

August 15, 2020

Dear Mr. Riley,

This letter is sent on behalf of Friends of Ten Mile Creek & Little Seneca Reservoir, together with the following partner organizations:

- Boyds Civic Association
- Conservation Montgomery
- Environmental Justice Ministry of the Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church
- Montgomery Countryside Alliance
- Sugarloaf Citizens Association
- Seneca Creek Watershed Partners
- Takoma Park Mobilization Environment Committee
- Takoma Alliance for Local Living Economy/Takoma Park Mobilization

We ask the Montgomery County Department of Parks to consider acquiring the 165.25-acre property at the southwest corner of Clarksburg Road and West Old Baltimore Road, known as Linthicum West, and we request a meeting to discuss this idea.

On March 31, 2005, the Montgomery Planning Board approved a preliminary plan application (accepted 7/2/2004) for this property. Now, in August 2020, the property owner is preparing to submit the site plan application for 253 residential units and a proposed 90 acres of parkland dedication.

This property abuts existing parkland and drains into Cabin Branch and Little Seneca Reservoir. We do not believe that the proposed development would be in the public interest. Rather, we believe that it would be better for the water quality and health of Little Seneca Reservoir for the property to be acquired and stewarded as parkland. We stand ready to help identify ways to fund this land acquisition.

Large quantities of sediment from the developments north of West Old Baltimore Road are already coming down Cabin Branch into Little Seneca Reservoir after every rainfall event. Just in the past year, one intense rainfall event overtopped the causeway between the sediment forebay and the main body of the lake, and at least one other intense rainfall event carried large quantities of sediment through the causeway culvert all the way past the boat rental – please see the photos appended below.

We should expect intense rainfall events to become both more intense and more frequent as the global climate changes.

Meanwhile the water quality in Little Seneca Reservoir, an essential back-up drinking water supply for over 4.3 million people, is also threatened by development proposals in the Ten Mile Creek watershed and by continuing development in the Little Seneca Creek watershed.

The Linthicum West property is not subject to an imperviousness cap and is not located in the environmental overlay zones for the Ten Mile Creek Special Protection Area.

Now is the time to act, before the Linthicum West development proposal proceeds. Once the residential units are built, it will be too late to add this property to the protections surrounding our critical drinking-water resource.

Sincerely,

Miriam Schoenbaum
Board member, Friends of Ten Mile Creek and Little Seneca Reservoir



Montgomery Parks
@MontgomeryParks



UPDATE

Black Hill Road within Black Hill Regional Park is down to one-lane alternating traffic after flooding damage earlier today.

Water breached the causeway at Little Seneca Lake, leaving behind mounds of debris.

Photos by Mike Little and Doug Ludwig, Montgomery Parks.



4:54 PM · Jul 8, 2019 · [Twitter Web App](#)

