

CONNECTICUT POST
Friday, February 11, 2005

Remington Woods mustn't be developed

I am very concerned about the proposed development for Remington Woods in Bridgeport. This large and beautiful piece of land should be maintained as open space or a green development. There are . brownfields elsewhere in the city that could be cleaned up and redeveloped to suit commercial development, and these brownfield areas are served by existing highways.

The proposed Seaview Avenue corridor development to Remington Woods will cost \$125 million (or more) to complete. Where will that money come from?

The future costs to Bridgeport to provide tax abatements to relocating businesses, for access road improvements, for housing replacements for those dislocated by the Seaview Avenue Corridor, for a new fire station, for sewer

The Letters Editor
Connecticut Post 410
State St. Bridgeport, CT
06604



Or:
Fax: (203) 333-3897
E-mail: edit@ctpost.com

improvements, and, for additional police manpower have never been disclosed.

Estimated tax benefits to Bridgeport are based on the tenth year of full development of this property *and* the completion of Seaview Avenue. The first estimated payment of \$3.9 million in taxes could be 20 years away

What other old industrial city has such a large and beautiful piece of land within its borders? Why not exploit the uniqueness of the "Woods" for its educational, nature, birding, and tourism

possibilities? The city could work with Connecticut Audubon or Connecticut's Beardsley Zoo, in using the "Woods" to create a response to the state mandated science curriculum requirements. A major, long-term effort should be made to restore the General Electric and Remington Shot Tower buildings for exciting new purposes. This would permit the "Woods" to be preserved, and the river and nearby historical housing could be used to help spark a stunning revival of East Bridgeport.

Land preservation efforts in Connecticut in the past few years have all been focused on the suburbs. Some preservation should also occur in urban areas. 422 acres of trees, meadows and water greatly help control air pollution in the Bridgeport and Stratford area. This region has extremely high air pollution levels with one of the highest rates of respiratory illness in the state. Traffic to and from an industrialized Remington Woods will only serve to increase air pollution and traffic congestion throughout the Bridgeport area.

Once the "Woods" are gone, there's no bringing them back. Let us not in haste squander such a wonderful opportunity to save them for the people of Bridgeport and the entire region.

Peter McKnight
Fairfield