

Green Party of Nassau County Statement on Recent Proposal to Construct a Tower in Christopher Morley Park

The Green Party of Nassau County is concerned over the recent proposal by the Roslyn Water District, the Town of North Hempstead, and Nassau County to construct in Christopher Morley Park, or possibly elsewhere, a tower intended to remove six distinct toxic and potentially carcinogenic chemicals from the public water system and emit them instead into the air.

The Green Party of Nassau County urges that no such project be undertaken without a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) as defined in the NY State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA), because of the tower's planned release of various toxic volatile organic compounds (VOCs) -- including Freon, which is a potent greenhouse gas (GHG) and an ozone depleting substance.

Furthermore, the Green Party of Nassau County believes that such an EIS should analyze the ecological and aesthetic impacts of the proposed tower (a/k/a/ "stripper") and its approximately 400-foot access road, inasmuch as it is proposed to be constructed in the small public forest in Christopher Morley Park.

That forest currently provides the public with walking trails, and it provides wildlife with rare semi-pristine habitat in the otherwise heavily developed area of Central-West Nassau County. So much of our county has been developed and the Green Party of Nassau County strongly believes that we must preserve the nature that is left to us.

Finally, the Green Party of Nassau County urges prior to any decision to place the tower in Christopher Morley Park, or elsewhere, that a full public process be undertaken, including public hearings for users of Christopher Morley Park and other concerned residents.

In the event that Christopher Morley Park continues to be proposed for the tower, the Green Party of Nassau County urges that the full legal process of "alienation of parkland" by the State Legislature be followed and completed prior to any commencement of construction.

The Green Party of Nassau County feels that a fully public, scientifically-detailed process as we have outlined, with a full EIS, public hearings, and prior state legislative action will best protect the health and welfare of local residents, as well as achieving the optimal protection of the environment.

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