

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 3, 2017

Commissioner Rose Harvey  
NY State Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation  
Peebles Island State Park  
P.O. Box 189  
Waterford, NY 12188-0189

Dear Commissioner Harvey,

We write to urge you to list the Ridgewood Reservoir on the State and National Register of Historic Places. This engineering landmark, which straddles parts of Brooklyn and Queens, is not only an important example of 19th century urban infrastructure, but a unique ecological environment that deserves the protections afforded by inclusion in the Register of Historic Places.

The Ridgewood Reservoir, built between 1856 and 1858, is the last remaining piece of the water supply system of the City of Brooklyn. It was an engineering marvel at the time, and continues to be an asset to Highland Park. It helps provides flood protection by temporarily holding water and slowing storm water runoff. The reservoir also offers invaluable insight into the environmental history of Brooklyn, Queens and Nassau County.

Since being decommissioned in 1989, the three reservoir basins have evolved into distinct ecological environments, from woodlands to wetlands. The special wetland conditions provide unique habitat for species that cannot survive elsewhere. Migratory birds depend on wetlands, and many endangered and threatened animal species require wetlands during part of their life cycle. This evolution is unique in the city and affords an unequaled opportunity to study nature. Today, local schools organize trail walk educational tours of the reservoir, teaching students about the rare flora and fauna the wetland supports. With a new-found appreciation for this unique habitat, students have become some of the most vocal advocates for its protection.

As you know, community leaders, environmental organizations and elected officials have spent years working together to preserve the reservoir. We strongly believe the Ridgewood Reservoir merits landmark designation with the New York State Register of Historic Places and the National Register for its urban, engineering and environmental significance and urge you to exercise your authority and make this designation.

Commissioner Rose Harvey,  
NY State Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation  
Peebles Island State Park  
Page 2

Thank you in advance for your attention to this matter. If we can be of further assistance, please feel free to contact Evelyn Cruz, with the office of Congressman Nydia Velázquez, at 718-599-3658 and Anthony Lemma, with the office of Congresswoman Grace Meng at 718-358-6364.

Sincerely,

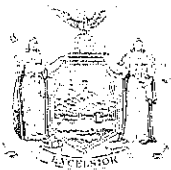


Nydia M. Velazquez  
Member of Congress, 7<sup>th</sup> C.D.



Grace Meng  
Member of Congress, 6<sup>th</sup> C.D.

cc: Ruth Pierpont, Director, Division for Historic Preservation  
NYC H2O  
Queens Borough Parks Commissioner Dotty Lewandowski  
Liam Kavanagh, Deputy Parks Commissioner  
Steve Zahn, Acting Director NY State DEC Region 2  
Ken Scarlatelli, Natural Resource Manager for NY State DEC Region 2;  
Salema Davis, CB5 Brooklyn Parks Committee Chairwoman



MICHAEL MILLER  
Assemblyman 38<sup>th</sup> District

THE ASSEMBLY  
STATE OF NEW YORK  
ALBANY

CHAIR  
Majority Committee on  
House Operations

COMMITTEES  
Aging  
Banks  
Education  
Labor  
Racing and Wagering  
Veterans' Affairs

MEMBER  
Puerto Rican/Hispanic Task Force  
New York Conference of  
Italian-American State Legislators  
New York State Chapter of  
Jewish Legislators

March, 2 2017

Commissioner Rose Harvey,  
NY State Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation  
Peebles Island State Park  
P.O. Box 189  
Waterford, NY 12188-0189

Commissioner Harvey:

I wholeheartedly support the listing of the Ridgewood Reservoir on the State and National Register of Historic Places. This landmark in engineering history is the most important example of 19th century urban infrastructure in the City of New York, and it certainly merits recognition.

Built between 1856 and 1858, the Ridgewood Reservoir is the last remaining piece of the water supply system of the City of Brooklyn. It was an engineering marvel at the time, and today it is an important feature of Highland Park. The reservoir offers insight into the environmental history of Brooklyn, Queens and Nassau County, and as such is invaluable.

Since being decommissioned in 1989, the three reservoir basins have evolved into distinct ecological environments, from woodlands to wetlands. This evolution is unique in the city and affords an unequalled opportunity to study nature.

The Ridgewood Reservoir merits recognition as a landmark in urban history, engineering history, and environmental history, and we urge you to list this site on the New York State Register of Historic Places and the National Register.

Sincerely,

Mike Miller  
Member of Assembly  
District 38

MGM:jk



CATHERINE NOLAN  
37<sup>th</sup> Assembly District  
Queens County

THE ASSEMBLY  
STATE OF NEW YORK  
ALBANY

CHAIRWOMAN  
EDUCATION COMMITTEE

COMMITTEES

Rules

Veterans' Affairs

Ways and Means

Corporations, Authorities, and Commissions

February 27, 2017

Commissioner Rose Harvey  
NY State Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation  
Peebles Island State Park  
P.O. Box 189  
Waterford, NY 12188-0189

Dear Commissioner Harvey:

It has come to my attention that the non-profit group NYC H2O is applying to have the Ridgewood Reservoir be placed on the State and National Register of Historic Places. I support and strongly endorse their application.

Built between 1856 and 1858, the Ridgewood Reservoir is the last remaining piece of the water supply system of the City of Brooklyn. An important feature of Highland Park, the reservoir offers insight into the environmental history of Brooklyn, Queens and Nassau County. Since being decommissioned in 1989, the three reservoir basins have evolved from woodlands to wetlands.

I have a long history of advocacy of working to preserve the Ridgewood Reservoir. Due to these reasons and many more, I urge you to add this wonderful reservoir to the site on the New York State Register of Historic Places and the National Register. Thank you for your attention on this matter and I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Catherine Nolan

cc: Ruth Pierpont, Director, Division for Historic Preservation, NYS State Parks  
Gary Giordano, District Manager, Queens Community Board 5

da

MELINDA KATZ  
PRESIDENT



(718) 286-3000  
www.queensbp.org  
info@queensbp.org

**CITY OF NEW YORK**  
OFFICE OF THE  
**PRESIDENT OF THE BOROUGH OF QUEENS**  
120-55 QUEENS BOULEVARD  
KEW GARDENS, NEW YORK 11424

February 14, 2017

Commissioner Rose Harvey  
NY State Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation  
Peebles Island State Park  
P.O. Box 189  
Waterford, NY 12188-0189

Dear Commissioner Harvey:

I write to share my support for the listing of the Ridgewood Reservoir on the State and National Register of Historic Places. This benchmark in engineering history is the most important example of 19th century urban infrastructure, in the City of New York, and it certainly merits recognition.

Built between 1856 and 1858, the Ridgewood Reservoir is the last remaining piece of the water supply system of the City of Brooklyn. It was an engineering marvel at the time, and today it is an important feature of Highland Park. The reservoir offers insight into the environmental history of Brooklyn, Queens and Nassau County, and as such is invaluable.

Since being decommissioned in 1989, the three reservoir basins have evolved into distinct ecological environments, from woodlands to wetlands. This evolution is unique in the city and affords an unequaled opportunity to study nature.

The Ridgewood Reservoir merits recognition as a landmark in urban history, engineering history, and environmental history, for these reasons I urge you to list this site on the New York State Register of Historic Places and the National Register.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Melinda Katz". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending from the end.

Melinda Katz  
President  
Borough of Queens

cc: Dorothy Lewandowski, Queens Borough Parks Commissioner; Vincent Arcuri, Chairman, CB 5 Queens;  
Steve Fiedler, Chairman, CB 5 Parks Committee



OFFICE OF THE BROOKLYN BOROUGH PRESIDENT

**ERIC L. ADAMS**

President

February 27, 2017

Honorable Rose Harvey  
Commissioner  
New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation  
Peebles Island State Park  
PO Box 189  
Waterford, NY 12188-0189

Re: Letter from Borough President Adams in support of listing of the Ridgewood Reservoir on the State and National Register of Historic Places

Dear Commissioner Harvey:

As Brooklyn's borough president, I have always believed that it is so important to protect our freshwater wetland ecosystems. Without a clean environment, our communities would not be the great places to live, work, and recreate that they are. That is why I support the listing of the Ridgewood Reservoir — built between 1856 and 1858 by the City of Brooklyn prior to its 1898 annexation into the City of Greater New York — on the State and National Register of Historic Places.

Situated between the Jackie Robinson Parkway and Brooklyn's Cypress Hills neighborhood on the Brooklyn-Queens border, the Ridgewood Reservoir — the most important example of 19<sup>th</sup> century urban infrastructure in the City of New York — is a landmark in engineering history. It is the last remaining remnant of the City of Brooklyn's water supply system. Ridgewood Reservoir, part of Highland Park, offers a glimpse into the environmental history of Brooklyn, Queens, and Nassau County, and as such is invaluable.

Since being decommissioned in 1989, the three reservoir basins have evolved into distinct ecological environments, from woodlands to wetlands. This evolution is unique in the city and affords an unequalled opportunity to study nature. The Ridgewood Reservoir merits recognition as a landmark in engineering, environmental, and urban history. I urge you to list this site on the New York State Register of Historic Places and the National Register.

Sincerely,

Eric L. Adams  
Brooklyn Borough President

ELA/es

COMMUNITY OFFICE:  
ATLAS PARK MALL - 71-19 80TH STREET, SUITE 8-303  
GLENDALE, NY 11385  
(718) 366-3900  
FAX: (718) 326-3549

CITY HALL OFFICE:  
250 BROADWAY, SUITE 1765  
NEW YORK, NY 10007  
(212) 788-7381  
FAX: (212) 227-7164

EMAIL: [ecrowley@council.nyc.gov](mailto:ecrowley@council.nyc.gov)  
WEBSITE: [www.council.nyc.gov/crowley](http://www.council.nyc.gov/crowley)



THE COUNCIL OF  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK  
**ELIZABETH S. CROWLEY**  
COUNCIL MEMBER, 30<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT, QUEENS

February 13, 2017

CHAIR  
FIRE AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE SERVICES

COMMITTEES

CIVIL SERVICE AND LABOR  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

CULTURAL AFFAIRS, LIBRARIES AND INTERNATIONAL  
INTERGROUP RELATIONS

MENTAL HEALTH, DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY,  
ALCOHOLISM, DRUG ABUSE AND DISABILITY SERVICES  
WOMEN'S ISSUES

Commissioner Rose Harvey,  
NY State Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation  
[Rose.Harvey@parks.ny.gov](mailto:Rose.Harvey@parks.ny.gov)  
Peebles Island State Park  
P.O. Box 189  
Waterford, NY 12188-0189

Commissioner Harvey:

I am writing to support the listing of the Ridgewood Reservoir on the State and National Register of Historic Places. This landmark in engineering history is the most important example of 19th century urban infrastructure in the City of New York, and it certainly merits recognition.

Built between 1856 and 1858, the Ridgewood Reservoir is the last remaining piece of the water supply system of the City of Brooklyn. It was an engineering marvel at the time, and today it is an important feature of Highland Park. The reservoir offers insight into the environmental history of Brooklyn, Queens and Nassau County, and as such is invaluable.

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Sincerely,



ELIZABETH S. CROWLEY  
Council Member, 30<sup>th</sup> District

cc: Ruth Pierpont, Director, Division for Historic Preservation  
NYC H2O  
Queens Borough Parks Commissioner Dotty Lewandowski  
Liam Kavanagh, Deputy Parks Commissioner  
Steve Zahn, Acting Director NY State DEC Region 2  
Ken Scarlatelli, Natural Resource Manager for NY State DEC Region 2  
Salema Davis, CB5 Brooklyn Parks Committee Chair  
Steve Fiedler, CB5 Queens Parks Committee Chair



**DISTRICT OFFICE**  
786 KNICKERBOCKER AVENUE  
BROOKLYN, NY 11207  
(718) 642-8664  
FAX: (718) 889-6017

**CITY HALL OFFICE**  
250 BROADWAY, SUITE 1880  
NEW YORK, NY 10007  
(212) 788-7284  
FAX: (212) 227-5636

respinal@council.nyc.gov



**THE COUNCIL  
OF  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**  
**RAFAEL L. ESPINAL, JR.**  
COUNCIL MEMBER, 37<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT, BROOKLYN

**CHAIR**  
CONSUMER AFFAIRS

**COMMITTEES**  
HEALTH  
HOUSING AND BUILDINGS  
IMMIGRATION  
PUBLIC SAFETY  
RULES, PRIVILEGES AND ELECTIONS  
STATE AND FEDERAL LEGISLATION

April 19, 2017

Commissioner Rose Harvey  
NY State Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation  
Peebles Island State Park  
P.O. Box 189  
Waterford, NY 12188-0189

Dear Commissioner Rose Harvey;

I am writing to express my support for the listing of the Ridgewood Reservoir on the State and National Register of Historic Places. This landmark in engineering history is the most important example of 19th century urban infrastructure in the City of New York, and it certainly merits recognition.

Built between 1856 and 1858, the Ridgewood Reservoir is the last remaining piece of the water supply system of the City of Brooklyn. It was an engineering marvel at the time, and today it is an important feature of Highland Park. The reservoir offers insight into the environmental history of Brooklyn, Queens and Nassau County, and as such is invaluable.

Since being decommissioned in 1989, the three reservoir basins have evolved into distinct ecological environments, from woodlands to wetlands. This evolution is unique in the city and affords an unequalled opportunity to study nature. The Ridgewood Reservoir merits recognition as a landmark in urban history, engineering history, and environmental history, and I respectfully request you to list this site on the New York State Register of Historic Places and the National Register.

I know that my voice is one of many in favor of listing of the Ridgewood Reservoir on the State and National Register of Historic Places. Preservation of this site and the resulting wildlife conservation will ensure that nature will be around for future generations to enjoy and Ridgewood Reservoir will be recognized for the importance of wildlife and wilderness for the people of New York City.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. Please do not hesitate to contact me at 718-642-8664 if you have any questions or wish to discuss further.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Rafael L. Espinal, Jr.".

Rafael L. Espinal, Jr.  
Council Member, 37<sup>th</sup> District



**DISTRICT OFFICE**  
244 UNION AVE  
BROOKLYN, NY 11211  
**TEL:** (718) 963-3141

**CITY HALL OFFICE**  
250 BROADWAY, SUITE 1740  
NEW YORK, NY 10007  
**TEL:** (212) 788-7096



**THE COUNCIL  
OF  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

**ANTONIO REYNOSO**  
COUNCIL MEMBER, 34<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT, BROOKLYN

**CHAIR**  
SANITATION

**COMMITTEE**  
EDUCATION  
LAND USE  
GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS  
TRANSPORTATION  
STATE-FEDERAL LAW

**SUB-COMMITTEE**  
ZONING AND FRANCHISES

March 15, 2017

Commissioner Rose Harvey,  
NY State Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation  
[Rose.Harvey@parks.ny.gov](mailto:Rose.Harvey@parks.ny.gov)  
Peebles Island State Park  
P.O. Box 189  
Waterford, NY 12188-0189

Dear Commissioner Harvey,

As someone who deeply cares about green infrastructure, I wholeheartedly support the listing of the Ridgewood Reservoir on the State and National Register of Historic Places.

Built between 1856 and 1858, the Ridgewood Reservoir is the last remaining piece of the water supply system of the City of Brooklyn. It was an engineering marvel at the time, and today it is an important feature of Highland Park. The reservoir offers insight into the environmental history of Brooklyn, Queens and Nassau County, and as such is invaluable.

Since being decommissioned in 1989, the three reservoir basins have evolved into distinct ecological environments, from woodlands to wetlands. This evolution is unique in the city and affords an unequaled opportunity to study nature.

The Ridgewood Reservoir merits recognition as a landmark in urban history, engineering history, and environmental history, and we urge you to list this site on the New York State Register of Historic Places and the National Register.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Antonio Reynoso", followed by a horizontal line.

Antonio Reynoso  
Council Member  
34<sup>th</sup> District, Brooklyn & Queens

cc:

Michael Lynch, Director, Division for Historic Preservation; [Michael.Lynch@parks.ny.gov](mailto:Michael.Lynch@parks.ny.gov)  
NYC H2O; [info@nych2o.org](mailto:info@nych2o.org)

Queens Borough Parks Commissioner Dotty Lewandowski; [dorothy.lewandowski@parks.nyc.gov](mailto:dorothy.lewandowski@parks.nyc.gov)

Liam Kavanagh, Deputy Parks Commissioner; [liam.kavanagh@parks.nyc.gov](mailto:liam.kavanagh@parks.nyc.gov)

Steve Zahn, Acting Director NY State DEC Region 2; [steve.zahn@dec.ny.gov](mailto:steve.zahn@dec.ny.gov)

Ken Scarlatelli, Natural Resource Manager for NY State DEC Region 2;

[kenneth.scarlatelli@dec.ny.gov](mailto:kenneth.scarlatelli@dec.ny.gov)

Salema Davis, CB5 Brooklyn Parks Committee Chairwoman; [Salemafabu@yahoo.com](mailto:Salemafabu@yahoo.com)



NYC Parks

Therese Braddick  
Deputy Commissioner  
Capital Projects

T 718.760.6602  
F 718.760.6666

E therese.braddick@parks.nyc.gov

City of New York  
Parks & Recreation

Olmsted Center  
Flushing Meadows  
Corona Park  
Flushing, NY 11368  
[www.nyc.gov/parks](http://www.nyc.gov/parks)

February 27, 2017

Ms. Jennifer Betsworth  
National Register Unit  
New York State Division for Historic Preservation  
P.O. Box 189  
Waterford, New York 12188-0189

Re: Owner Consent Letter for Nomination of the Ridgewood Reservoir to the National Register of Historic Places

Dear Ms. Betsworth:

The City of New York Department of Parks & Recreation (NYC Parks) is pleased to provide a letter of support for the nomination of the Ridgewood Reservoir (the Reservoir), Highland Park, to the National and State Registers of Historic Places. It is NYC Parks' intention that the site boundary be defined by the embankment and pathway that encircles the three basins, consistent with NYC Parks' proposed Critical Environmental Area boundary reflected in the attached map.

The Reservoir was a key component of the first central public water supply system for Brooklyn. Shortly after its incorporation as a City in 1834, Brooklyn initiated a search for a reliable public water supply to supplant the system of shallow wells, cisterns and springs that served its neighborhoods. After many years of public deliberation and investigation, groundbreaking for the Ridgewood Aqueduct and Reservoir System was on July 11, 1856 and water was first raised on November 18, 1858. Over time, the supply system was expanded to incorporate additional streams and groundwater wells, and the distribution system was enlarged in 1891.

In 1898, Brooklyn merged with the City of New York and gained access to the New York City water supply system. With the completion of the Catskill Aqueduct and City Tunnel No. 1 in 1917, a high-quality water source from the Catskills became available and the Ridgewood System was placed on standby status. The system was used as necessary to supplement the Catskill water during the first half of the 20th century, but the eventual development of additional upstate reservoirs and City Tunnel No. 2 increased availability to Brooklyn and ended the need for water from the Ridgewood System. The Reservoir became a backup reservoir in 1959, and was last used during a drought period in the 1960s.

The Reservoir was finally decommissioned in 1989. The original pump station has been removed, but historic structural elements remain, including the reservoir structure itself, a small section of original perimeter fencing, and a brick pump house and gate house along the northern edge of the west and central basins, providing a tangible physical connection to the Reservoir's prior role as an important public works that was integral to the development and public health of the City.



NYC Parks

Therese Braddick  
Deputy Commissioner  
Capital Projects

T 718.760.6602  
F 718.760.6666

E [therese.braddick@parks.nyc.gov](mailto:therese.braddick@parks.nyc.gov)

City of New York  
Parks & Recreation

Olmsted Center  
Flushing Meadows  
Corona Park  
Flushing, NY 11368  
[www.nyc.gov/parks](http://www.nyc.gov/parks)

In 2004, the Reservoir was officially turned over from the New York City Department of Environmental Protection to NYC Parks, by which time the site had been reclaimed by both native and non-native vegetation, upland forest and freshwater wetlands. In response to public support for maintaining the three basins in their current state as naturalized open space, NYC Parks pursued a dam hazard reclassification with the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), such that the dam would be rated low-hazard instead of its Class C high-hazard rating. Prior to any approval, DEC required that the Reservoir be fully disconnected from the public water system, a critical step that was achieved in 2016 through a water main project managed by the New York City Department of Design & Construction.

In the interim, NYC Parks successfully completed the construction of a joint bicycle and pedestrian pathway around the Reservoir, which is heavily used throughout the year and provides a benefit to human health, just as it did when it was first constructed and provided a clean, reliable water supply to a rapidly growing population.

The Reservoir is a site with unique historic value and exceptional character. NYC Parks is committed to sustaining and, in direct coordination with the local community, exploring the expansion of the vision for the property in a manner that is sensitive to and serves to enhance its history and character. NYC Parks fully supports the inclusion of the Ridgewood Reservoir in the State and National Registers of Historic Places.

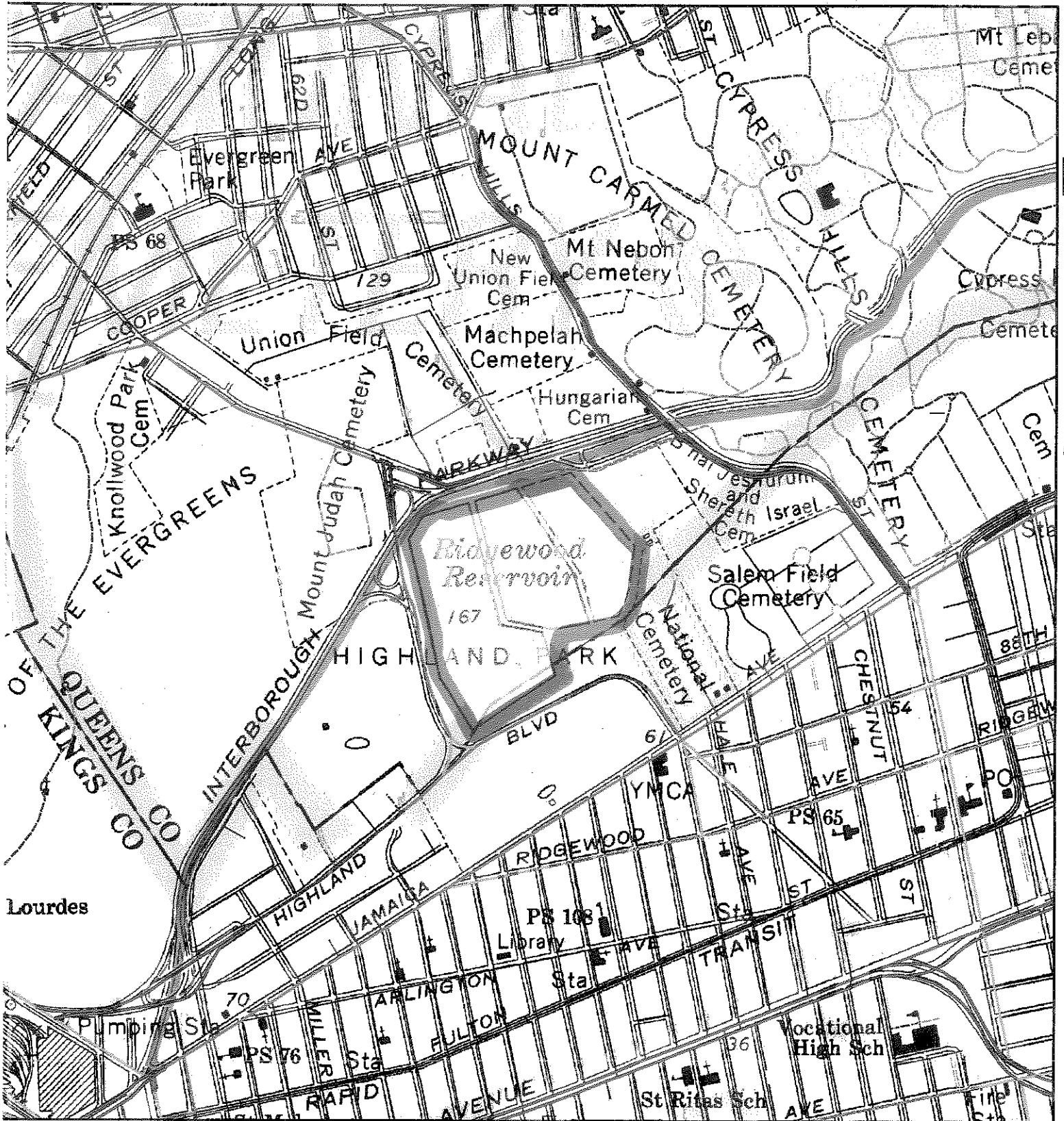
If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Meredith Griffin directly at (718) 393-7305 or [meredith.griffin@parks.nyc.gov](mailto:meredith.griffin@parks.nyc.gov).

Sincerely,

Therese Braddick

**Ridgewood Reservoir  
Critical Environmental Area (CEA)**

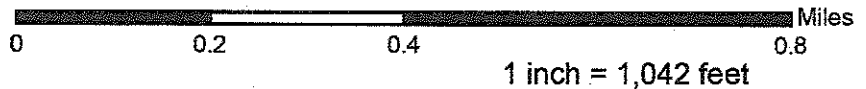
**Designating Agency : New York City Parks and Recreation**  
**Effective Date of Designation: ?**



**Legend**



Ridgewood Reservoir CEA



**Base Map: DOT 1:24,000 Planimetric Images**

Disclaimer: This map was prepared by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation in conjunction with New York City Parks and Recreation, for displaying methods, using the most current data available. It is deemed accurate but is not guaranteed. NYS DEC is not responsible for any inaccuracies in the data. Please contact the designating authority for additional information regarding legal boundary descriptions.



February 9, 2017

Commissioner Rose Harvey,  
NY State Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation  
Rose.Harvey@parks.ny.gov  
Peebles Island State Park  
P.O. Box 189  
Waterford, NY 12188-0189

Commissioner Harvey:

We wholeheartedly support the listing of the Ridgewood Reservoir on the State and National Register of Historic Places. This landmark in engineering history is the most important example of 19th century urban infrastructure in the City of New York, and it certainly merits recognition.

Built between 1856 and 1858, the Ridgewood Reservoir is the last remaining piece of the water supply system of the City of Brooklyn. It was an engineering marvel at the time, and today it is an important feature of Highland Park. The reservoir offers insight into the environmental history of Brooklyn, Queens and Nassau County, and as such is invaluable.

Since being decommissioned in 1989, the three reservoir basins have evolved into distinct ecological environments, from woodlands to wetlands. This evolution is unique in the city and affords an unequalled opportunity to study nature.

The Ridgewood Reservoir merits recognition as a landmark in urban history, engineering history, and environmental history, and we urge you to list this site on the New York State Register of Historic Places and the National Register.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Deborah Spector".

President, Brooklyn Historical Society

Brooklyn Historical Society  
128 Pierrepont Street  
Brooklyn, New York 11201

Phone: 718-222-4111  
brooklynhistory.org



cc: Ruth Pierpont, Director, Division for Historic Preservation;  
Ruth.Pierpont@parks.ny.gov  
NYC H2O; info@nych2o.org



February 15, 2017

625 Jamaica Avenue  
Brooklyn, NY 11208-1203

T 718 647 2800  
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Commissioner Rose Harvey,  
NY State Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation  
Rose.Harvey@parks.ny.gov  
Peebles Island State Park  
P.O. Box 189  
Waterford, NY 12188-0189

Dear Commissioner Harvey:

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The Ridgewood Reservoir merits recognition as a landmark in urban history, engineering history, and environmental history, and we urge you to list this site on the New York State Register of Historic Places and the National Register.

Sincerely,

Michelle Neugebauer  
Executive Director  
Cypress Hills Local Development Corporation

cc: Michael Lynch, Director, Division for Historic Preservation  
NYC H20  
Queens Borough Parks Commissioner Dotty Lewandowski  
Liam Kavanagh, Deputy Parks Commissioner  
Steve Zahn, Acting Director NY State DEC Region 2  
Ken Scarlatelli, Natural Resource Manager for NY State DEC Region 2  
Salema Davis, CB5 Brooklyn Parks Committee Chairwoman



**FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT  
FOR HEALTHY LIVING  
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

March 3, 2017

Commissioner Rose Harvey,  
NY State Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation  
[Rose.Harvey@parks.ny.gov](mailto:Rose.Harvey@parks.ny.gov)  
Peebles Island State Park  
P.O. Box 189  
Waterford, NY 12188-0189

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The Ridgewood Reservoir merits recognition as a landmark in urban history, engineering history, and environmental history, and we urge you to list this site on the New York State Register of Historic Places and the National Register.

Sincerely,

  
Marjorie Jean-Jacques  
Interim Executive Director

cc: Michael Lynch, Director, Division for Historic Preservation; [Michael.Lynch@parks.ny.gov](mailto:Michael.Lynch@parks.ny.gov)  
NYC H2O; [info@nych2o.org](mailto:info@nych2o.org)  
Queens Borough Parks Commissioner Dotty Lewandowski; [dorothy.lewandowski@parks.nyc.gov](mailto:dorothy.lewandowski@parks.nyc.gov)  
Liam Kavanagh, Deputy Parks Commissioner; [liam.kavanagh@parks.nyc.gov](mailto:liam.kavanagh@parks.nyc.gov)  
Steve Zahn, Acting Director NY State DEC Region 2; [steve.zahn@dec.ny.gov](mailto:steve.zahn@dec.ny.gov)  
Ken Scarlatelli, Natural Resource Manager for NY State DEC Region 2;  
[kenneth.scarlatelli@dec.ny.gov](mailto:kenneth.scarlatelli@dec.ny.gov)  
Salema Davis, CB5 Brooklyn Parks Committee Chairwoman; [Salemafabu@yahoo.com](mailto:Salemafabu@yahoo.com)

**YMCA OF GREATER NEW YORK** NORTH BROOKLYN YMCA 570 JAMAICA AVENUE BROOKLYN, NY 11208  
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# AIA Brooklyn

A Chapter of The American Institute of Architects

*"Dedicated to the advancement of the architectural profession through education, outreach and mutual support"*

April 12, 2017

Commissioner Rose Harvey,  
NY State Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation  
[Rose.Harvey@parks.ny.gov](mailto:Rose.Harvey@parks.ny.gov)  
Peebles Island State Park  
P.O. Box 189  
Waterford, NY 12188-0189

Re: Ridgewood Reservoir  
Highland Park  
Glendale, Queens

Dear Commissioner Harvey:

At this time, we have concern about the condition of our nation's vital infrastructure, roads, bridges, airports, highways and water resources, to name only a few. We believe that for the health and well-being of our nation, pure, safe, potable water is one of the most important, and if more people knew how the water resources are designed, managed and maintained they will understand the need to protect the environment that supports it.

Listing the Reservoir on the State and National Register of Historic Places will surely help to inform the public of the story of the growth of the New York City's water infrastructure which began with the Ridgewood Reservoir.

The Brooklyn Chapter of the American Institute of Architects is in full support of naming the Ridgewood Reservoir to the Historic Register. And going forward, beyond recognition of the reservoir as a Historic Landmark, buildings on the site are also worthy of landmark status. They could be renovated to become visitor information and learning centers as resources to introduce school groups through models and exhibits the rich history of New York City's water supply and systems.

Sincerely yours,

Jane McGroarty AIA, Chair Urban Design Committee  
Anthony Marchese, AIA

cc: Michael Lynch, Director, Division for Historic Preservation:

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