

Donna Conkling

From: Mayor
Sent: Wednesday, September 26, 2018 9:29 AM
To: Donna Conkling
Subject: Fw: In opposition to Dog park in Weinberg nature center.

From: Anu Ramachandran <anu.ramachandran@juliabfee.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 25, 2018 1:36 PM
To: Mayor
Cc: Anush Ramachandran (Learn America)
Subject: In opposition to Dog park in Weinberg nature center.

Dear Mayor Hochvert and Scarsdale Village Board members,

We are residents of Scarsdale and we live on Barker lane across from the Weinberg nature center. I understand that a new dog park is being considered and we oppose it and so are my neighbors in Barker Lane. We believe a dog park in Weinberg nature center would be of great inconvenience to us for the following reasons.

1. Increased traffic given entrance/exit to the Hutch is near us.
2. There are already many public facilities adding to traffic. Within a few yards of each other we have a Nature center, Golf course, little school, pool complex, ball parks, soccer fields and an equestrian center, packing one more public facility is excessive. Not to mention two places of worship under a mile. Please consider a different location, if you must.
3. Already we seem to have frequent accidents near the entry to the Hutch, near the proposed entry way to the dog park.
4. Morning drop-offs, pick-ups, school busses and cars have become so chaotic that getting out of our street and onto Mamaroneck road is a 5-10 minute wait. This dog park will make quality of our day-to-day life worse.
5. We already have the Hutch traffic noise pollution we cannot tolerate more due to the proposed location of the park from dogs, people and cars.
6. We have young children living in our street and I am worried about unruly dogs and their people. If the recent incident in crossway is a proof we should be concerned about this too.
7. Many in Scarsdale dog owners don't clean up after their dogs and leave their dog poop bags on the side walk, and in our garbage bins when it is out. I think a park in front will make this problem worse.
8. SAFETY concerns: Random people and cars seem to linger in the nature center parking lot. We have had a car theft and few break-ins and a burglary. We are afraid for our safety.
9. We on Barker worried that if the nature center parking lot fills up, our street will become the default parking lot subsequently reducing the enjoyment of the street by our children and us.
10. This dog park will reduce our property value, because many do not view living across from the dog park as a positive aspect including us.

11. Why are we clearing the green space in the Weinberg nature center to put a dog park? Has there been any studies done about this and if so, what are the environmental implications of removing a green space, expand a parking lot, remove trees to put in a dog park?

More general Dog park concerns that is not location specific:

1. What is the cost to village in creating and maintaining the park and how that impacts our taxes. Is there a cost benefit analysis done for this project. If so will we be able to see it before it gets approved?
2. The proposed plan requires volunteers to control the disagreements in the park between dogs and between owners. What if that volunteer pool dries up or the enthusiasm?
3. Wouldn't it be more prudent to wait until all school renovations and library renovations are done AND after we can figure out how SALT deduction will be resolved before spending money more new projects?

Final statement and concern:

Why are we compromising the goals of the nature center? Here is the mission statement of Weinberg Nature Center. <http://www.weinbergnaturecenter.org/aboutus.html>. Followed by the findings and mission statement of the TNC Board of Trustees and the borough of Tenafly. <http://www.tenaflynaturecenter.org/Frequently-Asked-Questions#Dogs>

Weinberg nature Center Mission Statement

To promote and encourage an understanding, appreciation and study of the practice of conservation and of the natural sciences and to that end to participate in and encourage the use and development of the Weinberg Nature Center and other conservation activities.

Borough of Tenafly

By their very nature, dogs are both a perceived and real threat to wildlife: Their presence on our trails (scent, noise, droppings, fur, tracks) both during and after a walk on our trails, cause wildlife to take cover or leave the area. This, in turn, reduces the capacity for observing and learning about nature while at TNC, the very purpose for which these natural assets were established. Leashed or unleashed, dogs may also pose a perceived and real threat to persons on our trails. Please remember, our trails are frequented by young children, adults, and senior adults. Our mission is to provide a safe recreational and educational experience to all people. We are obliged to eliminate this threat. Compounding this problem is the associated risk to our organization. Unfortunately, we live in a highly litigious society, where a single lawsuit can destroy an organization such as ours.

Last, thank you for your time and commitment to the town. We truly appreciate all of your service.

Kind Regards,

Anu and Anush Ramachandran
3 Barker Lane
Scarsdale, NY 10583

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