



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**
New York District

News Release

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Corps sets meeting on Davids Island cleanup

NEW YORK (March 7) -- The U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District, will hold a public information meeting March 22 to present the findings of the draft Environmental Assessment and to discuss plans for a project to demolish and remove buildings on Davids Island, the former Fort Slocum.

Project Manager Gregory Goepfert said the project was assigned to the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers by the Department of Defense, Office of Economic Adjustment, to assist the City of New Rochelle in creating open space on Davids Island.

“A significant amount of planning work has been completed. We want to be sure that the environment will not be significantly impacted by this project, and that we have taken into consideration the historic significance of this property,” said Goepfert. “We now want to solicit public comment on the draft Environmental Assessment and planning work we have accomplished thus far.”

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Davids Island consists of about 80 acres and is located in Long Island Sound, roughly a half-mile east of New Rochelle. Approximately 93 abandoned buildings and related infrastructure from Fort Slocum, which closed in the 1960s, occupy the island. Vegetation covers much of the site, obscuring the original configuration of the base. Vandalism, arson and years of neglect have either significantly damaged or destroyed all of the buildings. The dilapidated condition of the buildings and infrastructure result in numerous safety hazards, and the island is generally unsafe for public use.

The Corps of Engineers proposes to demolish and remove all remaining structures on the island, which is now owned by the City of New Rochelle. Westchester County has expressed interest in establishing a park on the island.

To date, \$4.1 million has been appropriated for the building removal project. The total project to demolish and remove all 93 buildings is estimated to cost \$17.5 million.

Members of the community are invited to attend the meeting, which will be held from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 515 North Ave., New Rochelle.

The draft Environmental Assessment is available for public review at the New Rochelle Public Library, located at 1 Library Place, New Rochelle. Comments are requested by April 5, 2005, and may be addressed to Gregory J. Goepfert, Project Manager, U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District, CENAN-PP-E, 26 Federal Plaza, Room 1811, New York, NY 10278-0090. Mr. Goepfert may be contacted by calling (917) 790-8235.