



Regional Plan Association

Regional Plan Association is a research and planning organization supported by voluntary membership to coordinate conservation and development in the Tri-State Urban Region.

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PALISADES CONSERVATION PLAN TO BE UNVEILED AT PUBLIC MEETINGS SPONSORED BY RPA AND TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND

A plan to preserve the Lower Palisades cliffs between Fort Lee and Jersey City, including Castle Point in Hoboken, was presented today at the first of two public meetings sponsored by Regional Plan Association and The Trust for Public Land, the civic organizations which drew up the plan. The second meeting will take place on October 5.

The Palisades Conservation Plan has five interrelated goals: (1) To protect open space and historic resources on the cliffs; (2) To improve access between the communities atop the cliffs and the developments at the base; (3) To preserve the views from the Palisades, as well as the aesthetic quality of the cliffs themselves; (4) To create new recreational opportunities; and (5) To improve environmental quality in the whole Palisades area.

The centerpiece of the plan is the creation of a Lower Palisades Greenway, which would integrate existing and new parks, scenic roads and trails, historic sites,

viewpoints and the area's natural resources into a unified open space system.

The plan's recommendations include an implementation strategy involving multiple local, county and state agencies, citizen groups and developers. Most importantly, the plan recommends a Palisades Protection bill and extension of the Palisades Interstate Park Commission boundary to include the Lower Palisades cliffs. The municipalities are called on to include Palisades conservation policies in their local ordinances and master plans.

The \$50,000 plan was funded by The Fund for New Jersey; the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Coastal Resources; CPC International; and Thomas J. Lipton, Inc. It is based on one and a half years of research and interviews to determine how the Palisades are being used at present and which features are most in need of protection.

"The Lower Palisades are a unique regional resource, offering magnificent views to residents of the ten waterfront municipalities from Jersey City to Fort Lee," said Thomas J. Stanton, Jr., Chairman of National Westminster Bancorp NJ and of the New Jersey Committee of Regional Plan. "They represent one of the few remaining opportunities to increase the amount of public open space in this densely packed urban area. The fact that the waterfront is being extensively redeveloped presents an excellent opportunity to improve the appearance and usefulness of the cliffs. This Conservation Plan is intended to be a guide for private developers, municipal and state officials and the residents of Hudson and Bergen Counties as they make important decisions about the use of the Palisades."

A copy of the full report is available from Regional Plan Association at (201) 623-1133.

Regional Plan Association is nonprofit civic organization which has been planning for the Tri-State Region since the 1920s. In 1985, RPA published a report called River City, which argued for coordinated development of the Lower Hudson waterfront and preservation of the Palisades cliffs. This plan extends that work by providing specific recommendations with respect to the cliffs.

The Trust for Public Land is a nonprofit land conservation organization which operates throughout the United States. It works with both private and public agencies, citizen groups and developers to acquire and preserve open space and to improve access to public lands. TPL is currently forming a regional nonprofit organization, The Hudson River Waterfront Trust of New Jersey, Inc., to manage the Hudson Waterfront walkway and participate in the implementation of the Lower Palisades Greenway.

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