

“Thank you to the Children’s Aid Society who made a commitment to working with the city to preserve this natural resource when they could have gone the route so many others have gone of selling it to the highest bidder, and congratulations to all who have been engaged in this effort.”

-BP ODDO

**BOROUGH PRESIDENT’S
DIRECT CONNECT SUNDAY**

AT THE PETRIDES SCHOOL



HEALTH & WELLNESS QUALITY OF LIFE DEVELOPMENT TRANSPORTATION SAFETY JOBS **RECREATION** EDUCATION TOURISM INFRASTRUCTURE

Since 1912, the Children’s Aid Society had owned and operated a 41-acre site in Randall Manor, but times have changed, and in order to fund its programs the organization needed to sell the bulk of the property. Fortunately, the community-minded Children’s Aid Society did not want to sell to developers and invited the City to acquire the land for public use.

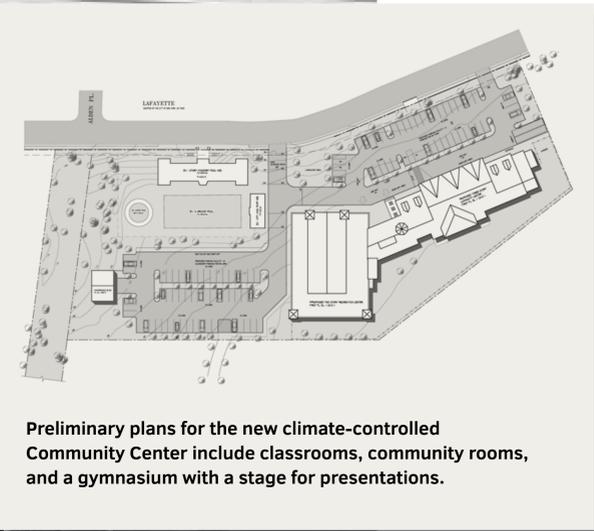
With funds from the Borough President, the City Council, and the Mayor’s office, Phase I (15 acres) was purchased in 2013, and Phase II (11 acres) was purchased in 2015. However, the last parcel, Phase III, remained unfunded. In the spring of 2017, Borough President Oddo committed \$6 million from his capital budget and challenged the City to fund the balance of the cost. By June, the Phase III acquisition was fully funded when the Mayor accepted the challenge and put up the additional money needed.

The new Goodhue Park will feature nearly 37 acres of both passive and active recreation resources, including trails and waterways, woodlands, a gymnasium, and athletic fields. Once the NYC Parks Department completes the final acquisition, this park will be activated to serve the public.

With funds from the final sale of the property, the Children’s Aid Society will build a 61,000 sq. ft. community center adjacent to its existing swimming pool. The facility will provide services, such as early childhood programs, after school programs, foster care services, a day camp, and teen programs. This community center will create opportunities for children to learn and explore interests in art, theatre, sports, computers, leadership, and other academic pursuits.



We are grateful to the administration for heeding our calls to fund this project, and to the Children’s Aid Society for working with us to preserve this land. It’s too bad some other non-profit property owners did not share the same community-friendly values as the Children’s Aid Society.



Preliminary plans for the new climate-controlled Community Center include classrooms, community rooms, and a gymnasium with a stage for presentations.

Staten Island Advance / Thomas Erik Bascome

The Children’s Aid Society & Goodhue Park

EVERYONE BENEFITS - ESPECIALLY THE COMMUNITY