

John G. Testa
Legislator, 1st District



NEWS RELEASE

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COUNTY LEGISLATOR TESTA ANNOUNCES FUNDS FOR INFRASTRUCTURE REPAIRS AT GEORGE'S ISLAND PARK AND BLUE MOUNTAIN RESERVATION

PUBLIC SAFETY AND CONVENIENCE WILL BENEFIT

White Plains NY – December 6, 2010 - Westchester County Legislator John G. Testa (R-Peekskill) is announcing bond funding for long awaited roadway repairs at two Westchester County parks – George's Island Park and Blue Mountain Reservation.

"These funds and the extensive repairs they will make possible represent long awaited and most welcome news in the name of public convenience and public safety," said Testa.

Major repairs are slated via \$5,400,000 (five million four hundred thousand dollars) in bond funding approved by the Westchester County Board of Legislators at their December 6, 2010 meeting. The funds will provide for much needed infrastructure improvements at three Westchester County parks including George's Island Park and Blue Mountain Reservation, including road resurfacing, new guiderails, and new culverts and swales to reduce storm water runoff in keeping with Westchester County's Best Management Practices for storm water management.

Testa noted "Residents and visitors have complained for years of deteriorating roadway conditions – potholes and sections of the quarter mile access roadway where asphalt has all but disappeared. Both George's Island Park and Blue Mountain Reservation are used extensively by individuals and organizations and safe, comfortable access for all users is very important. I know firsthand how extensively the public utilizes these parks. Growing up and living in Peekskill I have spent many hours in these wonderful public areas. They have been neglected for too long."

George's Island Park, located just south of the City of Peekskill, in Montrose on the Hudson River is comprised of 204 acres with a range of environmental settings including tidal wetlands, freshwater ponds, and woodlands. There are pavilions for public use as well as a public boat launch, which offers the only direct access to the Hudson River among all the county's park facilities.

George's Island, acquired by the County in 1966, is part of the Hudson River Greenway and is on the site of an historic former brick making facility. The location has been the site of archeological finds dating back to the time of early Native American settlement.

Blue Mountain Reservation located within the City of Peekskill at the Cortlandt border has some 2 ½ miles of roadways, and George's Island approximately 2 miles plus parking lot areas that will be addressed with the coming funding.

Both parks have strong public use with George's Island hosting some 48,000 visitors per year and Blue Mountain Reservation in the range of 75,000 visitors.

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