

The Dump at Asphalt Green

By: Samuel

Introduction

Environmental issues such as climate change, deforestation, pollution, and of course managing garbage disposal have become a global concern for people all over the world. Did you know that in 2012 New York City was named the dirtiest city in America? Back then in 2001, Mayor Rudolph Giuliani closed the Fresh Kills Landfill on Staten Island which was where all the cities trash went, and he did not have an other plan, so he decided to send all our trash to other states. In 2006 Mayor Bloomberg signed an agreement to a new solid waste management plan, which used barges and trains to export 90 percent of the cities 12,000 daily tons of residential trash. But, ever since former Mayor Bloomberg wanted to have a transfer station at Asphalt Green everything started going down hill.

The Museum of Modern Art, called the Municipal Asphalt Plant, located at 90th Street and the FDR Drive in Manhattan is a masterpiece of functional design. It was the site of mixing asphalt for the city's roads from 1914 until 1968 when it closed. In 1970, the City Parks Department acquired the building and the land around it from the Department of Highways. The plan was to convert the site into two 45-story apartment buildings and a public school. Neighborhood activists, led by George and Annette stopped the conversation and saved the building. Dr. Murphy, a physician at nearby Cornell University Hospital successfully transformed the Asphalt Plant into what it is now Asphalt Green, a state of the art creative and physical health facility, dedicated to providing affordable fitness opportunities to the community. Although, many programs require a fee, one third of the programs are free to the public.

Mayor De Blasio supports the transfer station at Asphalt Green. It's creating traffic, and health issues for people because of all of the trash that goes up the ramp. Who knows maybe this will not just affect Manhattan but this will affect the world because New York City is an international hub. This may increase pollution in NYC and affect this specific community because they may close down Asphalt Green. Where will all the community programs go?

Explain Issue

As you may know there is a recreational and fitness center located at East 91st Street and York Avenue called Asphalt Green, a former asphalt plant that was converted into this facility about 30 years ago. What you may not know is that this center, home to one of the few Olympic size pools in Manhattan and where I have swam for the past 6 years, is in grave danger. For several years, the Bloomberg Administration was planning to put a ten-foot story transfer station behind Asphalt Green, and in July the U.S army core of engineers approved, but now Bill de Blasio is mayor we do not really now what is going to happen

The Dump at Asphalt Green will affect people both locally and globally. This will affect people locally because when the garbage trucks go up the ramp it will make noise, and make it hard to concentrate. Most importantly there will be an 18.5 percent chance of health risk for both children and adults training there. Children, however, would be at greater risk because there is a park right next to the ramp, which would release chemicals from the garbage truck. The ten-story transfer would also attract rodents. With all this pollution, health risk, and rodents the property values will drop because no family will want to purchase an apartment in a neighborhood like this. The rodents would also create problems for Asphalt Green because they would lose customers. This could also affect us globally because New York is a global hub as it is home to the United Nations. Tourists will not want to come to New York because there will be excessive amounts of pollution produced by the dump. The increase in pollution will cause many protests and create chaos, which will make the city less appealing, this will happen because when people do not like something that has to do with government, people usually use protest to fight back which will create chaos because they would have to close down the streets which will create traffic. In addition, the unstable property values in New York may lead to a decrease in property value around the world since New York has such a powerful global market.

People are saying many different things about this issue such as they are against, neutral, and in support of it. They're also exploiting this issue by being selfish and saying I don't want this in my backyard. A lot of people are saying many different things, some say they are for it. These people are politicians because they think it's a convenient place because it's right next to the East River. Every neighborhood has to deal with their problems but that's not fair. Also, there are neutral which is both because there's politicians that are neutral comments and there local people who are neutral, the main reason there neutral is because they see the pros and the cons, the pro is that it can be a significant place for trash and the cons is that it's pollution and it creates traffic, noise, and health risk. Lastly, there's people who are against it because they just see the bad things and see that it can destroy our economy. The problem with the people who are against it is that some of them exploit it by just caring about themselves and how they could step in garbage when they walk, they don't actually care about the others and they don't actually think about the neighborhood or Asphalt Green; It's different when they say "not in my backyard" but that's talking about Asphalt Green's backyard and the kids.

Methods of Change

There are so many are so many organizations that are currently addressing this issue, both locally and globally. Two organizations that I think I will talk about here is Pledge 2 Protect and Greenpeace. Pledge 2 protect is a local organization and Greenpeace is global

organization . Pledge 2 Protect is a local organization, which was created by Asphalt Green it self. Pledge 2 Protect is an organization that has a Pledge that parents or people in the neighborhood can sign. In addition, Pledge2 Protect organizes meetings, donations to raise awareness and they have rallies. They even have their own quotes “Not in my backyard” { NIMB }. They don’t just do this at 91st, they do all over Manhattan to show what the Government has decided to do to Asphalt Green and they explain everything statistics. for example, did you know that “**60%** of these children engage in outdoor activities that will expose them to even higher concentrations of fine particulate matter” or that “Children on Manhattan’s East Side are **three times more likely to be hit by a car** in a neighborhood where public housing is nearby”. These statistics prove that this is what is most likely to happen if they go through with the dump. This also brings people to the side to support.

Greenpeace is an organization that helps clean up the world to make it greener. It also tries to prevent pollution. Greenpeace will try help Asphalt Green because it wants to prevent pollution. My report is not just about The Dump at Asphalt Green it’s about the world and its environment. Did you know if we keep polluting the earth in about 55 years we could go under water? I’ll only be about 67 years old I will be too young to drown. Also, Greenpeace helps with climate change, forest, agriculture, toxic pollution etc. For example Greenpeace helped with the “ Black Ice Russian Oil Leak.” They helped put filters in near the river to help clean out the oil. Also, Greenpeace is currently still fighting nuclear weapons because of the release of bad gasses and chemicals. The release of these chemicals that are dangerous because we would be breathing in very bad air and then would be exposed to diseases. These organizations are taking a stand to help this issue.

There are many other organizations in the world that are helping to address this issue. But, what are students my age in grades, in grades 5-8 doing? There are many things that kids ages 10-14 that can help address this issue. This is one group of kids had a bake sale for Asphalt Green because they train there and they wanted to raise awareness and raise money. They raised \$695 for Asphalt Green and now Asphalt Green has a bake sale about once a month. This all started with kids. In addition, it’s not just adults that are signing the pledge many kids are signing the pledge because they believe. I can even be my own example I’m a middle school kid who is helping Asphalt Green. I wrote this report and will send it to Bill de Blasio and other leaders.

Anyone can make any difference it doesn't matter what topic, size, age, race, gender etc.

Call For Action

The community needs a full participation to fight the Dump and it's with you. Here are some specific organization and projects that will hopefully encourage most of you or maybe all of you to help.

Pledge 2 protect	Pledge 2 Protect is trying to raise awareness for The Dump at Asphalt Green but, not just at 91 st but all over Manhattan with meetings, projects, and rallies. I could help by joining the projects, meetings, and rallies.	@p2pnyc www.phttp://pledge2protectnyc.org/
Greenpeace	Greenpeace goes around the world and helps communities pollution, pollution, forest, ocean etc. I could help by starting small by just picking up garbage or doing community service	1-800-722-6995
New York City Department of Parks and Recreation	Parks and Recreation helps keep the city clean and I can help by cleaning up trash at the park when I see some.	311 http://www.nycgovparks.org/

Nature conservancy	It protects the natural landscape that harbor the diversity of plant and animal life. I could help planting more trees and having a little garden on my terrace.	The Nature Conservancy 4245 North Fairfax Drive, Suite 100 Arlington, VA 22203-1606 (800) 628-6860
The Central Park conservancy	The Central Parks Conservancy is an organization that manages Central Park. But, it's not just a park it's a place where family's can hang out and there's no garbage there's just nature and this relates to Asphalt Green is because it's a big family place that is going to be destroyed.	(212) 310-6600

I want to remediate this issue because this is where I go to train, thousands of people, thousands of kids and if the Dump happens this can kill little kids. I want a lemonade stand to raise money for Asphalt Green. In addition, I am planning to send this to de Blasio and tell why he's wrong. Who knows maybe at the end I'll try to start my own organization.

Conclusion

I hope what you just read here wasn't just words on a page or just some kid project, I hope you see that this is a very serious issue because if the Dump at Asphalt Green starts or even continues your child could be getting sick. Not only am I trying to show how people are affected but how we can help make a change together remediate this issue. I think you all should take action and not just watch television have bake sale,

lemonade stand etc. All you have to do and I have to do is start small and maybe it will turn into something big, for example I wrote this report for you not for me and that's starting small

Bibliography

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