



REGIONAL PLAN ASSOCIATION, INC.

... a research and planning agency supported by voluntary membership to promote the coordinated development of the New York-New Jersey-Connecticut Metropolitan Region.

230 West 41st Street, New York 36, N.Y.

(Area Code 212) LOngacre 5-1714

NEWS RELEASE

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August 17, 1965
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For information call John P. Keith
LO 5-1714 or (914) WH 9-8541 (Home)

The attached statement by John P. Keith, Executive Vice President of Regional Plan Association, is to be given before the New York City Planning Commission on August 18, 1965, in support of the map change to designate the portion of Breezy Point in front of the cottages as public park.

Att.

REGIONAL PLAN ASSOCIATION STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF THE MAP CHANGE
TO DESIGNATE THE PORTION OF BREEZY POINT IN FRONT OF THE COTTAGES AS
PUBLIC PARK. Before the New York City Planning Commission, August 18, 1965.

My name is John P. Keith. I am Executive Vice President of
Regional Plan Association.

The Association heartily endorses the mapping of 260 acres of the
Rockaway peninsula between Beach 193rd Street and Beach 222nd Street as a
public park, as per CP-19018, and by doing so linking the two major sections
of Breezy Point already mapped and condemned.

This is an essential step in carrying out this Commission's and the
Board of Estimate's policy to create a great oceanfront park at Breezy
Point, extending $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles from Jacob Riis Park to the tip of the peninsula.
This policy is unequivocally established in Mayor Wagner's statement on
behalf of the Board of Estimate of September 12, 1963.

We further urge that the City be encouraged to negotiate with the
Department of Defense for release of Fort Tilden for a dollar a year as
has the State of New Jersey for 731 acres of Sandy Hook, also a military
reservation and now being used as a state park.

We also urge that this Commission hasten its publicly stated intention
to create a grand conception of the future park. We have every hope that
something as bold as an international design competition can be held to
plan the park, the surrounding area, and access to it. When such a plan is
before the public then all the lesser questions of transportation and finance
will fit into place.

Both steps are necessary to assure a beach of adequate size to meet
the ocean recreation needs of the millions of New Yorkers increasingly
being cut off from access to Long Island beaches.

August, 1965