



Graydon: Environmental Facts and Considerations

Graydon is premier **recreational open space** in our Village. The 2.68-acre spring-fed bathing beach in a large green park area is a precious resource that must be preserved for its natural beauty. We are fortunate that the Village had the foresight years ago to maintain this naturally beautiful open area as public open space. Graydon is clearly **a remarkable Village icon** welcoming residents and visitors into the heart of the Village and **a testament to ways in which our community protects its environmental assets.**

Graydon is a **unique public park 12 months of the year, with passive and active recreation for every sector of the community.**

Graydon Park, Maple Park East, and Veterans Field are **in the central flood basin** adjacent to the Ho-Ho-Kus Brook—an integral part of our watershed and aquifer, our water commodity.

The **Graydon Wetland Basin**, at one point a drinking pond for farm animals, was turned into a swimming lake some 80 years ago. Graydon is essentially **a natural wetland** area, as the runoff from the Heights spills into the Ho-Ho-Kus Brook and, with overflow, into the entire Graydon area. The basin sits on a riverbed, **vital to our aquifer and watershed.**

Our changing climate will create extraordinary pressures for **future flooding in Graydon.** Radically disturbing Graydon's size and sandy bottom by building a concrete pool would make this large basin of permeable land impermeable. Potential consequences to our infrastructure, including downstream recreational fields, Village Hall, the public library, and nearby homes and office buildings, must be recognized and evaluated.

Years ago, when EPA regulations were less stringent, the firehouse, Village Hall, and library were granted permits in this critical natural flood plain. During and after heavy rains, these structures and nearby parking lots experience substantial flooding. **Adding structures would exacerbate flooding problems.** As we learned after Hurricane Floyd in 1999 and Hurricane Irene in 2011, flooding is expensive and destructive. **Graydon works with Mother Nature** to weather such events with minimal damage and costs. Even while serious weather events occur closer together, **the Hundred-Year Flood is still anticipated.**

Graydon Park is a **natural habitat for fauna**, including birds, badgers, and more, year-'round.

Why would the Village shrink a pristine open public space such as Graydon while continuing to secure **Green Acres monies** and taxes dedicated to purchasing additional areas for open public space?

Any proposed changes to **Graydon** must be preceded by a comprehensive **environmental impact study.** We have been neglectful in respecting our environmental treasure that provides **support and protection** as well as aesthetic and recreational pleasure.