

# MILL CREEK SOUTH GROUNDS REPORT

## 2013 – 2014

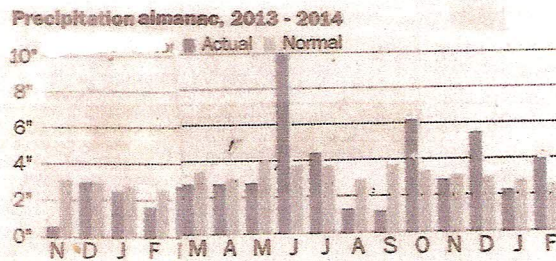
CHAIRMAN  
Michael Wheelwright  
CO CHAIRMAN  
John Hersmeier

### Acknowledgments :

Thanks to: Carroll Verrier, Don Lepsch, John Hersmeier, Bennett & Leslie Alton and Nadone Urban

### Overview:

The unusual rain pattern of continual rain spread out over this period has resulted in the felling of a number of our major mature trees due to weakening the root balls and overturning by hit winds.



### Maintenance:

Ongoing maintenance of the naturalized slope preservation and the retention pond and spillway as well as the community recreation park. The naturalized area is entering its eight year of transformation.

### Salient Activities:

Adoption by the board of Open Space Land Use Policy and adjunct Common Area Woodland Policy.

Construction of asphalt safety path from the north shoulder of Stoney Creek from Shady Grove to Avon Street Extended

Removal of 150 year old White Oak on 250 Homestead Lane with 2.5 ton crane. Specimens was threatening residence.

Rock drainage swale constructed on Shady Grove entrance road the the recreation area to preserve entrance road.

Elevated the Mill Creek South entrance sign for drainage purposes.

Spring revitalization of play areas and furniture

The association's retention pond management responsibility (County vs MCS) is a work-in-progress. An attorney is on retainer and chain of custody research is underway.

  
MICHAEL WHEELWRIGHT

## Open Space Land Use Policy Position Paper

In 2007 the Mill Creek South Board ,adopted a site rehabilitation and naturalization plan, that was ratified by the residents.

The efforts of the grounds committee have been to preserve the forested atmosphere, improve the health of larger trees, reduce erosion and promote slope stability. Natural regeneration has and will continue to be beneficial to the neighborhood, the streams, and retention pond.

Naturalization is a long process of rejuvenating and preserving our existing woodlands. This means that natural species are allowed to thrive and grass cutting is greatly reduced.

In general terms the naturalization will progress along environmental processes, with minimal intervention.

The Goals are:

- Preserve as much of the native tree shrub a grassland cover as possible.

- Maintain a healthy forest floor litter of humus, with leaves and branches to form a nutrient rich layer of topsoil.

- Maintain a high quality eco system that is an appealing suburban/rural environment through the elimination of non-native invasive species on the site

- Introduce herbaceous perennials and native grasses that are indigenous to the area

- To preserve and attract indigenous wildlife to the site.

Specific ecological succession management practices will be employed over a period time as the regeneration requires.

## **Common Area Woodland Policy**

Those areas amongst the Mill Creek South open space that are in woodlands shall be consciously left in a natural biological state

In an effort to foster good wildlife habitat characteristics Best Timber Management practice will be followed

Large woody debris and standing dead trees will be allowed to remain scattered across the sites. These features will be utilized by a variety of animal species. This material will provide sites for nesting roosting foraging and other activities.

Dead woody material on the ground, especially larger logs store energy and nutrients, serve as sites for nitrogen fixation, provides favorable moisture conditions for young tree growth and help protect the soil from erosion. Many birds eat insects that inhabit rotting logs and numerous species of mammals use logs as sites for reproduction activities, foraging and cover from enemies. Forest dwelling amphibians often are found in association with decaying logs.

This policy is adjunct to The Open Space Land Use Policy

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