

June 8, 2006

Mark Olinger, Director  
Planning Department  
Room LL100 Municipal Building  
215 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
Madison, WI 53703

Dear Mr. Olinger,

I am writing to express my concerns regarding the proposed development of the property located at and near the corner of Arboretum Drive and Arboretum Lane in the Town of Madison. The property consists of four parcels. Three of these parcels are wooded with old growth oaks and have never been developed. A stone house was built in the early 1940s on the fourth parcel, and it has remained unchanged since that time.

The planned construction of two new houses, one on each of the wooded lots, and the enlargement of the stone house will have an adverse and lasting impact on the University's Arboretum and Lake Wingra. The existing homes in the Arboretum neighborhood rely on septic system for waste water management; as all of the lots are unsewered. Many of these septic systems are 60 years old or more and are leaking contaminants into the ground water. Preliminary evidence collected by UW Arboretum scientists indicates nitrite/nitrate levels in water drawn from the East Spring in the UW Arboretum, which lies near Arboretum Drive close to the western boundary of the current Arboretum subdivision, are two-and-a-half times higher than those measured in water samples from the West Spring. Levels of ammonia, chloride and phosphorus are similarly elevated in water that flows from the East Spring as compared with that from the West Spring.

Clearly, the addition of three large-capacity septic systems will further challenge the filtration capacity of the land in the Arboretum neighborhood that already may be saturated by the existing septic systems. The new septic systems will continue to leak nitrates into the soil and groundwater, further adding to its burden.

The result of the proposed construction will be to replace thousands of square feet of existing land, currently capable of absorbing precipitation, with manmade materials. Stormwater runoff will be increased significantly. The proposed new houses and existing house all are located on a hill, which intersects Arboretum Drive. Increased stormwater runoff will flow directly down the hill, across Arboretum Drive, into Wingra Beach, and eventually into Lake Wingra. Allowing Lake Wingra to be stressed further by adding to the stormwater runoff load is unsound public policy, and cannot be defended if stemming the current decline in the quality of the water in Lake Wingra is to be achieved.

These concerns have been recognized by the State and the County, and violates in principle the regulations in Section 11.03 of Chapter 11 of Dane County's ordinances, "Shoreland, Shoreland-Wetland and Inland-Wetland Regulations," and Statute 59.692 "Zoning of shorelands on navigable waters," of Wisconsin's Administrative Code. These County and State regulations were adopted to prevent and control water pollution, promote safe and healthful conditions, and protect public health, safety, convenience and general welfare.

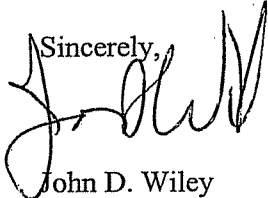
Office of the Chancellor

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The Arboretum is a premiere research and teaching facility for the University of Wisconsin, unique in the nation, and it is a source of community pride to all the citizens in Dane County. The Arboretum also is fragile ecologically, and is under constant challenge from human traffic and pollution. It is clear that the proposed development will have a permanent adverse effect on the UW Arboretum. Should it be allowed to go forward as planned, we are concerned that it will set a precedent, and be the first in a series of negative steps that will result in the eventual remodeling of the Arboretum as we now know it. For these reasons, I have no reservations in stating unequivocally that the University of Wisconsin-Madison opposes the proposed development of the parcels of land noted above as vigorously as possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John D. Wiley". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "W".

John D. Wiley  
Chancellor

Cc: Mayor Dave Cieslewicz  
Dane County Executive Kathleen Falk

Mark A. Olinger, Director  
Department of Planning and Development  
City of Madison  
P.O. Box 2985  
Madison, WI 53701

June 2, 2006

Dear Mr. Olinger,

We are writing to express our deep concern about the proposed new housing development in the Arboretum subdivision at the corner of Arboretum Drive and Arboretum Lane, also known as the Pahl property. We collectively represent the interests of many who greatly cherish and value the numerous positive benefits the 1260 acre Arboretum generates for the University of Wisconsin, the local community and beyond. We are responsible to a global community of scholars, scientists, conservationists and environmentalists who consider the Arboretum to be a unique scientific, historical and cultural resource.

The prospect of the proposed development raises several serious environmental impacts that might adversely affect the Arboretum's natural resources. These potential impacts include:

1. Adding additional burden to the soil-landscape system of the Arboretum subdivision that is already failing in its ability to adequately treat household effluent via septic systems. The landscape is underlain by shallow springs, which in turn drain into waterways that flow into Lake Wingra. A preliminary water quality investigation of streams in the Arboretum and one that receives drainage from the subdivision has been conducted. Results indicate that the subdivision is leaching contaminants into the receiving stream, whereas that Arboretum streams do not have elevated levels of contaminants.
2. The proposed addition to the Pahl property and construction of two large dwellings on two small adjoining lots will result in destruction of mature trees and vastly increase the portion of impervious footprint at a critical location on the landscape. The proposed development is located on a convex slope that lies immediately to the south and above Arboretum Drive. Immediately to the north lie the wetlands bordering the south shore of Lake Wingra. It is likely that during heavy rains, water, sediment and contaminants will be transported from the impervious surfaces across the road and into the wetlands.
3. The tree destruction necessary to accommodate the expansion of the existing house and construction of the new dwellings will create a large gap in the existing forest canopy that blankets the subdivision and is an important, attractive and distinctive feature of the subdivision. Furthermore, viewscapes within and beyond

the subdivision, which today features dwellings that blend unobtrusively into the forested landscape will be radically and detrimentally altered.

More broadly, we are concerned that if this development project is approved, it will set a precedent for similar projects in the subdivision, which would vastly alter the character of the area and impinge negatively on the Arboretum in terms of conducting our scientific mission because of potential adverse environmental impacts. We encourage you to consider the long-term impacts that the proposed and possibly subsequent housing developments will impose directly and indirectly on the Arboretum. We believe that a moratorium on development in the subdivision is essential for the Arboretum to sustain its research mission and other functions, including serving as a natural refuge that is highly valued locally and globally.

Yours truly,

Kevin McSweeney  
Professor of Soil Science  
Director, University of Wisconsin-Arboretum

Susan Stratton  
President, Friends of the Arboretum