



Friends of Quiet Waters Park

July 12, 2022

Mayor Gavin Buckley
City of Annapolis
160 Duke of Gloucester
Annapolis, M 21401

County Executive Steuart Pittman
Anne Arundel County
1 Harry S Truman Parkway
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Mayor Buckley and County Executive Pittman,

In November, 2021, the Friends of Quiet Waters Park issued a Position on the Parkside Preserve Development (attached) in which we stated, “The Parkside Preserve construction is currently...changing the stream flow onto the parkland.” The conditions about which we expressed concern at that time have persisted and we believe that there will be lasting damage to Harness Creek and parkland without intervention from both of you immediately.

There are two simultaneous activities going on affecting the water quality of Harness Creek of which you should be aware:

- Two stream restoration projects are underway in Quiet Waters Park to reduce the sediment going into Harness Creek. One project recently completed is the restoration of Caffrey Run, which is within the park (owned and managed by Anne Arundel County). Arundel Rivers, through the Chesapeake Bay Trust, is investing over \$700,000 into this project. The second project is in the early stages, but will be an equally large investment using county funds to repair a large gully which also drains into Harness Creek. *Thus nearly \$1.4 million of taxpayer dollars currently is being invested to improve the water quality and restore the habitat of Harness Creek.*

However, at the same time -

- A multi-million dollar development called Parkside Preserve is being constructed (on Annapolis City property) with documented sediment running off the building site into Harness Creek and onto the adjacent parkland. This problem has been ongoing since site work began on the project. Unfortunately, this problem has become worse, with the receiving stream on County/Park property starting to unravel into an eroded, intermittent stream.

These two offsetting activities are not only wasteful and counter-productive, but honestly fit the definition of insanity (and is heart-breaking), not to mention the irony of the development being named “Parkside Preserve.”

Mayor Gavin Buckley
County Executive Stuart Pittman
July 12, 2022
Page two

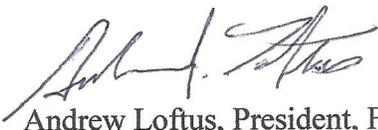
You both have certainly been briefed about concerns over the Parkside Preserve development and the multiple attempts to enforce the sediment regulations that are being ignored, bypassed or failing by the developers. We won't go into the history of all the attempts to correct this situation; your respective staffs are well aware of the effort to enforce the rules and protect Harness Creek. However, the problems not only persist, but are becoming worse with each rainstorm and are creating hydrologic changes that could become permanent and on-going. The attached photos were taken earlier this week following the rainfall on Saturday and are representative of the conditions each time any precipitation falls on the landscape.

At this point, we would like to see the City and the County undertake a cooperative effort so that 4 things can happen:

1. Immediately issue a stop work order to address issues and stop additional polluted runoff from entering Quiet Waters Park and Harness Creek. Then, organize a combined meeting with county and city officials (including the two of you) to tour the site. This would require a walk around the perimeter with all the key parties impacted by and responsible for this project (see names copied below).
2. Schedule a follow-up meeting after the site walk to discuss a) how the City and County will coordinate restoration of the impacted ephemeral channel and b) how the City will ensure the site does not negatively impact that channel moving forward.
3. Initiate a review to ascertain that all pertinent permits that have been issued, beginning with the initial permitting process, were issued and enforced according to city and county regulations, including the requirement that adjoining owners on the receiving end of any discharge have given the project a right to discharge onto their property.
4. Work with the Arundel Rivers Federation and other outside experts to design new city ordinances that will prevent this type of destruction in the future.

As the "Friends of Quiet Waters Park", we consider it our responsibility to continue to monitor this situation since, as we state in our November position paper, "If these adverse conditions are not addressed, the permanent effects to the park will have to be mitigated at a later date by the park staff at significant expense."

Sincerely,



Andrew Loftus, President, Friends of Quiet Waters Park

(cc list next page)

Mayor Gavin Buckley
County Executive Steuart Pittman
July 12, 2022
Page three

cc: Michael Malinoff, Annapolis City Manager
Rob Savidge, Annapolis City Alderman, Ward 7
Lisa Rodvien, County Council, District 6
Jessica Leys, Director, Anne Arundel County Parks and Recreation
Alison Woodfield, Park Superintendent, Quiet Waters Park
Carol Sayre, Chair, Environment Committee, Friends of Quiet Waters Park
Erik Michelson, Anne Arundel Bureau of Watershed Protection & Restoration
Matt Johnston, President, Arundel Rivers Federation
David Jarrell, Annapolis City Department of Public Works
Jackie Guild, Deputy Annapolis City Manager

Attachments: Photos of sediment from Parkside preserve runoff into Quiet Waters Park



Sediment in Quiet Waters Park from Parkside Preserve runoff
July 11, 2022



Sediment from Parkside Preserve runoff, Quiet Waters Park
July 11, 2022



Caffrey Run \$700,000 sediment reduction effort in Quiet Waters Park



November 2, 2021

Friends of Quiet Waters Park
Position on the Parkside Preserve development

Quiet Waters Park opened 30 years ago as a purposely-planned passive use nature park. The Park is now a respite for almost a million people a year. Visitors come to enjoy the peacefulness of the park, walk on the wooded trails, appreciate the abundance of flora and fauna in their natural habitat, and appreciate the views both within the park and out to the surrounding landscapes.

The Friends of Quiet Waters Park (FQWP), originally formed as the Quiet Waters Study Committee to guide the original development of the park, was formalized at the opening of Quiet Waters Park in 1990 in part to continue the citizen input that was so essential to the formation of the park. Ever since, FQWP has been raising and investing funds for the operation, preservation, development, and enrichment of Quiet Waters Park and furthering public education, awareness, research, interest in, and appreciation for, the history, ecology, environment, and recreational aspects of the park.

The Board of Directors of the Friends of Quiet Waters Park, respectfully submit the following comments on the current Parkside Preserve development.

Quiet Waters Park is treasured by visitors for the escape from the urban setting. From the parks beginning 30 years ago, the Master Plan stated the importance of the natural environment and since then Quiet Waters Park has been beautifully preserved by rangers, maintenance staff and large numbers of dedicated volunteers who have a passion and stewardship for all that the park has to offer. They have maintained the ecosystems as well as the trails which provide visitors' access to these environments.

Adjacent uses always affect a site. View sheds, noise, pollution and changes in the landscape are all important to human use. The Parkside Preserve construction is currently creating noise pollution and more importantly, changing the stream flow on to the parkland. This is easily detected while hiking on the Pavilion Trail.

Habitat disturbance is experienced even more acutely by the park's permanent residents, the flora and fauna. The forest clearing for the Parkside Preserve, has already created a loss of habitat. And this loss is now affecting the park and its more permanent residents. The forest edge adjacent to the development site will now be changed by the loss of adjacent forest. More sunlight and introduced species will alter the plants and animals that previously existed in this area of the park.

Quiet Waters Park is part of a watershed that drains to Harness Creek and South River and ultimately to the Chesapeake Bay. Watersheds support a wide variety of plants and wildlife and this is especially true of undeveloped parkland. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, sediment is the most common pollutant in rivers, streams, lakes and reservoirs. Their studies find that natural erosion produces nearly 30 percent of the total sediment in the United States and accelerated erosion from human use of land accounts for the remaining 70 percent. The most concentrated sediment released comes from construction activities. It is therefore required by law that during construction all water and soil be maintained on site and that offsite conditions should not be affected. The current development at Parkside Preserve is breaching these environmental requirements. Runoff from the site is depositing clay particles and silt in the park creek bed and stream flow is being altered with the water retention on site. Siltation in stream beds disrupts the natural food chain by destroying the habitat where the smallest stream organisms live and also prevents animals from seeing food. Additionally, the murky water and silt deposits prevent natural vegetation from growing. This will have an impact on the surrounding ecosystem. During heavier rain events, the silted runoff effects are seen further downstream. These runoff events have an impact on the littoral conditions of the creeks and ultimately the rivers and the bay. If these adverse conditions are not addressed, the permanent effects to the park will have to be mitigated at a later date by the park staff at significant expense. The park's budget has not increased to cover the cost of environmental management. Volunteers and grants are being used to augment the cost of degrading conditions. An additional degraded site will tax a stressed condition.

FQWP understands that adjacent uses are beyond our purview, however, we share many of the same concerns with the park neighbors and think the effect to the parkland should be controlled and mitigated. We strongly encourage additional plantings in the Parkside Preserve setback area to help mitigate the forest edge effect, a strict adherence to the runoff requirements and a return to the pre-development stream flow to maintain the ecosystem and health of the watershed.