Reserves at Arlington SWMD Type III Variance Request Public Comment Response

DATE RC'D	COMMENT	INQUIRER	RESPONSE	RESPONDER
11/14/2023	1. The sewershed per our Greenspace Plan for this site is called the Kenny_Henderson Drainage_1 and the total sewershed size is 217.88 acres (0.0005 square miles). The applicant has used the USGS Stream Stats information that indicates that their estimates were extrapolated and has unknown errors (watershed =0.1 sq miles= 4,356 acres). Therefore we suggest the City of Columbus identify what the actual Stream Corridor Protection Zone (SCPZ) width should be. The small black dot on the map above indicates the project location in this sewershed. https://olentangy.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=56cd806431304f079a0e04ead00d3cf0	FLOW Science Committee Chair	We agree that in this case, due to highly urbanized watershed upstream of the project site, StreamStats does not accurately reflect actual watershed boundaries. We have determined that the watershed area is approximately 10 acres (0.016 sq mi). The correct SCPZ width based on the revised watershed size will be used for plan preparation.	City of Columbus
11/14/2023	2. FLOW requests that fertilizer and pesticides adjacent to this waterway be used minimally to ensure that the impacts to the stream water quality is minimized (and the cumulative impacts to theOlentangy River be reduced). Please check and adhere to the guidance at Franklin Soil and WaterConservation Districts' Get Grassy page to minimize environmental impacts. https://www.franklinswcd.org/get-grassy	Laura Fay Friends of the Lower Olentangy Watershed (FLOW) FLOW Science Committee Chair	Use of pesticides and fertilizer will be prohibited within the proposed mitigation area around the stream. Additionally, the Applicant communicated that the owner will make every effort to minimize fertilizers and pesticides within the existing green space/common area, adjacent to the stream.	City of Columbus
11/14/2023	3. Per the Columbus Urban Tree canopy report (2013 data) the canopy in this census block is 27% but there is also a high percentage (43%) of impervious surface that can cause Urban Heat Island Impacts. Is there any potential to plant trees instead of the native grasses as mitigation?	Laura Fay Friends of the Lower Olentangy Watershed (FLOW) FLOW Science Committee Chair	The Applicant has communicated their willingness to consider planting trees within the proposed 5 ft riparian mitigation area.	City of Columbus
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11/14/2023	4. The Reserves at Arlington has a 2nd parcel to the South and it although it does drain to another Sewershed (Fogle Run), there is room there to add trees and this would potentially provide more mitigation than what is proposed (a 5 foot wide buffer). FLOW has identified this census block area, shown in red below, as one of our highest needs for stormwater mitigation, to improve the water quality of the Olentangy Watershed.	Laura Fay Friends of the Lower Olentangy Watershed (FLOW) FLOW Science Committee Chair	The Applicant is willing to consider planting trees within the 2nd parcel.	City of Columbus
11/14/2023	5. Another mitigation option that FLOW would endorse, is to depave the approximately 0.17 acre tennis court in Reserve A (shown below) and to plant with a native prairie or treesl.	Laura Fay Friends of the Lower Olentangy Watershed (FLOW) FLOW Science Committee Chair	The question is outside of the SWDM Variance Type III purview. The Applicant has indicated that they are potentially open to taking advantage of FLOWs help to depave the tennis court area. They will have their team price out the hauling of the debris and would like to continue to conversation. This is also the option that they are most interested in. Suggest contacting the Applicant to discuss.	City of Columbus
11/14/2023	FLOW could potentially help with this, if the applicant could haul the tennis court asphalt to the local recycling facility. FLOW has experience with depaving and this activity is important in the Olentangy Watershed since we have to disconnect 10,000 acres of impervious surfaces to get to a better, sustainable water quality.	Laura Fay Friends of the Lower Olentangy Watershed (FLOW) FLOW Science Committee Chair	Please see above.	City of Columbus
11/14/2023	In summary, FLOW is not opposed to the variance request but would like to see some more comprehensive mitigation (like trees, or depaving). There also appears to be room along the right of way on Midwest Blvd for trees. Can the applicant please call 311 and request Right of Way Trees?	Laura Fay Friends of the Lower Olentangy Watershed (FLOW) FLOW Science Committee Chair	The Applicant indicated their willingness to cooperate with FLOW. Suggest FLOW to reach out to the Applicant to continue the conversation.	City of Columbus