

# Randall's Island Sports Fields Development



NEWS FROM THE FIELDS • MARCH 2010

Sports Fields Hotline 212-860-1830

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## NYC DOT Lends a Hand

RISF thanks NYC DOT Manhattan Borough Commissioner Margaret Forgione and the dedicated experts on her staff for help in promoting safety and “traffic calming” measures throughout Randall’s Island Park. For years, RISF has depended on the patient guidance of Gerard Soffian, Deputy Commissioner for Traffic Operations and Ed Corbett, Director of Signs, who work closely with RISF staff to ensure that the newly refurbished Island offers clear signage, sufficient lighting and appropriate traffic safety measures – all crucial to a safe and enjoyable Park visit.

In special news, RISF is excited to announce that – again thanks to the wise guidance and cooperative spirit of our colleagues at NYC DOT – as of March 5, 2010, the 103rd Street Footbridge is open during park hours all year long, from 6 AM



The 103rd Street Footbridge from Manhattan is now open daily 6 AM-midnight, year-round.



103rd Street touch down near East River Fields.

to midnight! This long-awaited increase in Park accessibility has developed in part as a result of recent improvements, which have brought both increased demand and augmented safety and security measures. It is a grand moment for Randall’s Island Park.

The 103rd Street Footbridge opened to pedestrians on May 18, 1951, and was originally called the Harlem River Pedestrian Bridge. It was designed by Othmar Hermann Ammann, completed at a cost of \$2.1 million by the Triborough Bridge and Tunnel Authority, and given to New York City. It was opened to bicycles in 1967 – and is still the only Harlem River crossing dedicated to pedestrians and cyclists. Originally painted red, yellow and blue, it was covered in yellow vinyl for its role as the “yellow brick road” in the 1978 film *The Wiz*, and repainted with its current green in 1986.

## Improved Bronx Access

On Monday, April 5, MTA Bridges & Tunnels will open a newly constructed and relocated RFK (Triborough) Bridge ramp leading from the Bronx onto Randall's Island. See the map at right for location. After the Bronx toll plaza, drivers will continue south to enter the Park. By eliminating the sharp cross-over of toll plaza lanes required to reach the old ramp, this new ramp will greatly improve vehicular access from the Bronx.



## Comfort Stations

Below is one of the Park's four new comfort stations, in vibrant orange, located between Fields 71 and 80. Three of the four new stations will be open for use in spring 2010.



## Parking at the Park

Please help us be good stewards of Randall's Island Park! Park only in designated paved parking areas, never on the grass or blocking the roads and paths. Help us to preserve the lawns, plantings and sports fields and to keep the park areas safe for children, pedestrians and bicyclists!



## RANDALL'S ISLAND SPORTS FIELDS DEVELOPMENT

98%

Spring 2007

Fall 2010

PERCENT COMPLETE

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