



## Graydon: Environmental Facts and Considerations

**Graydon** is premier **recreational open space** in our Village. The 2.6-acre springfed “plake” in a 2.7-acre green park area is a precious resource that must be preserved for its natural beauty. We are fortunate that the Village had the foresight to keep 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 how this 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 all **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 Pool**, especially the anticipated 100-year flood. 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, the Village Hall, and Library, must be evaluated.

Years ago, when EPA regulations were less stringent, the firehouse, Village Hall, and Public Library were granted permits in this critical flood natural plain. When heavy rains occur, these structures and all parking lots in these areas experience substantial flooding. Adding structures would exacerbate flooding problems. The Hundred-Year Flood is still anticipated. As we learned with Hurricane Floyd in 1999, flooding costs money and is destructive. **The natural Graydon plake works with Mother Nature** to weather such events with minimal damage and costs.

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 when we continue 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 the environmental treasure that we have in Graydon.