



NYC Parks

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**City of New York
Parks & Recreation**

Stonehenge
Clove Lakes Park
1150 Clove Road
Staten Island, NY 10301
www.nyc.gov/parks

Wednesday, August 23, 2017

Re: Olmsted-Beil House

NYC Parks is committed to preserving our heritage through the preservation of this property. Parks encourages dedicated citizens to form non-profit organizations which can care for our historic homes and open them up to the public. Although we have yet to find a group willing to take on the care and management of the site, we have been working diligently to provide the framework for a future group interested in serving as an administrator of the property.

Since we acquired the Olmsted-Beil House, we have performed work to stabilize and secure the house with the help of the Historic House Trust of New York City and the New York Landmarks Conservancy. Through our Forestry division and our Natural Resources Group we have worked on propagating saplings of the trees planted by Olmsted in order to ensure that what little remains of Olmsted's landscape will also be preserved. Unfortunately, a fire in the kitchen, along with limited funding has caused a setback to the restoration. As of now, site access is limited to a narrow residential road and an easement through private property.

In order to provide true public access to the house, we are currently in process of acquiring the adjacent property through funding provided by local elected officials. We are also discussing next steps in preserving the house with the New York Landmarks Conservancy by getting an updated conditions survey of the house, which will better aid us in moving forward with the restoration.

There are a number of ways that you can help support the Olmsted-Beil House, most importantly you can lend support by helping to found a "Friends of" group or historic house museum. We appreciate any way that you can help us preserve the house where Olmsted tested and developed his landscape skills before becoming the father of American landscape architecture.

If you have any further questions or concerns, please feel free to call my office at 718-390-8005.

Sincerely,

Lynda A. Ricciardone
Borough Commissioner