

## Clark Common Sense Development: Reservoir Initiative

This petition is to promote the appropriate recreational and educational use of the county owned tract of land formerly owned by Saint Agnes Parish as part of Union County's investment into the reservoir and adjacent Union County owned parcels.

The reservoir is a man-made body of water formed by the dam that was erected along Madison Hill Road. It is also a primary stormwater collection site and is in desperate need of dredging to maintain this function. Dredging will also improve its ability to be used to mitigate storm damage to the 127 homes in the identified FEMA floodplains. Although these homes are in most immediate danger there are many locations that are affected outside the designated flood zones like Thomas Drive and Willow Way to name a few. Improvements to manage stormwater impact in town benefit all residents by protecting property values.



The petition supports the county plan to invest millions of dollars into dredging the reservoir and the development of the Saint Agnes property with an emphasis on education and accommodation for senior citizens in addition to children, families, naturalists and sportsman. It appreciates the investment made by the County to preserve these parcels and acknowledges the mandate of the Open Space and Recreation Trust that provided the funds used to purchase the sites around the reservoir but proposes a modified plan and substitute uses that meet this objective and are most appropriate to our community that will host it. This petition serves to bring up the following points/ideas for discussion/change:

- 1.) The petition asks for the inclusion of a conservation center with an environmental studies/laboratory facility which could be utilized by the UCTECH program and Kean University. This could also open the opportunity for Arthur L. Johnson to have access to use in its program for the student's learning in a practical situation.
- 2.) The petition wishes to exclude any type of amusement park elements such as train rides or carousel attractions. Instead of a carousel the petition proposes a grand gazebo as an architectural feature on a patio area eliminating the rose garden and increasing utility as a central point in the park.
- 3.) In lieu of the amusement features the petition also requests that a senior citizen focused area be incorporated into the plan. Amenities such as shuffleboard, bocce ball and pickleball play areas around a clubhouse/meeting space would be a wonderful addition to the plan. This area can be tucked into the area behind the Grand Centurions facility closing at duck to alleviate impact to surrounding homes.
- 4.) The petition supports the inclusion of a fishing pier and other reasonable fishing areas designated spots away from residential structures.
- 5.) The petition wishes to terminate any motorized boating and asks that citizens are restricted to only the rental of county provided options that may include flat bottom, canoe, paddle boat, or paddle board options. This will allow for sensible and controlled boating and recreation on this body of water. The removal of the trailer parking and boat launch allows for an expanded lawn and picnic area. This area would be ideal for maximizing water views and hosting events like the town's 4th of July fireworks celebration.
- 6.) The petition suggests maintaining the nature trail and waterfront access but restricts the access area from any current residential homes abutting the reservoir. A Nature Trail with elevated walking piers and observation points can be placed in the West Lake section and on the north side of the reservoir and along the Deutscher Club connecting to the central reservoir area containing the main waterfront park. Trail access will then connect to the central reservoir area on the north side behind municipal properties connecting on a pedestrian footbridge near the parkway south to the Saint Agnus parcel and reconnecting on another pedestrian bridge to the little league fields at the western end of the park before reaching the homes on Frances Drive. Omitting any waterfront access on the eastern section of the reservoir will mitigate any impact on Clark residents abutting the water. The loop along Madison Hill Road can be used to connect the site to the waterfall area in the West Lake which will host the Conservation Center and Environmental Laboratory.

7.) The petition supports traditional types of park installations like the dual-purpose sprinkler playground for all ages.

8.) The petition supports a proposed themed playground for smaller children.

9.) The petition supports an ice-skating rink similar to the Roosevelt Park facility in Edison, N.J. (which is an actual recreation focused ice rink in winter with roller skating or other activities in the warmer months such as four square, hopscotch, kickball, wiffle ball, etc)

10.) The petition supports that concessions be located at/near the center of the park where the ice rink and dual purpose sprinkler/playground should be located to mitigate impact to any residences. This area is close to the picnic area with bathrooms located at the boathouse, conservation and ice rink structures.

11.) The petition supports the inclusion of fitness stations like Esposito Park on the interior trailway, and observation stations at certain points to view or study wildlife such as bird blinds, and information plaques in areas likely to attract aquatic and amphibious species.

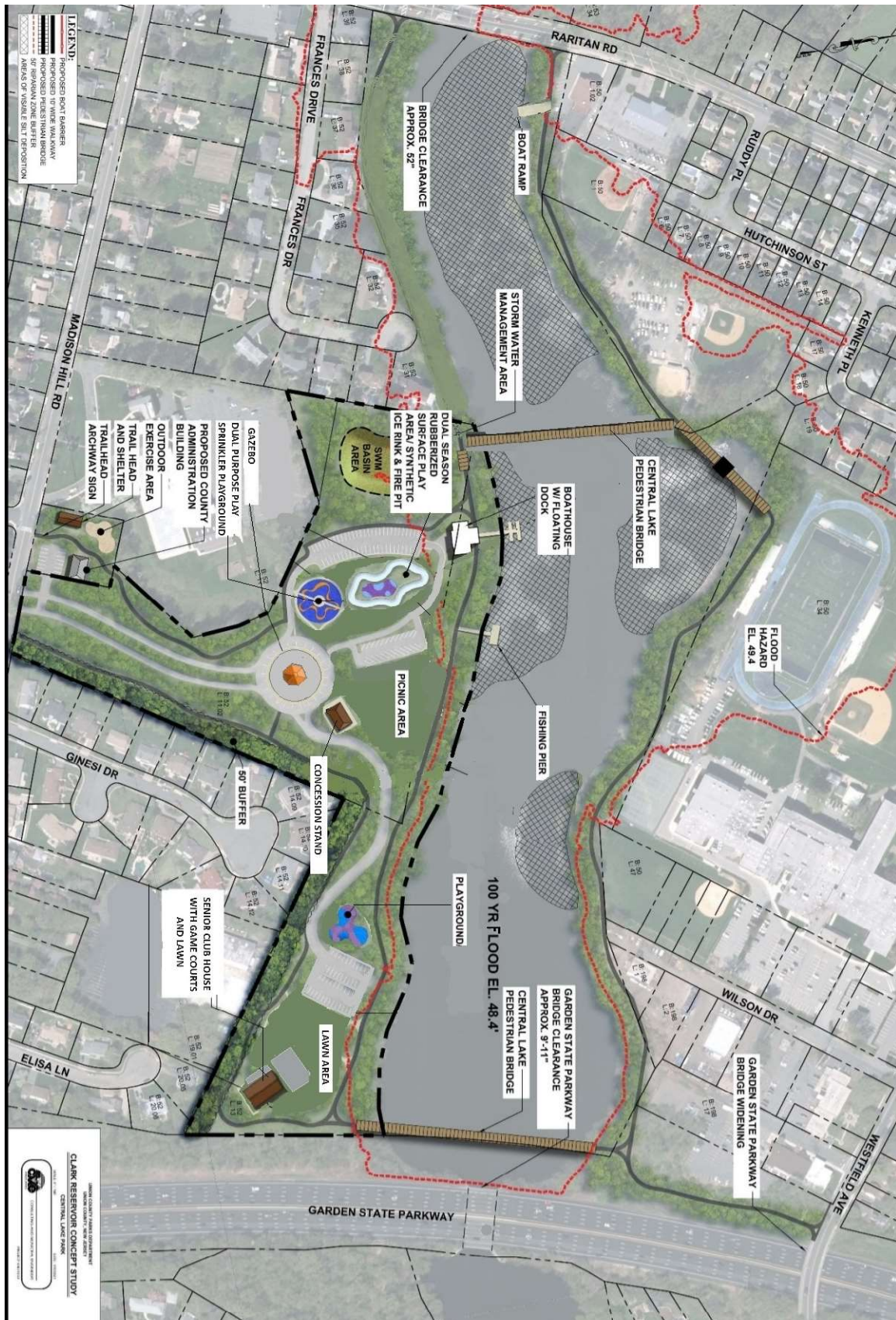
12.) The petition supports the inclusion of a county and emergency services boat ramp(s) at the current first aid squad location. Any additional boat ramps should be for official use only.

In conclusion, this petition supports the project because of the need for the reservoir to be dredged and supports the county's development at the former Saint Agnes property if the amenities align with community aesthetics and provide needed recreation and educational opportunities. The county has invested in the site with its Open Space Trust to prohibit undesirable high-density development and they are now going to invest significant money into dredging this body of water which benefits the township with storm water mitigation. It is not unreasonable for the county to seek benefit from this considerable investment in our town. If we stand together and advocate for appropriate amenities, we can benefit from a project that will become a crown jewel at the very heart of our town.

It is our opinion that the features and alterations to the original proposal we are suggesting are considerate to the existing homeowners on the reservoir and feature amenities that are appropriate and fit the character and needs of our community while still maintaining appeal to other county residents.

Let's stand together and have our voices heard and our community needs addressed!





### MODIFIED PLAN PROMOTED BY COMMON SENSE DEVELOPMENT: CLARK RESERVOIR