorary Lifetime members of the Association. The Billy Jean King USTA National Tennis Center has grown into the jewel of this park bringing with it the international excitement and notoriety for the park reminiscent of the glory days of the two World's Fairs. We are proud of having played an important role in this major development in the park.

Over this period there were many issues our Association dealt with including stopping the scandalous riding of cars in the park and parking them by the thousands on acres of parkland. We tried to prevent the uncalled for destruction of the NY State Pavilion's beautiful stained-glass roof and its terrazo-inlaid map (the largest in the world) and fought the shameful demolition of the Aquacade from the 1939 World's Fair which we had re-named for Flushing resident and the first woman to swim the English Channel, Gertrude Ederle. Unfortunately, both of these iconic structures had been allowed by Parks Department neglect to decay.

We succeeded in saving the Coney Island Parachute Jump (one of only two '39 Fair structures still existing) from Parks Dept. plans to have it demolished, and we had it declared an official Landmark thus making it a catalyst to the revitalization of that historic New York oceanfront. At its recent spectacular re-lighting ceremony Brooklyn Borough President declared "Mr. Oats and Mr. Ierardi were true visionaries back then and made the way for a rebirth of Coney Island."

1990 – 2000.

The Association donated hundreds of rare original models of the 1964-65 World's Fair to the Queens Museum of Art which belonged to the Association's vast collection of original materials on the park's history many given by Robert Moses to us. We assisted the artists commissioned to do murals commemorating the park's unique history which are now permanently engraved in the park's grounds by supplying them with photographs of the park's past and the structures at both fairs. We participated in numerous lectures, exhibits (including a major 1965 retrospective called "The Mighty Fair" at the Flushing Council on Culture & the Arts which was visited by Mayor Ed Koch who called it "one great show" and the NY Times termed it "one of the best things to visit in New York" that year.)

For the millennium in 2000 we were responsible for having the historic Flushing Remonstrance - the document which brought Religious Freedom to America - back home for the first time in decades and we are working to have it brought back permanently from its vault up in Albany and placed in the Queens Museum of Art in the park so that its message is preserved and communicated for future generations.

2001 – Present.

There are many other critical issues which our organization dealt with over these forty years, such as our exposing and having removed toxic chemical wastes which the Parks Dept. was storing in the NY State Pavilion, our revealing the vast exposure to employees and patrons of the Terrace On the Park catering building to asbestos which the city knew about and did nothing.

Our investigation forced the closure of the building, a million dollar clean-up of the structure (the former World's Fair Heliport) and the effort even received two Pulitzer Prize nominations from journalist-author Carl Bernstein of Watergate fame.

In the past five years our Association has continued our efforts to rid Willets Point of the eyesore on the very doorstep of the park. Our plan to present an alternative to the Mayor's ill-conceived proposal of a West Side Stadium and to place the Olympic Stadium instead in Willets Point was taken directly to the International Olympic Committee at their headquarters in Lausanne, Switzerland by our president, Greg Godfrey and at a private meeting with the IOC at the Plaza Hotel in February 2005. After years of advocating our Association's plan, the city finally accepted it - but too late and NY lost its chance for the 2012 Olympics.

After the collapse of the Mayor's West Side Olympic debacle, the city acquiesced to the Parks Department and the Queens Borough President to an outrageous proposal to construct an 80,000 seat stadium over the Fountain of the Planets in the middle of Flushing Meadows - Corona Park without regard to the displacement of sporting

fields, natural waterways, and the environment, not to mention parking nightmares in the park. Our Association found out about this scheme and revealed it to the NY Post and within three weeks killed this insanity before it could grow.

Had we not done this, who knows what damage these arrogant public officials would have done to this park.

The Association also sent Godfrey to Paris to meet with the Bureau of International Expositions when that organization opened the door for another possible New York World's Fair and he traveled to Amsterdam, where the battle for Religious Freedom was won in 1657, to campaign for the Remonstrance's 350th Anniversary commemorations later this year. All of this was done at our private expense.

The past year we have dealt with very major issues of great concern for this park. Among them the parking of cars on grassland, the speeding automobiles on park paths, the destruction of an historic granite monument by one of those cars, the red aviation warning light being out for months on the top of the park's tallest structure, the hideous and deadly crime wave in the park and the need for a mini-precinct in Flushing Meadows, the continued neglect of the valuable and unique wildlife preserve at Willow Lake and finally the utter decay of the park's largest and most historic architectural gem - the New York State Pavilion.

We established our own websites on each of these issues, which we pay for exclusively by ourselves and make absolutely no money from any advertising or any other means of, and they are attracting widespread interest and support from local residents but also from people around the nation and the globe who are concerned for the future of this great and historic park.

The websites and our proposals can be viewed by logging on to:

www.theparkwathdog.org

www.newyorkstatepavilion.org

www.flushingremonstrance.org

www.worldinapark.org

February 1, 2007.

The Flushing Meadows - Corona Park World's Fair Association releases a 40 page "State of the Park Report 2007" detailing the problems in the park today, outlining solutions and also extolling the positive elements in the park. It is delivered to the Mayor, Parks Commissioner, city and civic leaders, the media and to the public on-line at www.theparkwatchdog.org.

Its central theme is we are asking for no huge projects or proposals but for the Parks Department to take in the three key issues that the report addresses, namely: **Accountability, Safety and Respect** for the historic integrity of Flushing Meadows - Corona Park.

February 8, 2007.

Parks Department Commissioner Adrian Benepe responds to our report in a NY Daily News interview by dismissing most of its issues and by saying, "I don't think the Association has done one thing to raise money or do things for the park."

Note:

All of the information regarding the activities of the Flushing Meadows-Corona Park World's Fair Association mentioned in this response is documented in published accounts between 1967 through 2007 in the following:

The New York Times; NY Daily News; NY Post; Newsday; The Queens Tribune; The Queens Chronicle; Times/Ledger Publications; The Queens Courier; The Queens Gazette; The Queens Ledger; AM New York; MetroNY; The Long Island Press; The New York Observer and the New Yorker Magazine.

Also on broadcasts on: **WCBS -TV , WABC - TV, WPBS - TV, ESPN - TV, NY 1, WNBC-TV, QPTV, WFAN Radio, WCBS Radio, WWOR - TV, and WB11-TV.** Also in publications by The Queens Museum of Art, Queens Historical Society, Central Queens Historical Society, Hofstra University and in documentaries on The History Channel.

All of these original materials, including photographs of events and activities, newsletters, photographs and audio tapes and videos (VHS and DVD) are available on request and will also be donated as a permanent record of the Association's history to the Long Island Division of the Queens Borough Public Library on the organization's 40th Anniversary on June 3, 2007.

Our record and history of activity and accomplishments over four decades is an open book and something we can be proud of. We look forward to an equally aggressive and productive future in preserving the legacy, environment, structures and safety of this historic park for future generations.

The Flushing Meadows - Corona Park World's Fair Association

Founded in 1967 / Chairman & Founder, David Oats
First Chairman, Robert Moses (1971-1981)
President, Greg Godfrey

www.theparkwatchdog.org