



**College Gardens Civic Association**

[www.Collegegardens.org](http://www.Collegegardens.org)

**Plymouth Woods Condominium, Incorporation**

[www.plymouthwoods20850.org](http://www.plymouthwoods20850.org)

December 4, 2006

Dear Mayor and Council

We are writing to you to express our enthusiastic support of the proposed design of the College Gardens Park stormwater pond and park redesign.

On December 12 of 2005, you asked that the College Gardens neighbors and staff work together to find a “workable park and stormwater management pond concept.” In response to that directive, the College Gardens Task Force was formed. The Task Force is made up of residents from the College Gardens Civic Association, Plymouth Woods Condominium, Inc., the Recreation and Park Advisory Board, the Commission on the Environment and City staff.

Together we have exhaustively investigated stormwater management options. As a group we have come to the conclusion that stormwater management should be constructed within College Gardens Park. An essential component of what we consider to be a workable stormwater management solution is the updating and redesigning of College Gardens Park. The proposed stormwater management pond is shaped much differently than the existing pond, making it necessary to adjust the layout and design of the park to accommodate both the pond and recreation space. Additionally, College Gardens Park is ready for an update.

Highlights of our work as a Task Force were: a site visit to look at possible pond locations, a survey of neighbors to determine their priorities for updated park amenities, and a September 21 public meeting to show neighbors the recommended design. The Task Force itself met on seven occasions over the past twelve months. We were very pleased by the reaction of our neighbors at the September 21 public meeting. More than eighty people came to see the design and the majority of them liked what they saw.

It is with the full knowledge of the groups we represent that we offer our support for the design recommendations presented to you on December 18, 2006. We also believe our job is not done. We will be involved in the process to determine final design, including design elements and safety features, and will continue to keep our respective groups informed.

Thank you for this opportunity.

Sincerely,

Mark Pierzchala  
President, College Gardens Civic Association

Gerry Cashin  
President, Board of Directors,  
Plymouth Woods Condominiums,  
Inc.

Kate Savage  
Chair, Rockville Parks Board

Gerry Leighton  
Member, Rockville Commission on  
the Environment

Paul O'Brien  
Watts Branch Task Force

Marylou Berg  
Assistant to the City Manager

Burt Hall  
Director, Recreation and Parks

Craig Simoneau  
Director, Department of Public  
Works

Cc: Susan Straus, Chief Engineer  
Lise Soukup, Civil Engineer II  
Nate Wall, Environmental Specialist  
Dwayne Jenkins, Neighborhood Resources Coordinator  
Steve Mader, Superintendent of Parks and Facilities  
Mike Critzer, Park Services Manager