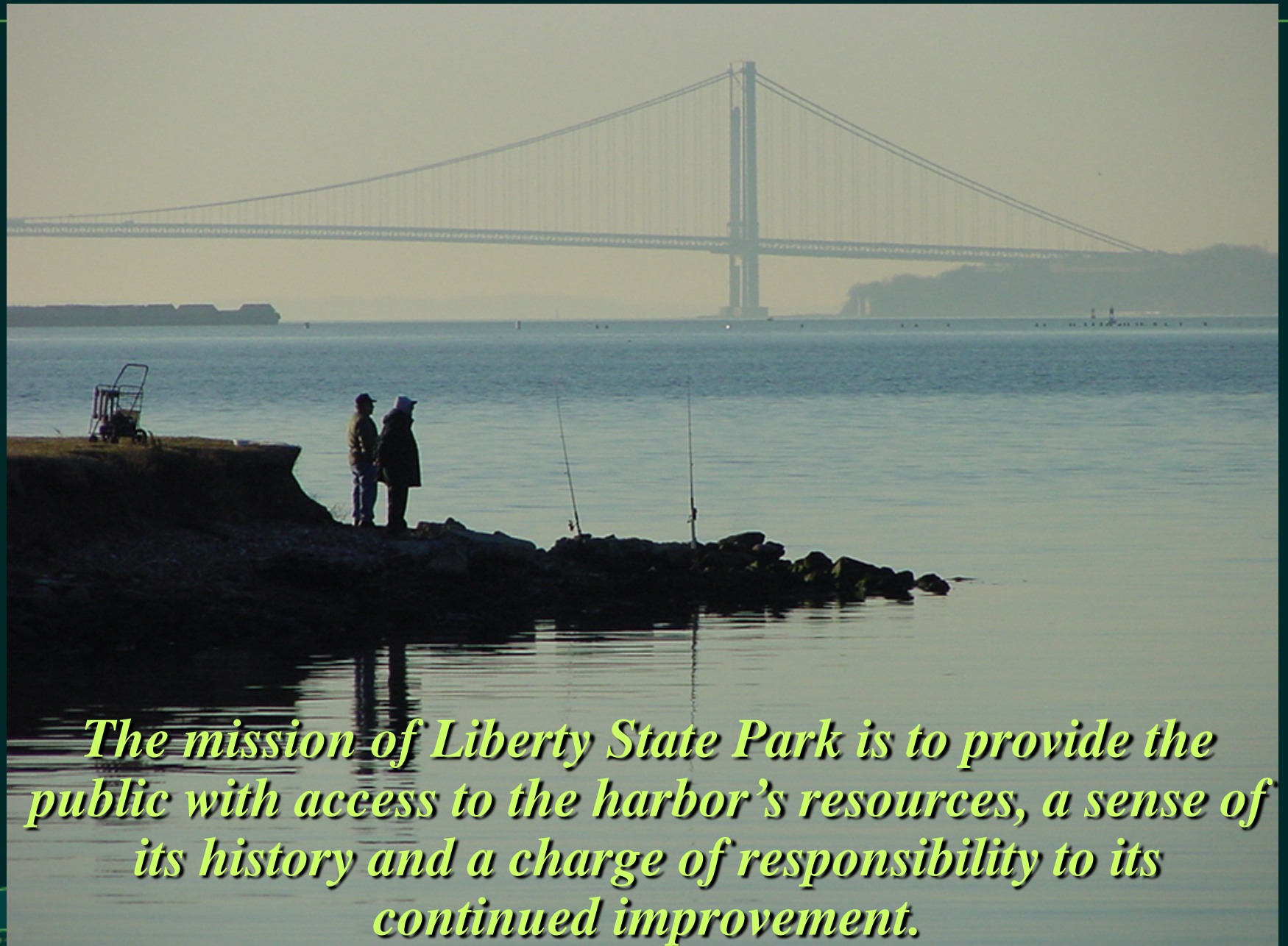


Liberty State Park



Liberty State Park



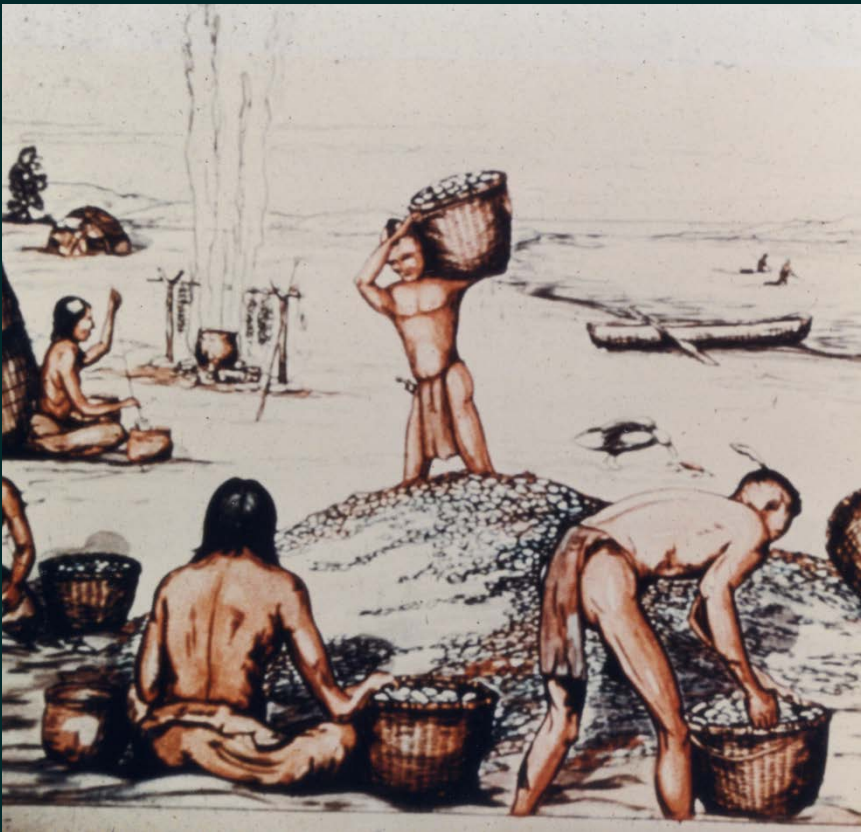
The mission of Liberty State Park is to provide the public with access to the harbor's resources, a sense of its history and a charge of responsibility to its continued improvement.

The History of Liberty State Park



Liberty State Park

In the Beginning...



- The indigenous people were known as the Lenape Indians.
- This area was called Communipaw, which translates to “big landing place on the side of the river”.
- The area was rich marshland with plentiful, diverse natural resources, such as fish, oysters, and plants.
- Oyster shells were found that were over a foot in length.

Settlement and Development

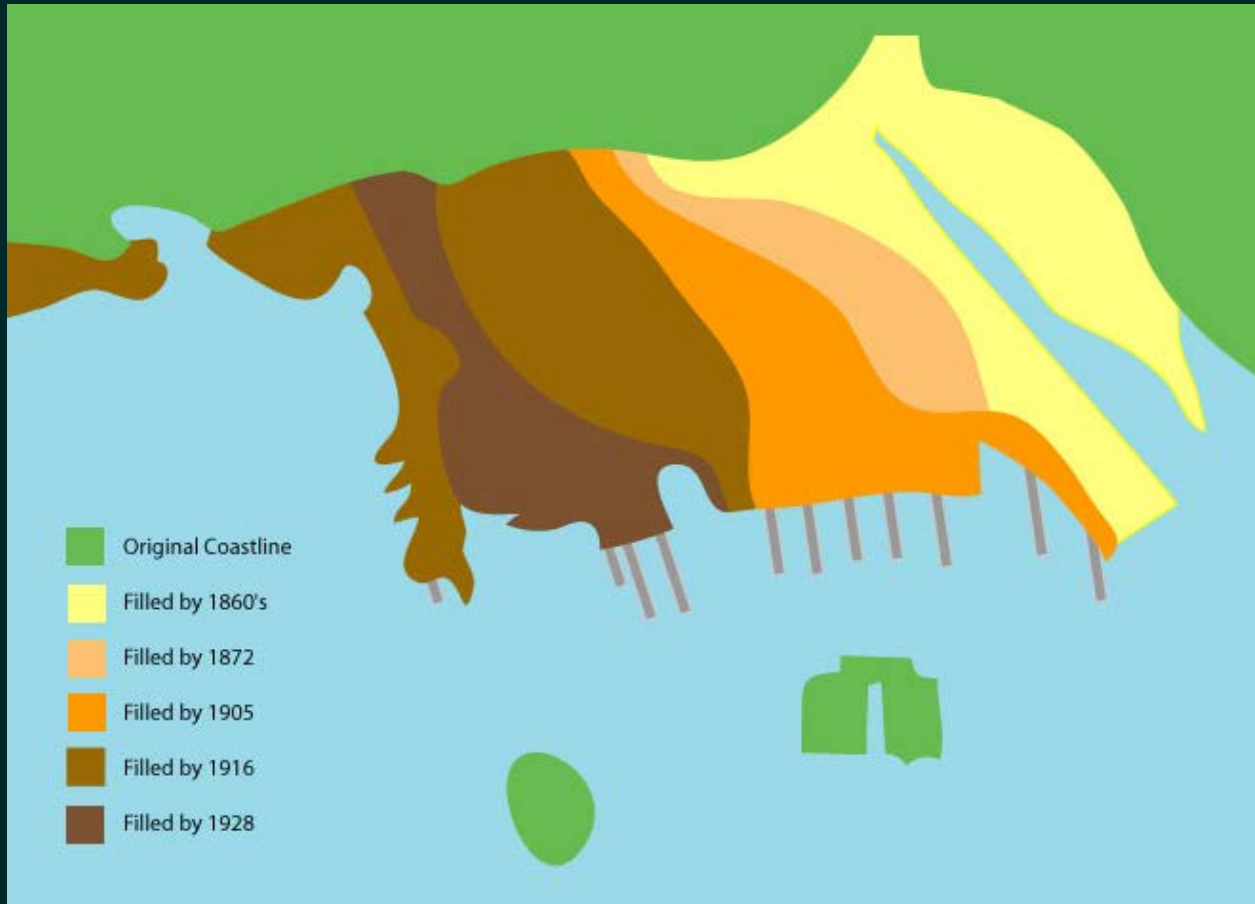
- In 1609, explorers from Europe arrived. The Dutch were the first to settle and develop the area.
- This was the first of many changes to the land.
- Settlers saw the bountiful natural resources and how to use them.
- There was plenty of food, space, and access to the water, which established easy routes for transportation.
- Water was the main sources of transportation for many years, and helped to establish trade routes with other areas of the world.

Industrial Revolution



- Due to the Industrial Revolution, an increased need for transportation called for the Morris Canal to be built.
- In 1836 the Canal was finished, and it spanned the entire state of NJ, connecting the Delaware River to the Hudson. A small remnant of the Canal can still be seen, and is located where the Marina now stands.
- As the century progressed, trains became a more effective means of transportation, and the need for the canal eventually came to an end.

“Historic Fill”

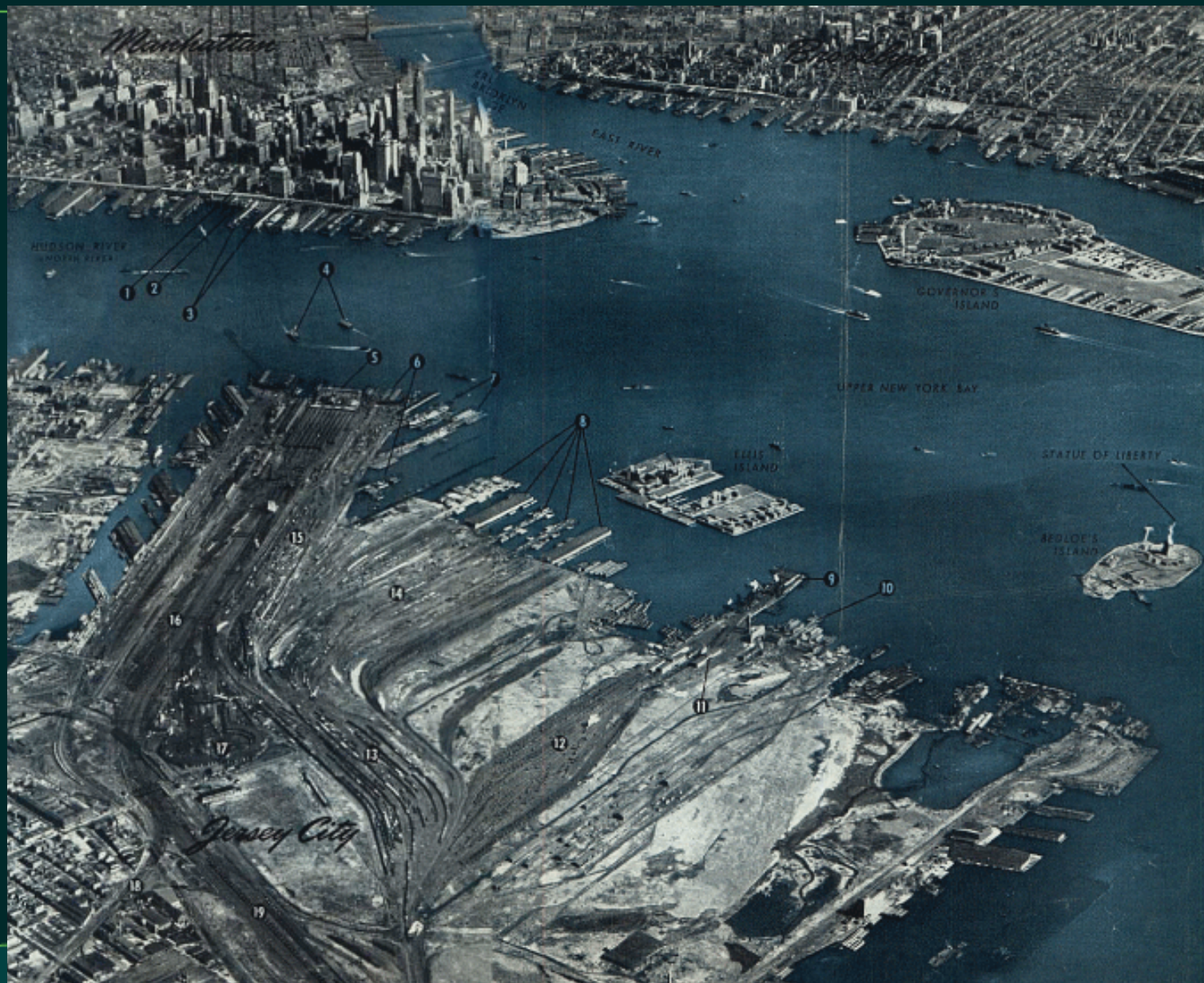


- The area that is now Liberty State Park used to be all marshland. Over the years this area was filled in with what is called “historic fill”.
- The fill was a combination of many things, including soil from the New York subways, garbage, and pretty much anything else they could find.

Central Railroad of New Jersey



- The increased use of locomotives resulted in the need for the Central Railroad of New Jersey (CRRNJ) to build a train terminal.
- At the turn of the century, the CRRNJ Terminal was the largest terminal in the New York Harbor area. The terminal connected people and freight, from train to water ferry, to NYC.
- Trains moved numerous people and coal for many years.



Liberty State Park

Black Tom



- In the early 1900's, Black Tom was serving as a major munitions depot. The depot sold ammunition to buyers throughout the world.
- During World War I, the United States attempted to stay neutral and not join the fight. Ammunition was being sold to countries such as France and Great Britain.
- On June 30th, 1916, German saboteurs blew up the depot.
- The explosion caused major damage, blew out windows in Jersey City, and also weakened the torch on the Statue of Liberty

MAP OF BLACK TOM ISLAND

JERSEY CITY, NEW JERSEY

SHOWING AREA DAMAGED BY EXPLOSION AND FIRE

JULY 30TH 1916.

SCALE 100 FEET TO AN INCH.

Published by Sanborn Map Co.
11 Broadway, New York City.

Note.
This territory also covered by sheets
2512, 2513 & 2514 of Hudson County, N.J.

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NATIONAL STORAGE COMPANY
NATIONAL BULK DEPOT OF WARE HOUSES & PIER
CONNECTION (JERSEY CITY)

Not Damaged

WRECKER BELTWOOD
REPAIRS TO BE MADE
AND THE EXISTING
WORKS TO BE REPAIR
AND REPAIRS

Small Damage
Post Explosion
at this end

497

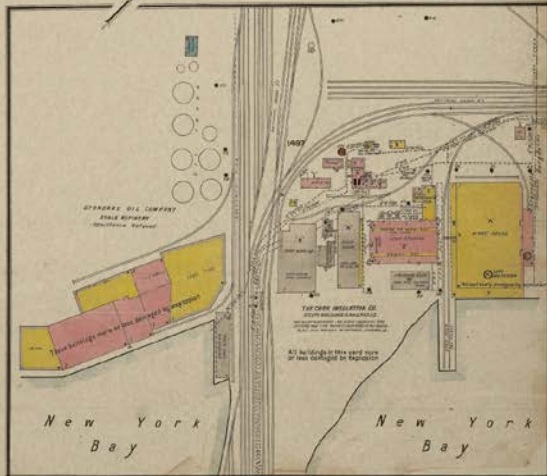
BLACK TOM ISLAND
(PROPERTY OF CENTRAL R.R. OF N.J.)

2154

PIER NO. 4
WRECKED BY EXPLOSION
WRECKED BY EXPLOSION
WRECKED BY EXPLOSION

PIER NO. 5
DESTROYED BY FIRE

PIER NO. 6
DESTROYED BY FIRE



Decline

- In 1967, the CRRNJ filed for bankruptcy.
- Train travel was becoming less and less needed, as more Americans owned cars and could travel their own way on highways.
- The abandoned railyards were left as desolate wasteland of waterfront.

Raising Interest

- In 1957, a businessman named Morris Pesin along with a local reporter, made his historic canoe crossing to the Statue of Liberty in order to raise awareness about the area that is now Liberty State Park.



Grassroots Campaign



- The 1960's and 70's saw another revolution of sorts, an awakening of environmental awareness to protect open space.
- Local advocate groups, politicians, and patrons worked together to bring awareness to the abandoned waterfront and plans to use it for open public space.
- Pictured: Audrey and Warren Zapp.

The Beginning of Liberty State Park



- The grassroots effort started by Morris Pesin and other local activists was responsible for the creation of Liberty State Park.
- On June 14th, 1976, Liberty State Park was opened. It was New Jersey's gift to the nation for the Bicentennial Celebration.

Liberty State Park Today



Liberty State Park

General Info

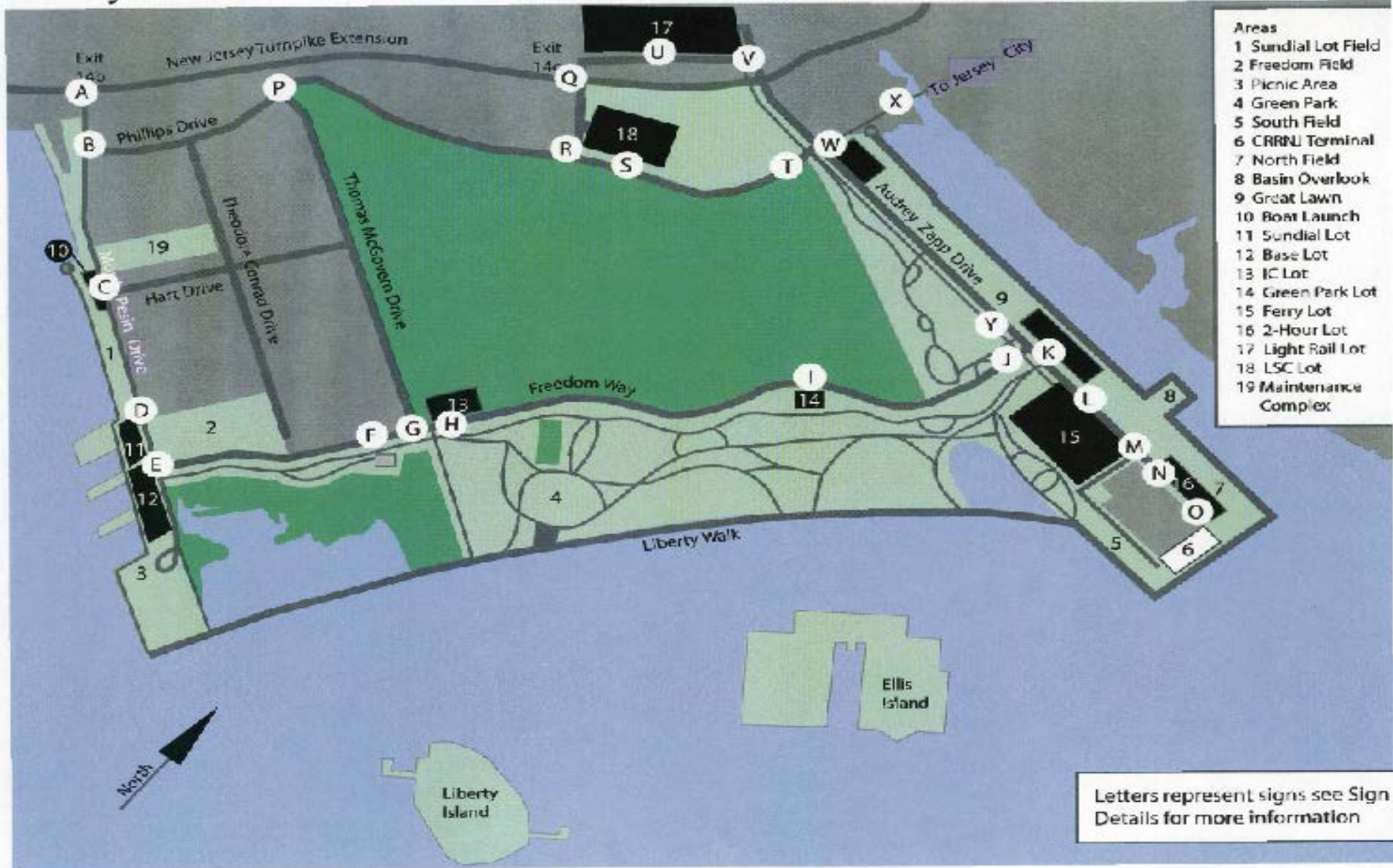


- This is New Jersey's only Urban State Park.
- The park is made up of 1200 acres spanning 2 miles of the Hudson River across from NY and the Statue of Liberty.
- The areas include the main park, Caven Point Beach, and sections of Downtown Jersey City.
- Over 5 Million people visit the Park each year, which makes it the second busiest State Park in the nation.

Layout of Liberty State Park Today

Liberty State Park

Sign Map



Notable Areas in Liberty State Park



Liberty State Park

CRRNJ Terminal



- This beautiful building was built in 1889 and was the head house for the Central Railroad of New Jersey.
- Approximately 2/3 of the immigrants who passed through Ellis Island boarded trains from this terminal.
- Up until the late 1960's, thousands of commuters passed by train to ferry through this building on their way to New York.
- Today, the ferry to Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island leaves from this location.

Caven Point

- Caven Point includes a sandy beach and salt marsh. It provides habitat for a wide variety of wildlife including some threatened species.
- The area is used for a variety of environmental education and public nature programs.
- Caven Point is open to the public October through March.







Richard J. Sullivan Natural Area

- This is state protected tidal marshland, the only remaining naturally occurring one in our area.
- Left unchanged, it gives us a good idea of how all the land which today is Liberty State Park used to look before development.
- Salt marshes are natural buffers for storms, and protect higher area from flooding by taking the brunt of wind and storm surge.





Freshwater Pond

- A renovated area behind the Nature Interpretive Center, which was once a rain-fed pond choked with invasive reeds known as Phragmites.
- In 2005, the fill was taken out and replaced with new soil, and the pond was expanded and stocked with native fish.
- Newly created habitat brought homes for animals, and an aesthetic view for park patrons.





The Interior

- Located in the center of the park, these 251 acres of land are currently closed to the public.
- A former railyard, plans will be to restore and transform this current plant community into an accessible part of Liberty State Park.
- The plans are to include freshwater wetlands, wooded sites, and nature trails.





Liberty State Park

Hudson River Waterfront Walkway



- This two-mile walk connects the southern and northern sections of the park and offers the visitor an unparalleled view of the Harbor, the Statue of Liberty, Ellis Island and New York City.
- This is one section of the Hudson River Waterfront Walkway which spans from the George Washington Bridge to the Bayonne Bridge. Most of the walkway is complete as of 2017.

Thank You!



Liberty State Park