

# Ward Acres Park Public Meeting

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**Please join the  
New Rochelle Department of Parks and Recreation,  
and the Ward Acres Steering Committee  
to discuss the  
Conceptual Plan for Ward Acres Park**

Date: Wednesday, March 1, 2006

Time: 7:30 - 9:30 pm

Place: City Hall Council Chamber



*Please refer to reverse of this flyer for  
Ward Acres Fact Sheet*

# **WARD ACRES: KNOW THE FACTS**

*Information from New Rochelle's Department of Parks & Recreation*

## **The Process**

Last year the City launched a planning process intended to preserve and protect Ward Acres, with the goal of ensuring that the park remains a natural environmental resource to be enjoyed by today's residents and by future generations. The City's review is being led by a stakeholder committee composed of various community representatives, including members of the neighborhood associations surrounding the park. One public meeting has already been held to receive input, and the next public meeting is scheduled for March 1st. A final proposal for park improvements will be presented to the City Council later this year.

## **The Park**

With respect to Ward Acres' woods, trails, and meadows, the City's sole purpose is environmental restoration and improvement. The final park plan is likely to include proposals to control invasive vines, restore native habitats, improve eroded trails, introduce interpretative environmental and historical signage, and otherwise ensure that the park's natural beauty can be fully enjoyed. The plan may also propose park rules and amenities to accommodate the greatest possible number of both current and potential users, including pet owners. There is NO possibility that any portion of Ward Acres' woods, trails, or meadows will be built upon or utilized for any purpose other than passive recreation in a natural setting.

## **The Barn**

The Ward barn is the last remaining architectural link to New Rochelle's rural history and, as such, has enormous value to the community. Unfortunately, years of neglect have left the barn in very poor condition. Without action, it will soon be beyond repair. Therefore, as part of the park plan, the City will consider adaptive reuse of the barn, provided that such use: (1) complements the park's natural setting, (2) generates income that can be reinvested in park maintenance and improvement, (3) funds physical rehabilitation of the barn itself, and (4) meets community needs and desires. Any reuse plan would be guided by and dependent upon public support and would require additional study.

Possibilities include a nature/educational center, community event space, or an organic culinary center along the lines of Blue Hill at Stone Barn in the Rockefeller preserve. Contrary to rumors being spread by some, the City has NEVER considered inappropriate uses such as a fast-food restaurant, a drug rehabilitation clinic, or a homeless shelter, and has already rejected suggestions to site government offices in the barn.

## **Get Involved**

The next public meeting on Ward Acres is scheduled for March 1st at 7:30pm in New Rochelle City Hall. If you care about the park's future, please come and make your voice heard. But first know the facts, and don't be fooled by inflammatory, misleading information.