

Politics Are Polluting Our Waterways

Town & County Bought the Right To Pollute Our Water

Last year, the Town of Brookhaven and Suffolk County bought the development rights of the Jurgielewicz duck farm. The farm is one of the largest contributors of pollutants into the Forge River. The Town and County spent almost 6 million dollars in taxpayer dollars on this purchase. So in effect, taxpayers you bought the right to continue polluting the Forge River. The duck farm was supposed to reduce the amount of pollutants entering the waterway by 80%. This mandate has not been met and the owner of the farm is currently contesting the mixing ratios. That means that he wants to be allowed to further contaminate the Forge River. Why isn't the Town and the County making sure that the farm they own the development rights to is in full compliance? Why didn't the Town and County complete a full environmental impact study prior to purchasing this farm?

Where is the Watershed Management Plan?

Last April, Save The Forge River, Inc. hosted a science forum. At the forum the Town of Brookhaven claimed they were in the process of developing the TMDL (total maximum daily load) and a comprehensive watershed management plan. At this time the Town has not even started the TMDL and is going to send out requests for proposals to have an outside contractor complete the TMDL. If the Town was not capable of doing the TMDL why didn't they put it out to bid months ago? Now, the Town wants to create a moratorium so that it can begin work that should have been started almost two years ago. We must make the Town of Brookhaven accountable for their inaction!

Wastewater Worsening our Waterways

Antiquated cesspools, increased population, and the lack of proper infrastructure has had a severe impact on the Forge River. Creating a sewer district is a step needed to insure the future of all of Suffolk County but that is a long-term goal and the Forge River needs help now. Save the Forge River, Inc. believes that creating a special wastewater disposal district at the Town level could help substantially reduce wastewater from entering our waterways.

Let The Tide Flow

Tidal Flow into the Forge River area will greatly improve the water quality. It was historically proven by Woods Hole Oceanographic Research Center that increased tidal flow improves the water quality. If nature took its course, the barrier island would be breached and tidal flow would increase into the Forge River. The county, in an effort to protect its residents from flooding, prevents nature from running its course and takes action to prevent breaching. If artificial methods are preventing nature from increasing tidal flow then why can't the County use artificial measures to remedy the tidal flow problem? Save The Forge River, Inc. knows that tidal flow is a piece of the puzzle that needs to be addressed in order to truly restore this waterway. We would like to see the Moriches Inlet dredged and regularly maintained. In order to have that accomplished the Moriches Inlet would have to be deemed a navigable inlet.

Town of Brookhaven needs to address Storm Water Runoff

The Town of Brookhaven needs to address storm water runoff. Storm water runoff is another major contributor of pollutants in the Forge River. The Town needs to develop a comprehensive storm water mitigation plan. Currently, outflow pipes containing no filtering devices pour directly into the Forge River delivering a cocktail of pollutants that include fertilizers, pesticides, animal waste, diesel, oil, and gasoline. Addressing storm water runoff is a simple fix so why is the Town not aggressively attacking this known source of pollution?

Town Fails To Educate Residents

Education and Public Outreach can be effective tools. Simply educating residents and recreational users about actions they can take to keep our water healthy may prevent many of the pollutants from ever winding up in our waterways. Save the Forge River, Inc. has continuously requested that the town provide information to residents but our pleas have gone unanswered. Save The Forge River, Inc. also requested that signs be placed stating "You Are in the Forge River Watershed Area" this request also was ignored by our current councilperson.

Let's Tell Brookhaven We Need Action Now!



Save the Forge River, Inc.



Listen to the river. It is calling for your help.

For more information go to www.savetheforgeriver.us or call (631)281-0370