



**RIVER SUMMER: PALISADES INTERSTATE PARK COMMISSION: A
COLLABORATION BUILT ON DIFFERENCES**

Discussion Items

- #1) - What if it had not been protected, what could the Palisades Sill and the adjoining waterfront look like now?**
- #2) - What was the motivation for protection? Was it altruistic? Was it self-serving - NIMBY? Little of both? Should we care about motivation when considering conservation issues?**
- #3) - How does Conservation differ from Environmentalism? Park people would call themselves conservationists (about finding ways to protect land - and funds to pay for it for - for residents to explore/enjoy). Do you feel this is an accurate title?**
- #4) - Finances: The money for the purchase of much of the original New Jersey parkland came from New York state? Should NY State spend money for NJ land? NY State pays the full tax on the property acquired in NY. Is this a valid approach to dealing with land looking at out budget crisis? Should it be open and staffed? Is this a sustainable model of operation?**
- #5) - Should land be set aside as open space or should recreational use be encouraged? Is there room for both?**
- #6) - How do you piece together a park from land that is owned by a variety of owners with existing development? Should you be able to invoke eminent domain? Whose rights prevail?**
- #7) - Social Welfare – Public Service – Fresh Air Camps, etc. – Many rich in the 1900s had a focus on public service – the creation of the park helped with this – was this primarily a ‘feel good’ operation by the wealthy or did this fill a useful need? Does this focus still exist today or have we lost that?**
- #8) - History of the Development of Parks - How did this park system fit into the larger role of National and State park systems?**
- #9) In the PIP there is a role for citizen maintenance which was through the establishment of the New Jersey/New York Trail Conference back in the early days of the park system. This group was instrumental in the development of many of the park trails, including the Appalachian trail, and in the ongoing maintenance and upkeep of miles and miles of trails within the park. Is this a sustainable way to maintain a park system? What are the pros and cons of this approach?**