

I can't tell you how concerned I am about the proposed housing development for the Mugar wetlands. There are so many reasons why this is a really bad idea. The building of luxury apartments even if there are a smattering of affordable units will increase the price of housing in that part of town and make living in Arlington that much more out of reach for middle and low income households. This goes against our stated goal of creating more affordable housing and will make it that much more difficult to reach the state mandated goal of 10%.

Equally as troubling is the concern for local residents of the increased risk of flooding. We know this will happen so how can we move forward with a plan that places residents' homes at risk.

And for me the most troubling is that at a time when urbanization is removing animal habitats and wild areas that we need in order to protect our planet and ecosystem we are considering killing a whole habitat. The animals that live in this area help manage the rodent population and by decimating it I can guarantee that our rodent problem will increase and then we will all be left scratching our heads and wondering what happened. When you remove natural predators that is what happens. Knowing this, how can you in good conscience allow this project to go forward. The pursuit of profit and the pursuit of affordable housing do not go hand in hand. We need to be focusing on creating additional affordable units before more market priced units. And we need to be inviting non profit developers to help us with that.

Please do the right thing. Mugar can find plenty of other places to increase their profits but not on our wetlands and not at the expense of our low income residents.

Thank you for your consideration.

Lynette Culverhouse

TMM precinct 11