

This is a good development but we need to remain vigilant during its implementation...It is of the utmost importance that when the Parks Department holds their "listening" session that the Queen Civic Congress and other like-minded groups and individuals stay engaged to assure that the will of the people gets heard and that this unique green spot in NYC remain for passive recreation...The City has plenty of other places to build artificial turf "toxic" fields or the Parks Department can do the common sense thing - repair and renovate the existing fields at Highland Park.

David M. Quintana, Highland Park Ridgewood Reservoir Alliance
Read "[Green Statement](#)" issued by Queens Civic Congress and Queens Coalition for Parks and Green Spaces

http://www.nydailynews.com/ny_local/queens/2009/02/18/2009-02-18_ridgewood_reservoir_plan_on_tap.html

Ridgewood Reservoir plan on tap

BY [Lisa L. Colangelo](#)

DAILY NEWS STAFF WRITER

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[City Controller William Thompson](#) has signed off on the first phase of work at the Ridgewood Reservoir.

The Parks Department can move ahead on a design contract for benches, lighting, fences and steps on the perimeter of the site, Thompson said Wednesday.

The revamped agreement also calls for three conceptual plans for the reservoir area. One of those must be dedicated to passive recreation. And all work must be reviewed by community members and advocates.

"Under this new agreement, we have ensured that the public will have a say in the ongoing design and construction process of the rest of the reservoir each step of the way," Thompson said.

Some advocates want the 50-acre reservoir site, now filled with dense shrubs, trees and wetlands, to remain a natural site. They balked at one Parks Department plan that would include filling in one of the basins and clearing some brush for fields.

But other community groups have lobbied for more aggressive renovations, saying the area - located next to [Highland Park](#) on the border of [Brooklyn](#) and [Queens](#) - desperately needs ballfields.

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