

March 25, 2002

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My name is Bonnie O'Brien, 2329 NW 30th Terrace, Gainesville, Florida. I am here representing Glen Springs Preservation Association Inc. and the property owners of Glen Springs Creek where I am also a property owner.

In the City of Gainesville's document titled "The design manual for subdivisions and site plans, May 1998, Section 1 clearly states that "the design and operation of retention and detention storage facilities shall be in accordance with the criteria set forth in the Florida Administrative Code".

Overhead 1. The Florida Administrative Code, 40C-42.025, says that "the following criteria shall apply to stormwater management systems unless otherwise noted. "

Overhead 2. Section 6 under this code clearly states that "the applicant must obtain sufficient legal authorization as appropriate prior to permit issuance for stormwater management systems which propose to utilize offsite areas to satisfy the requirements to subsection 40C-42.023(1), F.A.C.

Overhead 3. This overhead shows that in the applicant's permit application stating that the Receiving Water Body is Hogtown Creek. This is not true.

Overhead 4. The information presented here was taken from a City of Gainesville document. This is a map of the City with the creeks identified by name. The proposed Walnut Creek project is in red at the top and Glen Springs Creek is shown in Blue, Possum Creek is shown in red and Hogtown Creek is in Green. The flow of water from the retention ponds in Walnut Creek is to the Southwest into what is referred to as "no name creek". No name creek is in fact Glen Springs Creek as identified by the City of Gainesville. This creek then flows into Possum Creek and then into Hogtown Creek which is located at least 3 miles from the Project site. There is an approximate 22 foot drop in elevation from the proposed project to the end of Glen Springs Creek.

The characteristics of Glen Springs Creek are important. Glen Springs Creek is a natural creek, fed by several natural springs. There is a functioning wetland identified by St. John Water Management District on the bank near the headwaters. The creek is fed by several natural springs. The water is as clear as drinking water and there is always a flow of water. The depth ranges from several inches to about 4 feet. The creek transverses a wooded natural area and is home to a diverse population of wildlife in and around the creek.

Overhead 5. The other important characteristic of Glen Springs Creek is that it flows entirely on private property. This is a copy of the official plat map of this area. It clearly shows that each property owner owns a portion of the creek. Everyone living on these properties has lived there for over 25 years. We have been good stewards of our creek and we are very proud to be fortunate enough to have such a natural resource on our property.

The applicant and the city staff have acknowledged that the retention pond overflow will be into Glen Springs Creek.

No one has ever approached the property owners to ask permission to use our creek as a drainage ditch for the Walnut Creek project. As stated in Florida Administrative Code 40C-42.025, Section 6, the applicant must be granted permission to discharge stormwater onto private property. The property owners of Glen Springs Creek have granted no such permission.

The Walnut Creek Project should not be granted an extension on the current, February, 2001, site plan until the problem of the storm water management is addressed and detention ponds are properly constructed to keep water from overflowing onto the property of its neighbors. Although it can be said the amount of water pre and post development is the same, common sense tells us that sheet flow over a large area is totally different than a flashing hydrologic event when water is funneled through a pipe into a creek. An event like this will certainly irreversibly damage our creek. The City is talking about spending *tax dollars* money on creek restoration. The creeks would not have to be restored if developments like Walnut Creek couldn't use the city's very fragile creek system to solve their storm water problems.

*Bonnie O'Brien
March 25, 2002*