Sports groups worried plan will erase fields

By ED BARBINI Advance Staff Writer

Thousands of youths and adults could become athletes in search of a playing field if the state adopts the College of Staten Island's master plan for a unified campus on the site of the Staten Island Developmental Center (SIDC) in Willowbrook.

"This is a disaster," said Jim

Savage, former president of the Staten Island Soccer League, which shares the ballfields on the SIDC site, across from Willowbrook Park, with as many as 12,000 athletes of various ages. "A lot of kids might end up hanging around the streets, because there's no place to play ball."

The college's plan to unite its Sunnyside and St. George campuses at one location could limit or destroy athletic leagues in an area with a growing population, the league's fear.

The fields are located near the SIDC's main entrance, alongside Victory Boulevard. It is one of the busiest recreation areas on Staten Island during the spring

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Officials discuss plans for the new campus for the College of Staten Island at Willowbrook. From the left are Michael Kinlaw, vice president of Edward Durell Stone Associates, drafters of the master plan; Peter Capone, president of Stone Associates, and Dr. Edmond Volpe, CSI president.