

Rothman Receives "Friend Of The Hackensack River" Award For Meadowlands Environmental Park Vision

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Rothman Receives "Friend Of The Hackensack River" Award For Efforts To Create A Meadowlands Environmental Park
Hackensack Riverkeeper Honors Congressman At Annual Dinner

Lyndhurst, NJ - In recognition of his efforts to turn the 8,400 undeveloped acres of the Hackensack Meadowlands into an environmental park, the Hackensack Riverkeeper organization tonight honored Congressman Steve Rothman (D-NJ9) with its "Friend of the Hackensack River" award. Rothman was recognized along with others who have played a role in the preservation of the Northern New Jersey wetlands, including Cathie and Jay Morrow, Channel 10 News, and Steve Royka of Little Ferry, who won the Outstanding Volunteer Award.

"I am very humbled to receive this "Friend of the Hackensack River" award tonight and thank the Hackensack Riverkeeper for this great honor," Rothman said. "My work to save these 8,400 acres and turn them into an environmental park would not be possible were it not for Captain Bill Sheehan and his team at the Hackensack Riverkeeper. Together, we are turning these precious wetlands from being written off as swampy wasteland and garbage dumps to a nationally and even internationally renowned environmental park that will improve the quality of life for the people of our region."

Rothman, a lifelong resident of Bergen County, has made the preservation of the 8,400 undeveloped acres of the Hackensack Meadowlands - less than half a mile from the Arena/Giants Stadium property -- a top priority. He has been the leader of the effort to spare the presently undeveloped wetlands, landfills, and toxic sites from development with the intention of turning them into an environmental park with opportunities for eco-canoe trips, nature walks, bird watching, other appropriate recreational activities, and an environmental educational center for children.

Founded in 1997, Hackensack Riverkeeper is the leading environmental organization working on Hackensack River issues and is a founding member of the Hackensack Meadowlands Partnership. Riverkeeper Bill Sheehan also serves as the Chairperson of the Meadowlands Conservation Trust, the state-chartered entity given the power to acquire, hold and maintain environmentally sensitive lands within the Hackensack River watershed.

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