

At the outset of becoming QCC president, QCC and Queens Coalition for Parks and Green Spaces partnered on a “[Green Statement](#)” to make clear the need to preserve park space and take the steps to identify and secure new green spaces. Yet each time an opportunity presents itself to preserve space in communities starved for green, the drive for a different kind of green – as in dollars – prevails. Thus we see the failure of City Hall to get behind a sound community base plan to minimize bad truck impacts and no effort to seize the opportunity presented by the dump site that occupies the space where St. Saviour's Church was moved to storage. The articles and commentaries that follow make plain what makes sense. - Corey Bearak

[http://www.nydailynews.com/ny\\_local/queens/2009/07/22/2009-07-22\\_queens\\_locals\\_trash\\_waste\\_plan\\_.html](http://www.nydailynews.com/ny_local/queens/2009/07/22/2009-07-22_queens_locals_trash_waste_plan_.html)

**DAILY NEWS** | Queens

## Queens locals trash waste plan, say congestion and odor will damage Maspeth Ave.

BY [Sindhu Sundar](#)

DAILY NEWS WRITER

Updated Wednesday, July 22nd 2009, 1:07 PM



Pokress for News

*Maspeth community activist Christina Wilkinson (below) objects to a proposal that would bring 65 trucks daily to the Maspeth railyard.*



Pokress for News

*At least 65 tractor-trailers loaded with garbage could rumble into [Maspeth](#) every day under a new waste removal plan proposed to start in 2011.*

But as far as area residents are concerned, the plan stinks.

[Waste Management Inc.](#) is seeking a permit to convert its existing truck-based transfer station on Review Ave. in [Long Island City](#) to a rail-based system. Under the plan, trucks would haul trash 1-1/2-miles from Review Ave. to a railyard at Rust St. and Maspeth Ave.

That would eliminate 52 round-trips a day of tractor-trailers moving through Queens, said [George McGrath](#), spokesman for Waste Management of [New York](#).

The move is in line with the state Department of Environmental Conservation's goals to reduce environmental impact from truck and vehicle emissions.

But locals said it would hurt those living near the railyard.

"We're all for the overall decrease in the number of trucks," said [Christina Wilkinson](#), a local activist who organized a rally last Saturday on Rust St. to oppose the plan. "But this will be concentrating truck traffic along certain roads in our community, and this is unfair."

Maspeth residents and small-business owners are already overburdened with air pollution and congestion from truck traffic along Maspeth Ave., protesters said.

"There will surely be more truck trips than Waste Management is reporting," said [Corey Bearak](#), president of the Queens [Civic Congress](#), an umbrella group for civic associations.

Area merchants also fear the garbage trips will drive away customers.

"I'm not sure how they're going to contain the odor," said Nick Diamantis, owner of the [Clinton Diner](#) on Maspeth Ave. "And I don't know what people would feel about eating next to a place with all this waste."

Community activists proposed alternatives such as building additional rail spurs at the current Review Ave. facility to eliminate the need to truck waste to the Maspeth railyard. The garbage could also be barged out along Newtown Creek, adjacent to the facility, activists said.

Community Board 5 urged Waste Management last week to implement these alternatives. It also sent the recommendations to the DEC and the city Sanitation Department.

"It's a perfect example of how a community has come up with an amendment to a bad plan," said [City Councilman Tony Avella \(D-Bayside\)](#), who attended the rally. "And I will support them in whatever way they need me to."

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Find *YouTube* videos of rally [here](#). Find *Vimeo* video [here](#).

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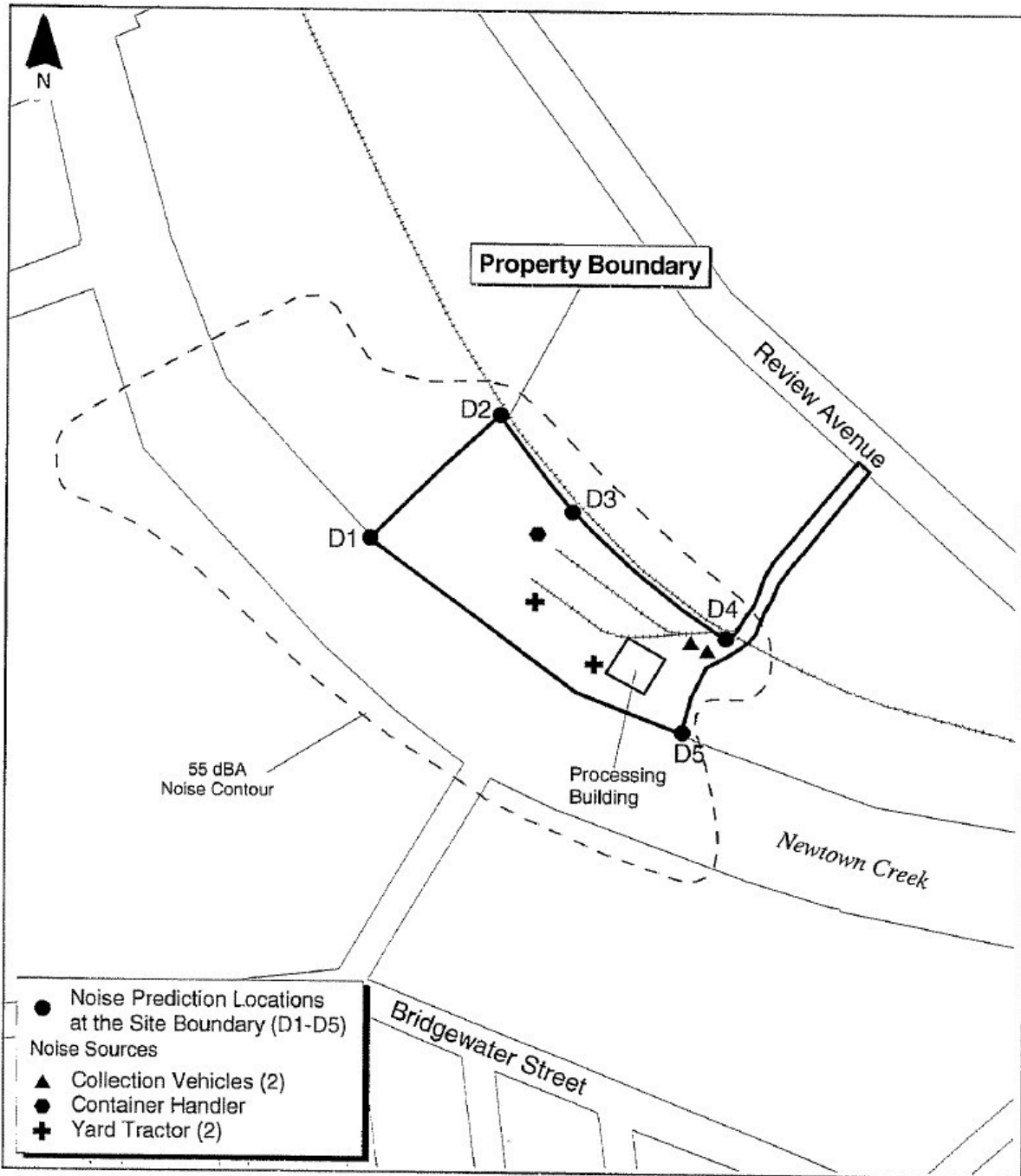
Below are notes prepared by Christina Wilkinson [(718) 478-1828] of Newtown Historical Society:

A [document on DOS' website](#) [p.22] shows way more truck trips (81 to the transfer station, 144 to the rail yard) than what WM reports now (50 to the transfer station, 65 to the rail yard):

15.14.5.1      2006 Future Build Traffic Conditions

2006 Future Build Conditions assume that the Review Avenue TS would generate 81 net inbound collection vehicles per average peak day. The facility would also generate 144 inbound dray truck trips per day transporting waste containers to the facility from the Maspeth Railyard. As per NYCDOT Title 34, truck trips to and from the site are restricted to travel along local truck routes directly to the site or the intersection closest to the site if the streets adjacent to the site are not designated truck routes. The proposed collection vehicle truck routes for the Review Avenue TS are shown in Figure 15.14-5. The proposed dray truck route to Maspeth Rail Yard from the Review Avenue Transfer Station is shown in Figure 15.14-10.

It also shows a rail spur on the WM property! (see below, next page)



Site delineations are approximate  
 Base Map Source: New York City Department of City Planning

200 0 200 Feet

	<p><b>Figure 15.17-2 Noise Sources and Receptors</b></p> <p><b>Review Avenue Truck to Rail TS</b></p> <p>CITY OF NEW YORK          DEPARTMENT OF SANITATION</p>	
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[Linked](#) in PDF form are some of the documents that were spoken about at the Waste Mgmt-St. Saviour's rally this past Saturday (see notes below).

Page 1: PlaNYC2030 [webpage](#) which states, "comments frequently center on specific parks and specific areas that could become parks, particularly the St. Saviour's property in West Maspeth, Queens and the Atlantic Yards project in Brooklyn."  
[See [http://www.nyc.gov/html/planyc2030/html/challenge/openyc\\_parks\\_heard.shtml](http://www.nyc.gov/html/planyc2030/html/challenge/openyc_parks_heard.shtml)]

Page 2: Also from PlaNYC2030 webpage: "Specific locations raised for park development were above the Brooklyn-Queens Expressway, Hyland [sic] Park Reservoir, St. Saviour's park, and Penn. Ave landfill."

Note: BQE is [being beautified](#), Hyland (Highland) Park Reservoir and [Penn Ave landfill](#) are becoming parkland. The only site specifically mentioned to not see any city action is the St. Saviour's site.

Page 3: [Berko & Associates](#) real estate listing showing entire property for sale and listed as "residential as of right" which is false. The developer would need a zoning change in order to build housing. Property is for sale for \$8.5M.

Pages 4 and 5 are from the Buildings Department's website detailing how, when and why the site was shut down.

Page 6: State Senator George Onorato's statement

Pages 7 and 8: State Senator Joe Addabbo statement

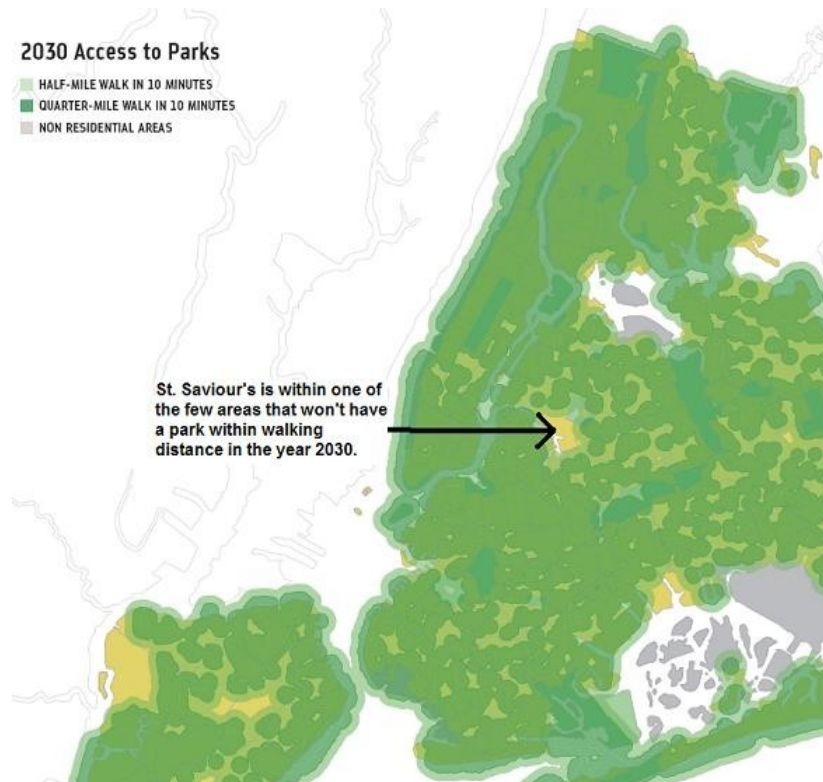
Page 9: Paul Graziano statement

Page 10: Waste Management statement

Page 11: contains Christina's notes about other Maspeth parks gathered from the Parks Department's website.

The PlaNYC map (see next page) showing parks within walking distance of city residents clearly shows that West Maspeth was left out of the plan. The City now has the chance to correct that.

Christina thanks Councilman Tony Avella, Councilwoman Elizabeth Crowley, Evelyn Cruz (representing Congresswoman Nydia Velazquez), Jeff Gottlieb (representing State Senator Joe Addabbo), Ann Krzyzanowski (representing Assemblywoman Cathy Nolan) and Assembly District 38 candidates Farouk Samaroo, Albert Baldeo and Mike Miller for attending and lending their support. Thank you also to State Senator George Onorato and Urban Planner Paul Graziano for their support statements and COMET and JPCA for sending representatives. And a special thank you to the Clinton Diner for allowing us to hold the rally on their property.



## Plan to truck garbage through Maspeth stinks

by Will Yakowicz  
July 21, 2009

Some 65 protesters, including neighbors, Community Board 5 members and elected officials, rallied at Maspeth's Clinton Diner Saturday morning against Waste Management's (WM) plan to make Maspeth the terminal destination for 144 sanitation trucks a day.

During the rally, led by Christina Wilkinson, president of the Newtown Historical Society, 15 trucks an hour clunked and chugged noisily along. Wilkinson, voice blasting from a megaphone, shouted to the rally's attendees about WM's "stupid" and "ridiculous" plan. [Read [more](#)]

- and -

# Nabes call for St. Saviour's site to become park

by Will Yakowicz

Jul 21, 2009 - 05:41 pm

At the same time Maspeth residents were protesting a plan to transfer garbage through their neighborhood Saturday morning, they also called for the transformation of the former St. Saviour's site into a park.

The site, located on 57th Road overlooking Rust Street, used to house a church on a hill surrounded by trees. It was built in 1847 by the famous architect Richard Upjohn, known for his Trinity Church on Wall Street. [Read [more](#)]



07/23/2009

## Residents resist trash-truck route

by [Michael Lanza](#), Assistant Editor

**Community advocates in Maspeth are raising a stink over plans to truck trash from a proposed waste transfer facility into a neighborhood railyard.**

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“It’s just gonna add more trucks to our streets,” said Paul Kerzner, Community Board 5’s Sanitation Services Committee chairman. “If anybody goes over there on any business day — there’s plenty of trucks over there right now.” [Read [More](#)]

## *Ridgewood Ledger*

# Maspeth protests trash train plan

**Residents oppose LIC transfer station expansion but support St. Saviour’s park**

By Jeremy Walsh

Thursday, July 23, 2009 9:14 AM EDT

Instead of an influx of green steel containers, Maspeth residents and elected officials are calling for more green space. At a rally [Read [more](#)].



Thursday, July 23, 2009

## Residents Protest Trash Plan, Rally for Maspeth Parkland

By Conor Greene

Several dozen Maspeth residents and community leaders gathered at the Clinton Diner on Rust Street to protest the city's plan to have garbage trucked through local streets, and to call on the city to buy the former St. Saviour's property for parkland.



Saturday's rally, which was organized by Christina Wilkinson, attracted officials including Councilman Tony Avella (D-Bayside), Councilwoman Elizabeth Crowley (D-Middle Village), several state assembly candidates, civic leaders and representatives for other elected officials. It focused both on the city's solid waste plan and the need for green space in the area. [Read [more](#)]

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July 16, 2009

Review Avenue proposal

Sanitation Committee Chairperson Paul Kerzner delivered his committee's recommendation on the proposal by Waste Management to construct a new transfer facility on Review Avenue in West Maspeth.

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A resolution endorsing Kerzner's recommendations was approved unanimously. [Read [more](#)]