

The West Islip Soccer Club for the past eight years has tried painstakingly to get 75 feet of land from a six acre New York State recharge basin at Anthony Casamento Park without success. We have spent \$40,000 converting unplayable rubble behind the existing tennis courts so we have a small place to practice but we are about 60 feet short to put a SMALL game size soccer field.

Meanwhile New York State has fully funded 6.5 million dollars for the

ground breaking at the NEW YORK STATE PARK located at the Brentwood fields next to Suffolk Community College. This is a 5 minute car ride from Casamento Park. New York State donated 6.5 million dollars for Phase 1 (notice the term Phase 1 which means that phase 2 could be coming as soon as the economy turns) for this project which will include 8 (NOT A TYPO) synthetic turf soccer/ lacrosse fields of various sizes some with lights, 2 baseball fields and a brand new club house/concession stand. Another 6.5 million was requested for even further expansion. (Phase 2)

This location is a NEW YORK STATE OWNED/MANAGED PARK. Brentwood has two High Schools four middle schools and a lot of elementary schools in their community.

New York State Department of parks has informed us that this facility is for the Brentwood Soccer Club Exclusively and they will be the only organization receiving permits whether they can make use of all the fields or not is of no concern to the State nor do they care about additional resources available to them in their community. They told us that the Brentwood Soccer Club will use these fields 7 days a week exclusively.

We have 1600 kids and they have 800 kids in their program. We have a severe overuse issue and that costs our community many extra dollars trying to keep our athletic fields in good condition. Brentwood will not have any school fields in their school district used for soccer/lax youth programs. (A luxury)

We pay \$2500 a year to use Saint Johns High School soccer field because we dont have enough fields. This is for 2 games per weekend for only 18 weeks a year.

How can New York State donate 6.5 million dollars to 1 youth organization/community for 8 turf fields (and possibly donate another 6.5 million for additional upgrades) and we cant get 75 feet which we were willing to pay for ourselves (to renovate) at Casamento Park?

PERMITS FOR THIS NEW YORK STATE OWNED/MANAGED facility will only be issued for the Brentwood Soccer Club? Their school fields will sit empty while ours are overused?

Just like what has happened in other communities throughout Long Island the for profit training organization could now partner up with the non profit Brentwood Soccer Club to utilize this enormous facility under the guise of a community not for profit youth based program and could take in kids/teams from all over Long Island and generate revenue for

the for profit training organizations at the expense/demise of all the surrounding volunteer community based youth programs that will undoubtedly lose kids/teams from their programs due to the central location/suitability of this complex and the ability to accommodate unlimited number of teams (regardless if they are from Brentwood) going forward.

If this were to happen where are the checks and balances with the State investing millions of dollars to insure this massive complex is used primarily by the Brentwood community and if in fact it is not used by youth of the Brentwood community (Meaning down the road they allow a for profit business to use it as for generating revenue) then it should be open to all New York State Tax payers and administered and managed as such just like any other NEW YORK STATE PARK. Regardless of that issue.....

The bottom line reality is that NEW YORK STATE is putting 8 turf fields in Brentwood for a soccer club that is half the size of the West Islip Soccer Club without any oversight or vision nor consideration for what will happen in the future nor the needs of surrounding communities and not factoring in how many school fields/resources are available for the amount of kids CURRENTLY in their youth programs..

Remember this the next time you go to a community meeting and \$\$ is brought up as a topic for concern or the next time you look at your tax bill..... The New York State Tax Payers are paying (6.5 million with another 6.5 million requested) for one small non for profit youth based soccer club and shutting the door for other groups who could use relief in their issues with field usage and the rising costs of maintaining community fields.