

East River State Park

Emilio Cazares

Located five minutes from the Bedford Ave Station on the L line is a park named the East River State Park. When I think of a place in New York City where I truly feel happy, it's got to be this park. About a year ago, my friend and I were exploring Brooklyn along the water. We're both from the Bronx, so Brooklyn is uncharted territory to us. We came across this spot by the water on a whim. At first, I thought it was some sort of lot or parking lot because of all the concrete and street lamps. But, upon further inspection, it turned out to be a whole park with benches, a soccer field, and even a beach. It was really surprising; you couldn't imagine such a place in that neighborhood. All around it are warehouses and old buildings converted to hipster style restaurants. But this place has something special.

Before finding this place, I didn't think there was a place where you could feel big and small at the same time. There's an area to sit at picnic tables, a small beach, a grass hill to lie down upon to watch the sunset. But, the one thing that makes it my favorite place is the view of Manhattan. It truly is a view like no other. I come here to clear my head, work on my photography or just spend time with somebody special. This is why the East River State Park is my favorite place.

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