

## Staten Island Advance (NY)

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### Not just a vision for Long *JAMIE LEE STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE*

Adena Long now executive director of new project, 'A **Vision for Staten Island**'

BLOOMFIELD - Moving from High Rock Park to Corporate Park may be a fairly drastic transition, but Adena Long is handling it with ease.

The longtime city Parks Department Greenbelt administrator and Greenbelt Conservancy executive director has found a home - and an easier commute - as the executive director **for** the upcoming A **Vision for Staten Island** process.

"It's bittersweet," Ms. Long said of the change-over, which is moving her from one end of the West Shore to the other.

"I feel like I spent the best of my professional years up to this point there at the Greenbelt. But I felt like I made some important strides toward accomplishing the **vision** that Borough Commissioner (Thomas) Paulo had **for** the Greenbelt in the master plan."

And its that love of **Staten Island**, the one that made her move to the borough seven years ago, that forced her to jump on board this project in the first place.

"I was intrigued when I first saw the posting (**for** the executive director position) and I started asking about what the organization was about and what the position entailed," said Ms. Long, who has a master's degree in nonprofit management from The New School.

"I felt that this would allow me to serve the public and the community in a much broader way."

Already familiar with the 2006 feasibility study, Ms. Long felt she could truly make an even more positive impact through the project, led by the ACP Visioning and Planning firm.

The steering committee, which is split into six specific action committees - publicity, outreach, logistics, government relations, fundraising and friends of the **vision** - is nearing its 75-person enrollement.

Having that group, comprising representatives of many private, public and nonprofit sectors, at the forefront should make it "virtually impossible to leave a stone unturned" in the search **for** feedback, according to Ms. Long.

While she is careful not to tip her hand on her personal thoughts about the **Island**'s needs, Ms. Long truly believes that this is the start of something big.

"I think what's gratifying is that there are communities on **Staten Island** that haven't had a voice or who have been underserved," she pointed out. "There are issues and challenges on **Staten Island** that need to be addressed. The intention is to allow the voice of the community to steer and mold the answers in order to envision the best **for Staten Island**."

That doesn't mean that she won't forget where she came from, though.

"I've already been asked to volunteer to maintain a trail segment," Ms. Long laughed, defining herself as a country girl trapped in a city girl's body. "I know I'll be drawn back to the **Island**'s parks either as a volunteer or just as a regular citizen."

Especially when her experiences in those same parks are what helped mold her into the optimistic, upbeat individual she is today.

"I think my bucolic view is what is carrying me," she said simply.

Let's hope that's part of the **vision**, then.

Parties interested in the project can visit [www.sivision.org](http://www.sivision.org) or e-mail [along@sivision.org](mailto:along@sivision.org).

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