

**PETITION TO THE COUNCIL FOR THE VILLAGE OF RIDGEWOOD
REGARDING SCHEDLER PARK PLAN**

We, the undersigned, petition the Village Council not to reopen the Schedler Park plan (approved by Resolution 18-236) without:

- (i) a full assessment of the impact that would result from any changes to the plan; and
(ii) a fact-based analysis of the comprehensive impact on the Village and the State of New Jersey made by the development of the Schedler property.**

Any changes without a full assessment will ignore the following concerns.

- Due Process to which Residents of Ridgewood are Entitled. Changes to the approved plan require a comprehensive review process, transparent to all Village residents and consistent with other Village decisions (like the current Gold Star Memorial project), utilizing applicable subject-matter experts and independent studies.
- Health Implications to Children and Residents. Changes to the plan (including the introduction of a turf field and changes to the existing natural and mature tree barrier) do not consider the known health impact on children. Toxic pollutants from traffic, as well as noise pollution, will further harm park visitors and residents.
- Traffic patterns that will impact safety. Expansion of the field size will introduce increased traffic and buses. The prior traffic study was conducted in 2015 without considering buses. As Schedler is immediately adjacent to an exit from Route 17N, new studies must be conducted taking into consideration the safety of park visitors and residents with the change in traffic patterns and the introduction of buses.
- Wildlife and environmental preservation. Schedler (unlike many current fields) is the foraging grounds for NJ endangered species (Bald Eagles) and threatened species (Black-Crowned Night Herons) and houses protected vegetation. A full assessment of the environmental impact is imperative.
- Accurate Assessment of Flooding Impact. A change in the approved plan expanding the field size should only be made as a result of new, public, flood studies and an assessment of an effective strategy (based on a full Village property assessment, taking into consideration County and State remediation discussions) to address flooding concerns.
- Preservation of Historic District. A 2019 independent archeological assessment commissioned by the Village found that the Historic Schedler property likely houses Revolutionary War artifacts and recommended that an archaeological survey of the property be completed if significant ground disturbance is planned.
- Accurate Assessment of Field Demand. A detailed explanation of the need for a full-size field (outlining numbers of teams/players, by age and current field use) versus the previously agreed 75 x 50 yard field is required before any changes should be considered.
- Clear and transparent budget for new plans. Before changes to the plan can be approved, the Council must present an itemized budget including design and maintenance fees. Private funding should never override public input and public safety.

These issues and others must be reviewed, and a detailed, fact-based plan should be presented to the residents of Ridgewood (in a public forum for discussion and debate) for the general welfare of the Village.

Name Address Signature
