

# Leagues to be booted from SIDC?

## Land allocation could leave youths

## without place to play

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Imagine a recreation facility used by as many as 20,000 people a year, and enjoyed by thousands more. Local residents don't have to imagine that now, because they have Willowbrook Park and the land surrounding the Staten Island Developmental Center.

But Islanders may have to use their imaginations soon, because the dozens of acres that are now used for recreation may soon be gobbled up by New York State's reorganization of the 382-acre area.

"If everyone had to move

from the fields here it would be a disaster," Jim Savage, president of the Staten Island Soccer League, said. "I can't think of a worse thing to happen to the youth of Staten Island."

A special state task force is expected to recommend plans to Gov. Mario M. Cuomo to allocate the land at the SIDC site. A small parcel of land will be retained for the state Office of Mental Retardation to house about 300 of the most severely retarded.

Willowbrook Park is one of only four public recreation

parks (the others are Clove Lakes, Walker and Schmul) serving the densely populated North Shore of Staten Island. But with six ballfields and an archery range, Willowbrook Park is already taxed to its limits.

After the land allocated to handle the retarded, the rest of the land is up for grabs. There are several takers, among them the College of Staten Island, which is interested in the lion's share (about 160 acres) to combine its two existing campus sites there.

All of this speculation about what will happen to the land has

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