

From: Shirish Pareek and Komal Kaul



Date: 02/13/2023

To: Mr. Alan Soukup
DEP Water Supply and Wastewater Unit
2425 Reedie Drive, 4th Floor
Wheaton, Maryland 20902

Subject: Opposition to Sewer Category Change Request WSSCR 22-TRV-01A

Dear Mr. Soukup,

Thank you for the notification we received related to the sewer category request WSSCR 22-TRV-01A. We are sincerely shocked and disappointed with this sudden and last minute notification regarding something that impacts our homes, our community and our environment so significantly. We would like to formally communicate our strong opposition to this request to change the sewer category on the property associated with 11415 Glen Road and the 11000 block of Wood Thrush Lane. Our property at 11720 Wood Thrush Lane (Potomac, MD), and the entire surrounding community, would be severely impacted in multiple ways in the event this request was approved, as described in the following bullets:

- As you can see from the public records our property is fully surrounded by forest conservation except for a very narrow stretch between us and 11716, that too is covered with natural forest that we have never touched or tried to develop. We have been extremely mindful of not to disturb the natural vegetation and soil in that conservation area including not removing fallen trees unless absolutely necessary. To grant public sewer to the applicant in this matter would require significant destruction of property, vegetation, and wildlife habitat that currently exists on the properties included in the two implementation options presented in the report by WSSC. For example, option #2, which would cut between our home and our next-door neighbor's home, would require cutting down of about 40 plus large trees, removal of fencing, removal of the large community drain between our homes, that prevents water runoff and soil erosion and removal of our driveway and stonework.
- Any development on the applicant property of the magnitude being proposed will result in the destruction of the stream system that currently keeps our basements on Wood Thrush Lane from being flooded. This river routes rain water to the large community drain that sits right in the middle of proposed option #2. We greatly depend on it since our home resides at the bottom of the sloped parcel of the applicant. All of our homes abutting this property have had water infiltration in our basements as a result of water runoff prior to the stream being reinforced several years ago. Not to mention the stormwater runoff 2-4 homes would cause and the subsequent soil erosion and damage to the flora of the conservation and otherwise on our property.
- The property, when acquired, was a combination of 2 landlocked parcels as shown on the map renderings in your report. It sits literally at the edges of our property lines between homes and forest conservation area. It's a tight and narrow space that provides just enough open space for light and preservation of wooded areas. On paper it may appear that options 1 & 2 are viable options, but if you were to come to the gated community that contains Wood Thrush Lane and physically look at the homes that abut this property, you would clearly see that the applicant land parcel was never meant to be the site for a new multi-home development. The parcel associated with the 11000 Block of Wood Thrush Lane was actually an out-lot of the Estates of Greenbriar Preserve community before being acquired by the previous owners of 11716 Wood Thrush Lane to extend his backyard space and wooded area for his kids to explore. Building a new subdivision of any size is inconsistent with the intent of that land and would severely

impact the wellbeing of the surrounding neighbors and properties. If a home was constructed on the parcel directly behind our house it would literally be right in our backyard which is why this parcel was initially deemed an out-lot by the original developer of the Greenbriar community. Our privacy and sense of security would be severely impacted as a result.

For these reasons we hereby request that you add 11720 Wood Thrush Lane (Potomac, MD) to the formal opposition list and deny this request (WSSCR 22-TRV-01A) to change the sewer category from S-6 to S-3. It will fundamentally change the broader community and have negative impact for not only our family but also the families affected along Piney Meetinghouse Road, Glen Road, and Wood Thrush Lane. Thank you in advance for your time in this matter.

Respectfully,

Shirish Pareek and Komal Kaul

