

February 2023. Communication and information from Stormwater Management Division (SMD) of Howard County. Right now, the pond is classified as a dry pond – the inside of the pond is dry until there is rain and then it holds water for a while, until it either seeps into the ground, evaporates, or is discharged through the low-flow pipe. However, if you've seen the pond recently, you'll see that there are trees, shrubs, and some standing water. The Board met with Howard County SMD representatives and agreed that conversion to a wet pond would be the best option for the environment. The upgrade was approved and scheduled to begin work in February 2024.

However, the plans are still on hold as of January, 2025.

Awaiting permitting with the Maryland Department of the Environment Dam Safety (the request has been with their reviewer for over a year.) Until they get back to Howard County, we cannot proceed since we might need to make modifications to the project if they require us to do so. Howard County SMD met with the property owner of the parcel that is off Guilford Road (the undeveloped one) since we need to get a permanent easement for a portion of their property. The owners are amenable to this, so the County is preparing the easement documentation.

When SMD does the repair, the main item to fix is the 30 year old metal riser (the large mushroom-like pipe); the metal is rusted and we will need to replace it. Current standards are to replace with a concrete riser, which does not deteriorate as much as metal.

However, beyond that, we are open to making changes that could help improve water quality in the pond. Some options considered:

- **Convert this to a wet pond, which would look like a pond (have a permanent amount of water).**
- Convert this to a shallow marsh. That would ensure that the pond essentially looks like it does on the inside, but will have plants that are more appropriate for a native marsh system – right now, there are a number of invasive plants
- Keep this as a dry pond, with grass cover on the inside, with or without other enhancements. The current maintenance agreement between the County and Signal Hill HOA is that routine maintenance is on the HOA, and structural maintenance is on the County. If we go back to the original dry pond, we will remove existing plants and shrubs inside the pond and will reseed with grass. This would then have to be maintained.

Drawing and photos below show the location with the easement to the area.

