

To Whom It May Concern:

I know how corporations work and therefore I know my voice may not be heard or mean very much. But I feel that I must write this letter anyway, and try.

One of the things that makes McKinney "Unique by Nature" is its nature. There are a lot of people (myself included) who move here because McKinney has not been bulldozed like so many cities in Dallas have. Because there are trees. Because there are frogs. Because there is less light pollution and less disregard for the natural world around us.

I am writing to protest the development of soccer fields on Lake Forest just south of 380. The plan is that these soccer fields will be built in a flood plain that butts up to our beautiful watershed.

This part of McKinney is something that should be treasured, not only for its residents but for the future people who will call the city home. I can't tell you the number of residents who come and park in our neighborhood to walk along the greenbelt/watershed. They want to be part of that untouched nature that is still left here, and they value it. We bought our home here because of it.

The building of soccer fields is, in my mind, a short-sighted view by the city when it comes to growth planning and future desirability. Soccer fields cause a number of problems to people and nearby wildlife including light pollution, traffic and destruction of habitat. The gains in people who will enjoy the soccer fields are less than the losses from people who want to use this area as a place of natural enjoyment – simply because of the size of each group.

The proposed soccer fields are to be built in a flood plain. Why, I ask, must we build anything in the flood plain? Why can't we leave something left untouched? Or, why can't we develop that area into something that complements the watershed rather than competes directly with it? Why not create a park that McKinney residents can use, as they clearly really enjoy the natural beauty that is left in this location?

I understand that the corner of Lake Forest and 380 will be heavily developed. I am not going to protest that because I know that it's just how things go. But the soccer fields? Why? Why build something that not only will destroy natural beauty but that also only caters to a small segment of the McKinney population? Why put it in a location that could be used by so many people in McKinney for recreational enjoyment? Why destroy habitat and affect our nocturnal creatures (and nearby homeowners) with bright field lighting when this is a flood plain to begin with? Why can't we leave it alone?

I ask that the city council consider the broader picture rather than immediate financial gain when deciding whether or not to build soccer fields in this space. As DFW grows, McKinney will need a differentiator. And the thing is? McKinney already

has it – we’re “Unique by Nature.” Nature. That’s what we have that Frisco doesn’t have, because they’ve developed every last corner. That’s what we have that other suburbs don’t have, because they’ve done the same thing.

I hope my words will at least be heard and considered. I am speaking not only for myself, but for a couple of other homeowners in my neighborhood who can see the problems of building in that space. Who do not want the lights and the traffic. Who do not want to see our coyotes and frogs disappear because they can no longer live in the small patch that has been left and cannot hunt for food with the bright lights.

The United States is trending toward destruction of the natural world these days. We need to leave some of it intact for our children and grandchildren. We need the animals and the birds and the bugs to create food and clean air for all of humanity. Can we start in McKinney? Can we be forward-thinking with just this one small patch of land, when there is SO much other land that can still be developed for sports without such an impact?

We have a watershed here. It’s a lifeline for a lot of our native animals and birds. It’s a beauty to walk by in the wintertime when the brush has thinned and you can see the water rush by. Can we please protect it a bit better by not building soccer fields right up to the edge? Why can’t we build a park, if we must build?

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Haynes