

## Rothman Facilitates Meeting Between National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration & New Jersey Meadowlands Commission

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Two Agencies Discuss Rothman's Plan For A Meadowlands Environmental Park

Washington, DC - Congressman Steve Rothman (D-NJ9) today facilitated a meeting in Washington, DC between the New Jersey Meadowlands Commission (NJMC) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Rothman arranged the meeting for the NJMC, which is seeking federal, environmental expertise as it puts the final touches on its Master Plan for the Hackensack Meadowlands District that includes Rothman's plan for an 8,400 acre Meadowlands Environmental Park.

"I was delighted to facilitate a meeting between the New Jersey Meadowlands Commission and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration so that we could get technical advice from federal environmental experts on our plan for an 8,400 acre Meadowlands Environmental Park," Rothman said. "With each day that passes, our dream of an environmental park moves closer to reality. I will continue to work closely with our partners at the New Jersey Meadowlands Commission and all other relevant local, state, and federal agencies to ensure that the creation of this environmental park continues to move forward."

Following the NJMC-NOAA meeting, Rothman met with NJMC Executive Director Bob Ceberio. Rothman expressed his gratitude to Ceberio for the NJMC agreeing to fully match the \$4.2 million in federal land acquisition funds Rothman secured over the past two years as a member of the powerful House Appropriations Committee. The NJMC, which is currently negotiating the purchase of the 8,400 acres from landowners, expects to have at least 90 percent of the property permanently in public hands within the next year. Rothman also praised the NJMC for agreeing to partner with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on a three-year, \$5.2 million federal study of how best to cleanup and preserve the Meadowlands. Rothman organized the study and got the U.S. Congress to back the initiative in June 2001.

A century ago, the Meadowlands was a vast piece of open space spanning 21,000 acres. Today, just outside of the Arena and Giants Stadium property, only 8,400 of those acres remain undeveloped, keeping river water from flooding the streets of surrounding communities. That part of the Meadowlands still supports a diverse and growing concentration of migratory birds and is home to 65 species of nesting birds and more than 50 species of fish and shellfish.

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