

## DuPage County Board Speech

To ensure that our communities will always be desirable places to live, work and raise families, where all feel welcomed.

To define and fulfill its role in supporting and enhancing the quality of life for County residents by keeping people safe...Protecting and enhancing natural resources and infrastructure.

To foster the continued growth of its economy by championing DuPage County as a desirable place in which to live and work.

These values are the mission statement of the County.

I have recently had severe impact to my quality of life due to destruction of the environment, namely protected wetland of endangered species. After destruction of the vegetation, the loud sound of an air handling unit was first noticed by residents. The sound had previously been abated by the removed trees, was minimal at best, and was a non-issue. Now, the noise is very intrusive and severely impacts the local properties. *This noise pollution is unbearable.* This reduces my quality of life, property value, and damages the protected wetland. *The sound is so bad, that if left unmitigated, I could no longer live in my home.*

This noise pollution is also detrimental to the endangered species that inhabit the pond, which is against the mission statement, and legislation, of DuPage County, the State of Illinois, and the Federal EPA.

Up to this point, I feel my local government has been dismissive of my claims. My neighbors share this sentiment.

It is the duty of this board to rectify these violations, protect the environment, wetland, and endangered species of the county and Illinois. Under the current conditions, I cannot claim my property as being a desirable place to live, work, and raise a family; as is the mission statement of the County in which I am represented.

The City of Wheaton is oppressing me as a resident of Dupage county. I have no recourse, as the violations are emanating from City of Wheaton, in which I am unrepresented. For this reason, I call upon the board to do what is right, and take action on the violations at hand.

These issues should be handled by this board in conjunction with **[The Stormwater Board / Environmental Board]**.

I have submitted documentation showing damage done, and mitigation strategies. I request these actions be performed.

Date: 06 June 2023.

Subject: Wheaton Warrenville South High School wetland tree and vegetation removal.

On 23 May 2023 and 30 May 2023 unknown parties removed trees and ground vegetation from the eastern shore of a wetland adjacent to the Wheaton Warrenville South High School. Previous clearing had taken place during the early spring of 2023 on the South East shoreline but was minor in comparison to these events.

The wetland, locally known as Weisbrook Pond, is located to the west of the Wheaton Warrenville South High School (WWSHS) building and the affected area is on school property.

This pond is identified as a wetland on the DuPage County Parcel Viewer website and is represented as such by county officials to local area residents via permits requiring outbuilding moves to comply, and one local resident receiving fines in the past and required construction of a Salamander habitat.

These actions performed at the WWSHS may have violated Du Page County, Illinois State, and U.S. Government laws regarding wetlands protection. No permits for the vegetation removal were known to exist at the time of the plant removal actions. Vegetation removal was performed without regard to public input or knowledge.

The natural wetland environment was affected by the vegetation clearing, as well as affecting wildlife natural habitat and affecting the neighboring residences' quality of life.

The tree and vegetation removal actions revealed further nuisances coming from the high school building.

Subsequent to the flora removal, the loud sound of an air handling unit atop the high school was first noticed by local residents. The sound previously had been abated by the removed trees and vegetation on the east side of the wetland and had not been noticed by the area residents. This noise is very intrusive and severely impacts the local properties.

Lights emanating from the school also previously unnoticed by local residents further intruded upon wetland and residential tranquility. The removed trees had blocked most of night time lights originating at the school. The nocturnal activities of the wetland and attendant wildlife were thus subjected to the unwanted lighting from the high school.

Local residents believe the actions that occurred on 23 May and 30 May 2023 have affected their quality of life. The residents believe the tree and vegetation removal actions have affected their properties' values. The residents also believe the wildlife using or residing at the wetland have been affected by these actions.

The residents propose a mitigation solution to these actions. Replacement of the trees removed and restoration of the vegetation removed by the high school would restore the wetland wildlife habitat and restore the former tranquility of local residents.

The trees restoration would remove the night light pollution and loss of privacy/line of sight from the high school.

The noise pollution from the high school air handling unit would be abated by installation of sound attenuation surrounding or enclosing the unit.

The tree and vegetation restoration would aid in the wildlife habitat recovery for the endangered species known to exist at the wetland. Salamander and Little Blue Heron are known to exist in this area, and a Bald Eagle has been spotted twice in the last 2 years at this location as well.

Please see attached for potential pollution mitigation strategies.