

ted a proposal to operate such a facility.

Walsh outlined the agency's plan at yesterday's meeting of the Staten Island Regional Retardation and Disabilities Council, an consortium of public and private agencies serving the retarded.

Council members termed the state's decision "a real victory," and Walsh noted that the decision to retain the land was a response to requests by the council, Mrs. Connelly and state Sen. John Marchi.

Marchi, Mrs. Connelly, council president Harry Friedland and past president Genevieve Benoit worked with OMRDD in hammering out the details of the plan, Walsh said.

Walsh emphasized that the extra acreage will be used for private agencies and not state-operated services, and that private agencies must develop the appropriate programs. "The one problem is that we've got

this land — we go back to them and say we don't need it after all."

Mrs. Connelly said a final decision has not been made yet on the disposition of the remaining 220 acres at SIDC, although she said that Island legislators are pushing now for preservation of community ball fields, which are used by thousands of Islanders. The college wants to build facilities where the ball fields now stand.

"I told (CSI President Edmond) Volpe that I was concerned that too much of the property is going to the college, especially in terms of the ball fields," Mrs. Connelly said. "I think local legislators recognize that one major issue that has to be addressed are those ball fields and the question of how we accommodate the people who use them. All of us recognize that we can't agree to the college proposal until we work out something on the ball fields.

A public hearing on the Corson's Brook Woods controversy is scheduled for 7 p.m. Monday at the Institute for Basic Research in Mental Retardation on Forest Hill Road, Willowbrook. The hearing, sponsored by the state Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities, will debate the merits of the agency's plan to build four group homes in an area of the Staten Island Developmental Center campus that environmentalists want preserved as a natural woodlands.

200,000 square feet of space and I hope we don't have a situation where people say we only have enough programs for 50,000 square feet of space," Walsh said.

"This council, myself and the commissioner (OMRDD Commissioner Arthur Webb) will look awfully foolish if — after-telling the Legislature how badly we needed