

ECHO FARMS GOLF COURSE & PRESERVING WILMINGTON QUALITY OF LIFE

Wilmington is a great place to live, but past growth-management practices have harmed our quality of life. Our traffic is among the worst in North Carolina. Our parks are over utilized. Our waterways are becoming increasingly polluted. And overcrowding at our schools will nearly double in five years.

These quality of life impacts are particularly acute in the vicinity of the 139-acre Echo Farms Golf Course. Proposed development of the golf course with 536 housing units will make conditions worse (*see development plan on other side*).



YOUR SUPPORT NEEDED TO PREVENT IMPACTS

In concert with the Echo Farms Residents Association, Save Echo Farms has launched a two-part strategy to prevent these devastating quality of life impacts. But our strategy can only succeed with your support. At this time we urgently need 100 people to help us raise \$20,000 by pledging \$200 each. Further detail follows about the damage caused by poorly managed growth and how these impacts would be compounded by another 536 housing units. After this description we'll present our strategy for preventing these impacts and why we are confident of victory, **with your support**. Our goal is to preserve the 139-acre golf course as is or at least cut the number of housing units in half.

TRAFFIC 2ND WORSE IN NORTH CAROLINA

Continued growth over the next decade will cause Wilmington residents to suffer a doubling of traffic-congestion delay.¹ Of North Carolina 83 largest cities, Wilmington ranked second worst with regard to traffic crashes.² Carolina Beach Road had the highest number of fatalities of all Wilmington



streets. The proposed Echo Farms golf course development would add up to 4,000 trips a day to area roads including Carolina Beach Road. This increased traffic can only make area roads more dangerous and congested.³ Preserving the golf course keeps conditions from degrading further until transportation improvements resolve safety-congestion problems.

WILMINGTON PARK-RECREATION DEFICIT

A generally accepted standard calls for 10 acres of park and recreational space per 1,000 residents.⁴ New Hanover County has 16.5 acres per 1,000 residents while Wilmington has a mere **5 acres** or half the recommended



minimum. This makes our parks, playgrounds and sports fields far more congested than they should be. The loss of Echo Farms Golf Course to development would make the congestion even worse. Preserving the golf course as a multiuse recreation area results in a substantial improvement.

HALTING CREEK & RIVER POLLUTION

Fresh and tidal waters do best when less than 5% of the land they drain is covered by buildings, streets, parking lots and other impervious surfaces.⁵ Echo Farms Golf Course drains to Barnards Creek. The Creek could be a tremendous asset to the 12,200 people who live within walking distance. But with 22% impervious surface coverage (*more than 4 times the safe level*) Barnard Creek is too degraded.⁶ The Creek can be restored. In fact



SAVE ECHO FARMS • www.saveechofarms.com

projects are underway that may lead to restoration. Developing the Echo Farms Golf Course with 536 housing units will make restoration more difficult. Preserving the course in its natural state is essential to restoration.

SCHOOL OVERCROWDING

Student enrollment at Wilmington’s 24 schools exceeds school capacity by 6%. School overcrowding will nearly double in five years.⁷ Preserving Echo Farms Golf Course slows the pace at which overcrowding increases and makes it easier to resolve the school capacity deficit.



OUR STRATEGY TO PRESERVE QUALITY OF LIFE

Save Echo Farms is supporting the Echo Farms Residents Association petition to reduce the number of allowed housing units by half. We are also supporting the Association’s lawsuit to enforce an agreement which would preserve the 139-acre golf course as is. Both strategies have been used successfully in similar cases. We have one of the best law firms fighting for us. We’ve also engaged Community & Environmental Defense Services (ceds.org) which has helped citizens throughout the U.S. win campaigns like ours. To succeed though we must initially establish a Quality of Life Defense Fund of \$20,000. We can do this if you and 99 others attending this meeting pledge \$200 each. Make your check payable to: Save Echo Farms. We’ll be passing around collect boxes later. We also have pledge forms for those who left their checkbooks at home or who wish to pay online.

¹ See: <http://www.johnlocke.org/site-docs/traffic/TrafficCongestion.pdf>
² See: <https://connect.ncdot.gov/business/DMV/DMV Documents/2014 Crash Facts.pdf>
³ See: <http://www.starnewsonline.com/news/20160816/proposed-housing-development-raises-ire-around-echo-farms-golf-course>
⁴ See: http://planningdevelopment.nh.gov/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/FULL-COMP-PLAN-LOW-RES_0.pdf
⁵ See: <http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/02755947.2011.598384>
⁶ See: <http://www.wilmingtonnc.gov/home/showdocument?id=2240>
⁷ See: <http://ftpcontent4.worldnow.com/wect/PDFs%20for%20stories/NHCS%20Facility%20Needs%20Survey%20Presentation%20-%202015-16.pdf>

