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Opinion

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OUR VIEW

Farragut land perfect for park

If all goes well, a dream is about to come true in Pine Beach. Municipal officials say they're close to converting the former Admiral Farragut Academy recreational fields and marina into a municipal park. Details of the proposal, which has been a long time coming, were discussed at a public meeting Saturday.

According to the borough's plan:

- The bluff in front of Russell Hall is to become a park with a trail, benches and a large gazebo.
- At one end of the trail, there would be a children's playground and tennis and basketball courts.
- Near the playground, 13 parking spots would be added to the 14 already there.

Plans for the marina have progressed more slowly, because officials still need to review permits for this section of the tract.

Construction could begin by September. Officials expect it to cost \$500,000, some of which could be offset by state Green Acres funding.

That might sound like a lot of money for a park, but as Mary Accardi, a member of the borough's Futures Committee said, "I would much rather have this than any commercial complex come in, and residents will be enjoying it."

Indeed, the borough is better off using this land for public good, especially if state money can be applied to construction bills. We urge the borough to keep a close eye on costs, avail itself of all possible grants and move ahead with this project with all due speed.

[Return to Main Page](#)