



City Council Subcommittee on Zoning and Franchise
February 24, 2021

To whom it may concern,

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NYCAUDUBON.ORG

New York City Audubon supports the zoning changes necessary for the Arverne East project to start work on the proposed nature preserve as a Forever Wild sanctuary. Preserving green space in the Rockaways will benefit people and wildlife by providing opportunity for the community to connect to nature, as well as a safe habitat for migratory birds, and a natural barrier against storm damage.

We have been working with partners to protect birds in the Rockaways for over a decade and are committed to the conservation of beach-nesting species in front of the Arverne East project and the nature preserve. We have been notified that the 2003 Environmental Impact Statement requires the developers to notify future residents that each summer the beach between B44th and B57th is closed to people in order to limit disturbance to the Federally Endangered Piping Plover's breeding sites. We look forward to seeing increased engagement and interpretive signage in the new nature preserve that connects residents and visitors to species that use the habitats both north and south of the boardwalk.

During the COVID crisis, residents have relied on city parks to maintain their mental and physical health. This nature preserve will build community by offering new jobs, a place for students to learn about science and conservation, and somewhere that families can spend time together outside. Foot paths that exclude persistent nocturnal lighting, vehicles and dogs will safeguard the habitat and secure it's benefits, including



protection against flooding. We understand that those using the park want to feel safe at night, but we request that any permanent lights be motion-sensored or on a timer to prevent negative impacts to local wildlife.

A proper preserve will act as a home to wildlife, sanctuary for people, and serve as a necessary natural barrier to protect against future hurricane damage. **Areas like the Rockaways that are important for wildlife are even more important for us -- when you protect birds and habitat, you protect people.**

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Molly Adams

Advocacy and Outreach Manager

NYC Audubon

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From: [Tiffany Loncke](#)
To: [Land Use Testimony](#)
Subject: Arverne East City Council Hearing
Date: Tuesday, February 23, 2021 10:02:16 AM

Good morning, I am Tiffany Loncke, Volunteer Coordinator for the Far Rockaway/Arverne Nonprofit Coalition, known as FRANC. This statement is on behalf of the membership. FRANC is in support of the Arverne East project as long as the L&M Developers, their development team, and NYC Agencies have substantive plans to address the need for infrastructure improvements, and opportunities for our existing businesses, and livable wage employment and home ownership for qualified residents. Thank you!



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Tiffany Loncke
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