

February 8, 2013



*Brookside Woods
Civic Association*

Director James Zehringer
Ohio Department of Natural Resources
2045 Morse Road, Building D
Columbus, OH 43229-6693

Subject: Pending Deal of the Sawmill Wetlands Educational Area

The Brookside Woods Civic Association would like to join all those in protest of your proposed land swap which will cause the loss of the last natural area in our community and the destruction of a wildlife refuge that cannot be replaced.

While ODNR has decided that they no longer want this natural resource, the City of Columbus and a number of other agencies have offered to restore and care for this property in a way that will preserve the natural setting and provide a local learning lab for future generations. This is the type of public support and benefit the taxpayers of this area deserve.

Loss of this public land will impact the quality of our community, the value of our homes and add to the congestion of an already overdeveloped area. The identified land the State will acquire is miles from our neighborhood and useless to our residents. The Sawmill Wetlands have been used in the past for wildlife education and we look forward to better utilization of this resource in the future.

We ask that you allow the new partnerships to protect this valued property and leave us the small amount of public land we have left.

Sincerely,

Dorothy Martin

President
Brookside Woods Civic Association
(representing 298 homeowners)

Michelle Shinew

Committee Member

Brookside Woods Civic Association
P.O. Box 341042
Columbus, OH 43235
614-889-1684