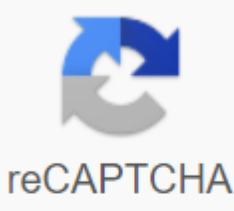




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## Six mile waterworks park address

by John Wolcott The section of The Pine Bush where the proposed water park would be located is a remaining part of an early protected area. This was one of the first, if not the very first, in the state, which was specifically designed for forest and water protection. For this reason, it has been given additional historical importance. As most of you probably know, the Six Mile Waterworks on Lake Renssela, the property I am referring to, was acquired by the city in 1850 for municipal water supply purposes. The dam and the reservoir we see there today were completed in 1852. It was Albany's only water source until 1875 and was long maintained as an emergency source. (Show map) However, the concern for water is already receding here. In 1800, a large part of the Pine Bush, including the present-day six mile waterworks of Albany, was brought to the Rensselaerwyck Mansion, according to the Minutes of the Joint Council of 3 September 1800, for the shading of the fifth creek and the swamp that is the source there. This transport was part of a border line agreement and the exchange of territories between the city of Albany and the manor house of Rensselaerwyck. This was after many years of controversy over the borders between the city and the mansion. Since 1686, Albany had expired several different versions of its boundaries in accordance with its charter from that year. None of these versions was the right one. The charter describes parallel lines that run from two points on the banks of the Hudson River, through the Pine Bush to the Schenectady Patent, the city limits. This also affected the borders of Rensselaerwyck, which Albany then bordered along its north and south sides. In 1800, the manor house and the city agreed on the version of 1764 of these borders, which was of particular convenience to both sides. The problem was that this series of city boundaries included the headwaters of the Fifth Kill, now called Patroon's Creek. This kill provided electricity for the Patroon's Mills downstream off Broadway, where Nipper is now on view. The problem was solved by the city giving the Patroon, Stephen Van Rensselaer, two plots in Albany to protect the forest around the upper reaches of its Mill Stream and its tributaries and springs. Two tracts within Rensselaerwyck were traded to the city in return. (overview map of the exchange) Apparently there were observations at that time that excessive evaporation as a result of the removal of the adjacent forest led to a decrease in the stream flow, hence the term shadow. This has been used in the minutes of the Common Council cited above and also on the maps showing the boundaries of the city and the protected area. On this a and B - tracts to be transmitted to Stephen Van Rensselaer Esquire by the mayor etc. of Albany for the purpose of preserving the wood along the mill. Are. for shading the same.' The Patroon's brother, Philip Van Rensselaer, became mayor of Albany in 1799, which may have facilitated the path to the agreement. Another historical conservation first for this area, occurred in 1914, while the reservoir was still and emergency reserve water source. The Six Mile Water Works Property was the first area ever proposed for a public reserve in Pine Bush. This was determined by Arnold Brunner, architect, and Charles Downing Lay, a landscape architect. The proposal was part of studies conducted at the request of Mayor James McEwan to improve the city's overall needs. They concluded their proposal by proposing to add it to more than 1000 sites and to ascend it. They continued: The character of the country is wild and untouched and almost nothing is necessary except to provide and maintain a few ways and paths. In fact, the less done to make it better. Unfortunately, this proposal was not implemented, although part of the area later became a city park and is now part of the Pine Bush reservation. You can see from this brief overview that there is a long history of conservation in this place now considered. It was first for mill stream, then drinking water, then natural area and landscape conservation area. All parts that remain intact, this historic protected area should not be penetrated any further. I therefore believe that the proposed water park, which we are considering, should not be built at Six Mile Waterworks. There are many other places to locate such a feature, such as the City Land by Hoffman Park, which would be very suitable. John Wolcott, Save the Pine Bush, June 20, 1996 By Daniel Van Riper and Demintin Jack McEneny of Lynne Jackson, the state did the right thing and sidelined the state's approval of a destructive water slide park that the city of Albany plans to build in Six Mile Waterworks. The site is a city park, part of the Pine Bush Preserve and a historic reserve. In sharp contrast, Senator Michael Hoblock, who will be challenged for his seat by Neil Breslin in the fall, ensured that Senate approval sailed. In the past, Hoblock has called The Pine Bush a useless land and is one of the main culprits for the Walmart/Washington Commons Retail Strip. Mr McEneny's action means the proposal will be on hold until next year. Although he originally introduced the measure in the Assembly, he was quick to respond to concerns from Save the Pine Bush members who contacted his assistant, Joe Galu. Mr Hoblock apparently refused to take into account the SPB's position on the issue. It took an ACT of the NYS Legislature to allow the city to use this land for a water slide park. The Joint Council already voted 15 to 0 to ask the legislature for permission. Printed July, 1996 Monday 08:00 - 18:00 Tuesday 08:00 - 18:00 Wednesday 08:00 - 18:00 Thursday 08:00 08:00 - 18:00 Friday 08:00 - 18:00 Saturday 08:00 - 18:00 Sunday 08:00 - 18:00 Rensselaer SeeView over the lake from SoutheastLageAlbany, New YorkCoordinates42°41'50"N 73°49'57"W / 42.6973°N 73.8325°W / 42.6973; -73.8325Coordinates: 42°41'50"N 73°49'57"W / 42.6973°N 73.8325°W / 42.6973; -73.8325TypeartificialPrimary outflowsPatroon CreekManaging agencyCity of AlbanyBuilt1851Surface area35.3 acres (14.3 ha)Average depth11 ft (3.4 m)Max. Depth23 ft (7.0 m)Water volume16 million gal (610,000 m3)Shore length12.6 miles (4.2 km)Surface height269 ft (82 m)1 Shore length is not a precisely defined measure. Rensselaer Lake is an artificial lake in Albany, New York, United States, named after Major General Stephen Van Rensselaer, the last Patroon of Rensselaerswyck. [1] The lake was Albany's first municipal water source. [2] [3] It is part of a 23-hectare park and the state's Albany Pine Bush Preserve. [4] The lake and the park have been under the jurisdiction of the Albany Water Authority since 2003. [2] History Rensselaer Lake is located at the headwaters of Patroon Creek in the western part of the city of Albany. Once the site of several streams that formed the creek, the land was bought by the city in 1850 and dammed in 1851 as the city's first municipal water source. [2] The dam was located about 9.7 km from Albany Town Hall and gave the lake its original name as the Six Mile Waterworks. Previously, the city was served by a private company, the Albany Waterworks Company. [2] The lake feeds water into the Bleecker Reservoir, where it was used from parts of the city west of Pearl Street to Lark Street. [2] [3] The lake was used as a water supply until 1926 and was restored in 1956 under Mayor Erastus Corning II. [6] At the end of the 1990s, the Six Mile Waterworks was restored after decades of decay. The city worked with the Albany Pine Bush Preserve Commission, schools, businesses, youth organizations, and individual sponsors to build new docks, a promenade, and a nature trail. An open-air interpreting centre is planned. [4] In 2003, the Albany Water Authority paid the city of Albany USD 7 million for a 50-year lease on Six Mile Waterworks and Rensselaer Lake for use as an emergency water supply. This included the entire 83 hectare city park and contributed to the equalisation of urban budgets for 2002, 2003 and 2004. The sale was criticized as a fiscal ploy that shifted some of the tax burden from residents' property tax bills to their water bills. The city's property tax rose 7.4 percent this year, and the water authority also pushed for a 9.5 percent increase. [5] Geography rensselaer Lake is located in the western part of the city of Albany, with a portion stretching as far as the neighboring town of Guilderland. [7] The Albany Pine Bush Rensselaer Lake Preserve and Park, also known as Six Mile Waterworks, is the namesake and central feature of the Albany Pine Bush Rensselaer Lake Preserve and Park. It is part of the Albany Pine Bush Preserve. [4] The Adirondack Northway (I-87) is carried across a narrow canal of the lake through a bridge north of Exit 1. [7] The canal connects the eastern main basin with a shallower western basin with a depth of 4.6 m. [8] Exit 1 and Interstate 90 (I-90) are just south of the lake and remain. [7] North of the lake and the reserve are the Railway Railways Guilderland and CSXT. [8] To the west of the lake is Rapp Road; to the east is Fuller Road and Exit 2 of I-90. [7] Patroon Creek flows east of the lake toward the Hudson River. [9] The western part of the lake has two forks fed by inlet streams; the Northern Fork is unpaved by groundwater and the south fork by a 350 m large stream, which is created by two drainage and groundwater infiltrations. The two forks merge 700 m past the southern inlet stream. [8] The lake has an area of 14.3 ha. It has an average depth of 3.4 m with a maximum depth of over 6.1 m. [10] Recreation Rensselaer Lake and the park surround it allow fishing, boating, hiking and picnics; There is also a playground. The lake is filled several times a year by the city's current water source, the Alcove Reservoir. [2] A viewing platform for nature allows visitors to observe wildlife along a wetland by the lake without disturbing the environment. Two large docks allow access to the lake by boat. [4] See also Geography Portal List of Lakes in New York Geography of Albany, New York References Bulletin, Issues 171-176. 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