


RE: Thorndike Place Development

Julie DiBiase <jada86@aol.com>

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To: ConComm <ConComm@town.arlington.ma.us>

 5 attachments (8 MB)

ebird Thorndike Field.pdf; ebird report pg 2.pdf; End of Littlejohn Street.pdf; Dorothy Road.pdf; Deer Mugar Woods.pdf;

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Dear Conservation Committee Members,

As direct abutters to the Mugar property residing at 29 Littlejohn Street for over 30 years, our opposition to the proposed Thorndike Place development is due to several critical factors.

During our many years in East Arlington, we have had numerous flooding events which has caused property damage to our home and have witnessed our neighbors deal with the same. Even moderate rainfall contributes to these events. The Mugar site with its many trees, shrubs and wetlands is essential to our neighborhood for flood control and storm damage protection. The Thorndike Place development will be catastrophic to our area.

The current conditions of the Mugar site consists of vegetation, trees, shrubs, wetlands, valleys and swales which allow rainfall and overflow from Rt. 2 and the Alewife Brook to be absorbed. Areas of the Mugar property sit lower than Dorothy Road, the pooling of water that accumulates in these low-lying areas is significant allowing for more water storage. However, during heavy rainfall, Dorothy Road and Littlejohn Street often have several inches of water backing up into the street which has contributed to flooding in many of the homes in the neighborhood. With the site being developed and its topography being changed, the land will no longer function with the ability to absorb large volumes of water. This will only increase water displacement and lead to more flooding. In addition, we have not seen a future site plan with current and future land grades illustrated on a topography map. This information is critical in understanding water displacement for the future site.

As one of Arlington's last open spaces, the Mugar property offers food, shelter and cover for a vast array of wildlife. Over the years, we have seen numerous animals on the property including coyotes, foxes, turkeys, deer, rabbits, squirrels, opossums, and chipmunks. In and around Thorndike Field along perimeter of Mugar woods, ninety-nine different species of birds have also been spotted, including the Bald Eagle. (see attached report from [eBird.org](https://ebird.org)).

Building on this site will result in the destruction of the many habitats for the diverse wildlife in this area.

In accordance with Arlington's Master Plan, we strongly feel that the entire 17.7 acres should remain as open space. For your review, please see attached photos.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter,

Sincerely,

Robert & Julie DiBiase
29 Littlejohn Street