



Graydon: Environmental Facts and Considerations

Graydon is premier **recreational open space** in our Village. The 2.68-acre spring-fed “plake” 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 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 enjoyed by every sector of the community**.

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**.

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

Our changing climate will create extraordinary pressures for **future flooding in Graydon**, 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. Water could no longer collect in Graydon during storms or sink into the earth through the sand. Potential consequences to our infrastructure, including downstream recreational fields, the Village Hall, public library, and nearby homes and office buildings, 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 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 is expensive and 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, as well as flora.

Why would the Village choose to 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, never before done. We have been neglectful in respecting the environmental treasure that we are privileged to have in Graydon and that is the envy of visitors.