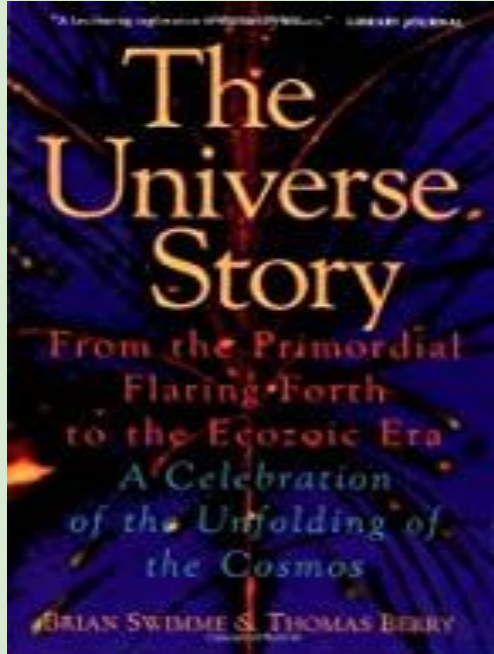




SAVE OUR TREES!

Say “NO” to Rezoning Forestland for Development

Rezoning usually leads to Clear-cutting, which causes Irreversible Environmental Disasters



Brian Swimme & Thomas Berry warned us in 1992 of these irreversible environmental disasters in The Universe Story:

“We (humans), are deliberately terminating the most awesome splendor that the planet has yet attained.”

“Each year we are destroying a rainforest area the size of Oklahoma.”

“Without trees, Earth cannot dispose adequately of the chemical residues spewed into the atmosphere by the burning of fossil fuels.”

“Trees are essential for restoring ecological balance to our endangered planet.”

Clear-cutting of Forestland causes these Deleterious Effects:

- **Soil Damage, Erosion**
- **High CO2 Levels**



Construction sites for highway, medical, commercial & housing development

High CO2 & Contaminants cause:

- **Loss of Health & Lives**



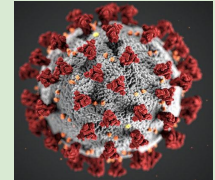
Cancer



Heart Disease



Asthma



Covid-19 Virus

CO2 & Contaminants cause:

- **Risk of Natural Disasters**



Hurricanes



Floods



Tornadoes



Droughts

- **Loss of Homes & Habitat**



Mudslides



Wildfires



Melting Icebergs



Endangered Species

- **Loss of the Many Benefits of Urban Forests:**

During clear-cutting and grading operations, the land is left barren and robbed of all these benefits that are essential for the sustainability of our community.

Carbon Storage

Reduction of Heat during Summers Months

Stimulus to Economic Development

Higher Property Values



Restoration of Groundwater Supply

Improved Water Quality

Reduced Erosion and Flooding

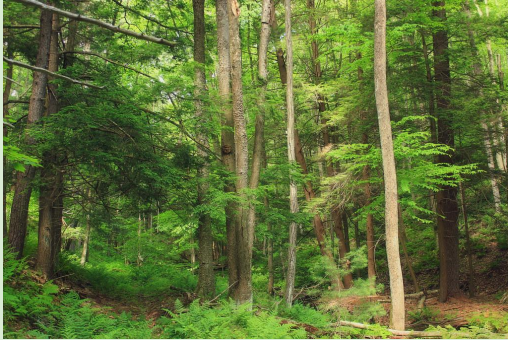
Oxygen

Improved Mental & Emotional Health

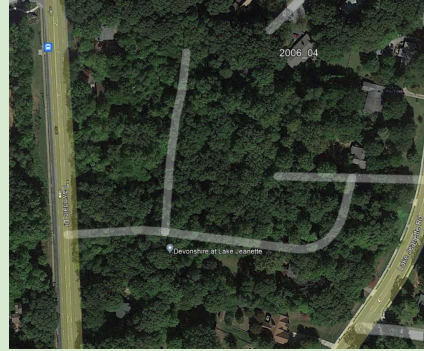
Rich Soil & Fungi

An In-depth study of property rezoned for a luxury patio home complex

4125 Lawndale Drive & 4304 Lake Jeanette Road (2006 - 2019)



8 Acres of ecologically balanced forest with small stream, marsh & wildlife refuge



Aerial view of the 8 acres with proposed streets



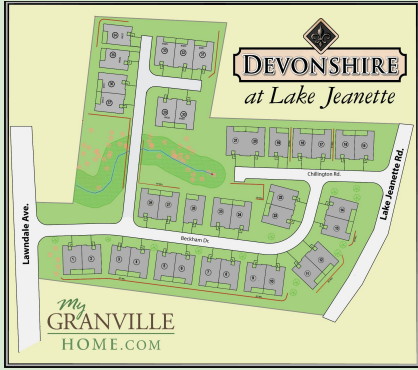
Same property during construction of housing community



As clear-cutting and grading began, the densely wooded property started to thin. (Photos taken from the end of Musket Lane.)

Only rooftops of new complex & a few scraggly trees can now be seen from the end of Musket Lane.

Between 4125 Lawndale Drive and 4304 Lake Jeanette Road (2019 to 2021)

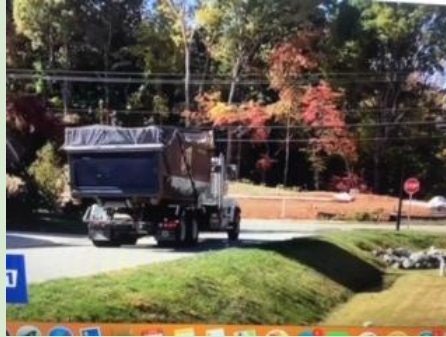


Layout for 27 patio homes

Total destruction of huge, irreplaceable trees, land, marsh & habitat for 100's of species



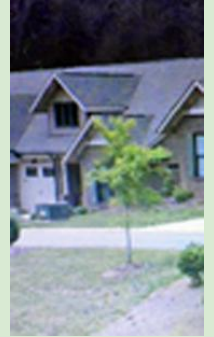
Tons of concrete were delivered daily.



Dump trucks delivered numerous loads of dirt to fill in the marsh.



Developer built brick & wooden fences and planted several small bushes and one small tree per home



Local residents described this as a “Major Assault” on our natural environment.

- > 8 Acres of ecologically balanced forestland with dense woods, a stream & a marsh that was a refuge for wildlife, birds and small critters were totally destroyed.
- > Over 450 huge, large-growth trees were destroyed
- > Many birds flew over destroyed property for days searching for their nests
- > Significant increase in Carbon Emissions, due to:
 - Deforestation of trees that are essential for removing CO2 emissions from the air.
 - The use of heavy equipment, large trucks, more vehicles and mowers with inner combustion engines. The complex increased traffic on Lawndale & Lake Jeanette.
 - The production of local cement and asphalt, which consumes huge quantities of heat energy to convert raw materials into usable products and emits huge amounts of carbon emissions.
 - Increased usage of electricity, which is produced by burning fossil fuels & wood pellets.
- > Significant loss of groundwater
- > Direct contamination of stream & groundwater from lawn, household & vehicle products
- > Significant gain in heat during the summer months for entire neighborhood

This is a **critical time** for Greensboro to take steps to protect our mature trees and urban forests and reduce the city's carbon footprint!

It's too late to save hundreds of acres of trees that once grew in Greensboro.

However, it's not too late to save numerous properties that are up for rezoning.



The Sierra Club recommends the following actions to reduce carbon emissions:

- 1. Halt deforestation; stop rezoning and permitting clear-cutting for urban development**
- 2. Protect all mature trees that are 19.5 inches & greater in diameter and over 13.5 ft in height**
- 3. Curtail the use of heavy equipment and large trucks within the city**
- 4. Convert all city buildings to renewable energy**
- 5. Purchase electric/zero-emissions vehicles for city usage**
- 6. Limit gas-powered vehicles on city streets**

The Sierra Club acknowledges that Greensboro has adopted a Landscaping Ordinance that includes requirements for species diversity and native tree species inclusion in required buffer yards. However, local residents have reported that the developers are either unaware of these requirements or simply ignoring them. This ordinance needs to be enforced.

The Greensboro City Council claims to be supportive of SUSTAINABLE growth within the city. The most sustainable steps any city can take is to curtail deforestation and prevent the contamination of our watersheds.

While the City strives to maintain a balance between economic growth and conservation. We urge you to recognize that TREES are essential for restoring ecological balance. Restoration of ecological balance has become humankind's greatest challenge. We ask you to pick up the lead with this challenge.

Say “NO” to Rezoning Forestland for Development

References:

Sierra Club Magazine & Websites

Natural Resources Defense Council (2021 Climate Action Plan)

National Cancer Institute

The Universe Story, Brian Swimme & Thomas Berry

The Great Work, Thomas Berry

Hope Is an Imperative, David W. Orr

The Washington Post, (www.washingtonpost.com/weather/extreme-heat-exposure-urban-climate)

The City of Greensboro's Landscaping and Tree Conservation Manual, Justin Clinton

Google Presentation & Video Credits:

Producer: *Piedmont Plateau Group, Sierra Club*

Director: Hazel Landers, MA

Photographers: Vance Arnold, Happy & Dennis Rieth, Sena & Jon Crutchley, Sharon Gade, Hazel Landers & flickr.com

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