

Memo to the State and Delaware County community,

20 July, 2021.

It is well known and established that “Stratford Ecological Center” 236 acre educational preserve (especially dedicated to natural education of 8,000 children annually) is one of the most remarkable landmarks in central Ohio and is most fortunate to occur and serve the Delaware community for the last 30 years. It is also likely the largest contiguous forested lands in the region – and it is protected as a “State Nature Preserve” and “conservation easement”. This is significant as it is protected at the highest level from potential development by the State, and will be present to serve the public and community for eons.

However there is a present pending threat to the SEC educational preserve!

There is an environmentally sensitive 23 acre property located directly west and across from the Liberty Rd entrance to Stratford. This property is listed for sale and proposed to be developed in a manner that is of great concern. Also the property contains a significant wetland that is a major (and important) watershed to Stratford and its’ major forested wetland is an educational feature and programmed for frequent children’s education. The future use and preservation of the subject 23 acre site, and the presence of the wetland and watershed is paramount of importance to the future of Stratford and the glacial wetlands. Also, the relative potential image for the front entry to Stratford is of great concern. Ideally, this 23 acre property should become ownership as an extended educational compliment to Stratford, however the present owner is working with a developer for accusation and development, pending approval by the Delaware Planning Commission.

Stratford is requesting that the community at large, including the City of Delaware administration; Delaware County Commission; the Township Authority; State ODNR, and private interested individuals, come forth with support and present their shared concerns to the Delaware Planning Commission, at this time.

The Stratford staff, Board of Directors, thousands of children, and hundreds of volunteers are most appreciative for your valued voice of concern.

Clyde Gosnell, Stratford Emeritus Board Chairman.