



South Wilmington PLANNING NETWORK

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June 30, 2014

Mayor Dennis P. Williams
Office of the Mayor
800 N. French St.
Wilmington, DE 19801

Dear Mayor Williams:

The South Wilmington Planning Network (SWPN) is concerned about the findings in the University of Delaware Center for Energy and Environmental Policy's recent study, "Brownfields: from Redevelopment to Revitalization" published in May 2014.

The report found that several parks across Wilmington, which either overlap or are adjacent to Brownfields, may be home to dangerous levels of soil and groundwater metal contamination. These high contamination levels present a public health threat, particularly among children who frequently visit the parks. According to the latest available soil tests, Elbert Park in Southbridge, for example, has soil and groundwater metal contamination which exceeds federal and state screening levels. This is a particular concern to us, as this location will be the site of Southbridge Weekend – an annual community festival to be held next month.

We strongly encourage the City to coordinate with DNREC in continuously updating soil and groundwater testing at all parks and public places which overlap or are adjacent to Brownfields. These data should be made accessible to the public in an easy and understandable manner. Where necessary, mitigation efforts should commence to reduce soil and groundwater contamination to acceptable levels.

The SWPN is a collaborative partnership of Southbridge residents and dozens of government, nonprofit and private agencies. The mission of the Network is to serve as a vehicle for information-sharing and the leveraging of resources on collaborative projects to improve the community's quality of life.

I appreciate your attention to this matter. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns. I can be reached at 302 – 737 – 6205 x 113.

Sincerely,

William Swiatek
Chair

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