

APPENDIX

**Bussell, Cynthia [TREAS]**

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**From:** William Nierstedt <w-nierstedt@garwood.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 26, 2025 2:06 PM  
**To:** State House Commission [TREAS]  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Warinanco Park- State House Commission meeting -Monday, September 29, 2025  
**Attachments:** Warinanco Park - State House statement- 9-25-25.docx

This message came from an **EXTERNAL** address ([w-nierstedt@garwood.org](mailto:w-nierstedt@garwood.org)). **DO NOT** click on links or attachments unless you know the sender and the content is safe.

**New Jersey State Government Employees Should Forward Messages That May Be Cyber Security Risks To**  
[PhishReport@cyber.nj.gov](mailto:PhishReport@cyber.nj.gov).

Cindy – I thank you for your patience on this matter. Here is my statement that I intend to read to the Commission members Monday. As we discussed, I would greatly appreciate it if you could distribute this to the members today. Please do not hesitate to contact me as indicated below if you have any questions. Thank you, Bill

Bill Nierstedt  
320 Hickory Avenue  
Garwood, NJ 07027  
908-721-2208

I am opposed to this 'diversion' for ALL the reasons that I previously stated at the public hearing in Warinanco Park, and in my letter to Union County during the public comment period. I trust that all that communication has been distributed to all the Commission members and that you have read it, but I do have copies for each of you if you have not read it. I must state from the onset that there is no reason why this discussion should be set up as a hockey rink vs. trees conundrum. I support saving 80-year-old trees, and creating a hockey rink.

I am going to point out procedural, human, historic and environmental impacts of this project that I have not mentioned before. I must also state that I am a NJ licensed professional planner.

First- the procedural questions. I believe that UC has been less than forthright in their public notifications, and may have misled the public in terms of notifying it about the true impacts of its proposed action. Rather than concentrating on the proposed hockey rink, it should have done a better job educating the public about what we are losing. Does anyone see anywhere within the UC published notice the fact that as part of this 'diversion,' sixty 80-year-old native, mature trees – trees that were there when The Olmsted Brothers Landscape Architect firm first designed Warinanco Park will be destroyed/killed/chopped down? Some of the trees in the original park plan were described as 'towering.' After reading this deficient notice would the average resident of the surrounding area know that this 'diversion' removes a grove of trees that has served as a cool, forested playground for their children, as air conditioner units for their neighborhood, as scrubbers that removes pollutants from the air that they breathe, and as flood retention for their properties for 100 years? NO, I guess UC considers this a minor impact of the project. I do not, and I trust that you will not either. A notice is supposed to inform the public as to proposed actions, not hide actions behind words

Second- the human impact. Most of the hockey players who would use the proposed facility are from Cranford, Westfield, Scotch Plains, Clark, Summit - the central and western sides of UC. Why is UC proposing a hockey rink in the eastern end of UC? Why is UC subjecting Warinanco Park users and the residents of Roselle and Elizabeth to the increased traffic, air and water pollution generated by users who will travel through their towns to play hockey? Why should UC residents of color and lower income suffer the loss of additional natural open space when those who are going to be playing hockey generally live in townships with larger yards, and more open space and vegetation?

From a human equality perspective, it also needs to be pointed out that NJDEP mapping showing the need for environmental justice actions to be considered in certain locations in UC commences across the street - Thompson Avenue in Roselle- from the proposed denuded area. This area has been recognized by NJDEP to be one in which air, water, land, noise, and development impacts in general MUST be considered at an increased level of review when any additional development is proposed. NJDEP is already saying that this area is overburdened. Yet UC proposes yet another traffic clogging, air polluting use across the street.

Third – history- Warinanco Park is also eligible to be placed on the State and National Register of Historic Places as are most UC parks which means that this proposed development should be treated the same as if it were officially designated. There is a NJ State Historic Preservation Office opinion stating this. Why hasn't UC requested a SHPO review? Is it hiding behind a

technicality? Why isn't it advancing UC historic preservation? UC has always been very proud of its heritage – Why not in Warinanco Park?

Fourth - I also question any Alternatives Analysis conducted by UC. A hockey rink is only 17,000 sq. ft. Is UC saying that they could not find a property with a commercial – or even better- an industrial site -that could support a 25,000 sq ft. hockey arena? I visited the Cranford Industrial Park last week, and found 11 properties with 'FOR LEASE' signs on them, one vacant structure, and one industrial structure that advertised 52,000- 71,000 square feet of space for rent. We also traveled Route 22 from Westfield to Hillside and found 4 commercial properties/structures for lease, vacant or being underutilized. There is already one hockey rink on Route 22 in Union; hockey tournaments could be scheduled using both buildings. A route 22 site for a second rink would move traffic onto a state highway, away from the residential streets of Roselle. A review of available commercial properties in UC showed the existence of 3 adequately sized properties in Clark and Kenilworth- much more accessible than Warinanco Park.

Industrial parks today have much more than industry in them. UC can purchase or lease such a property for conversion. It would be more centrally located, closer to the intended users, and the site already has parking on it. Its conversion and use would certainly not produce as much pollution as the proposed denuded site. Maybe UC could advance two civic purposes- environmental cleanup AND indoor recreation -and convert a contaminated brownfield site to a new hockey rink? UC could also apply for state grants to clean up the site, thereby reducing the fiscal impact on UC residents. Why must UC propose to destroy a virgin forested grove for more pavement, when UC already has flooding issues?

I find the UC compensation to be totally inadequate. UC is proposing to destroy six acres of historic, mature trees that are so large that one person cannot completely hug the trees by his or herself. And its compensation is an acre for acre swap of land nowhere near the denuded site that does not contain such mature sized trees. How does this benefit the surrounding community of Roselle and Elizabeth? The proposed land to be swapped is miles from the subject site and is land that UC is probably holding for future parkland anyway. Given UCs continued population growth, it will probably need to purchase additional parkland closer to its population than it has now. Let UC dedicate this swap of what is probably best used as flood mitigation land for parkland today, and not as compensation for denuding present parkland. With all the flood damage in UC, and NJ, would it inherently not make more sense to retain what existing water absorbing areas we have, rather than create MORE impervious coverage?

I close with my personal reasons for opposing this project. I grew up in Roselle, on Chandler Avenue 4 blocks from this proposed denuded site. I played basketball, and nok-hockey, swung on the swings, and got sick on the whirly bird in the UC Recreation program under these trees. Maybe my initial love of trees got a push from this grove of trees. I do not know, but I do know that UC has MANY, MANY other sites where this hockey rink could be located without destroying 80year old trees. And do not let my opposition to this location be misconstrued as opposition to a new hockey rink. UC should build a new hockey rink for the 250 UC hockey players. Just not at a denuded, former forested park.

I ask that this Commission deny UC's proposed 'diversion of land.

**From:** William Nierstedt ·  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 28, 2025 5:44 PM  
**To:** State House Commission [TREAS]  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] RE: Warinanco Park- State House Commission meeting -Monday, September 29, 2025

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**New Jersey State Government Employees Should Forward Messages That May Be Cyber Security Risks To PhishReport@cyber.nj.gov.**

Thank you! See you Monday morning. Bill

Bill Nierstedt

7

**From:** State House Commission [TREAS] <StateHouse.Commission@treas.nj.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 26, 2025 3:48 PM  
**To:** William Nierstedt ·  
**Subject:** RE: Warinanco Park- State House Commission meeting -Monday, September 29, 2025

On behalf of the State House Commission I am confirming receipt. This will be distributed to the members today.

Thank you,

*Cindy Bussell, Div. of Property Mgmt. & Construction  
State of New Jersey, Department of Treasury  
Office of Real Property Acquisition & Disposition  
33 West State Street, 9th floor, P O Box 229, Trenton, NJ 08625-0229  
Phone: (609) 292-2519  
[Cynthia.Bussell@treas.nj.gov](mailto:Cynthia.Bussell@treas.nj.gov)*

**From:** William Nierstedt ·  
**Sent:** Friday, September 26, 2025 2:06 PM  
**To:** State House Commission [TREAS] <StateHouse.Commission@treas.nj.gov>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Warinanco Park- State House Commission meeting -Monday, September 29, 2025

This message came from an **EXTERNAL** address, [REDACTED] **DO NOT** click on links or attachments unless you know the sender and the content is safe.

4x

**Bussell, Cynthia [TREAS]**

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**From:** Kathy Cevallos  
**Sent:** Friday, September 26, 2025 1:34 PM  
**To:** Vin Gopal; State House Commission [TREAS]  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] The Community cost of the Ice-Skate Rink at Warinanco Park  
**Attachments:** LUCY Screenshot of Warinanco Park -Eligible status.png; OBC Map Warinanco Park with legend.png; Proposed Property BLOCK 202, LOT 26\_ Cranford, Union County.jpg; tree survey.pdf; SHC 2000046 Warinanco Park Ice Rink EMAIL.pdf

This message came from an **EXTERNAL** address ( [REDACTED] ). **DO NOT** click on links or attachments unless you know the sender and the content is safe.

**New Jersey State Government Employees Should Forward Messages That May Be Cyber Security Risks To PhishReport@cyber.nj.gov.**

Dear Senator Gopal,

I am writing about the Minor Diversion/Disposal Application for the proposed indoor ice skating rink in Warinanco Park, Roselle Park, NJ. I would greatly appreciate your leadership on the State House Commission to ensure that Justin's Grove in Warinanco Park is not lost to a second hockey rink without full consideration of the following points.

**Support for Rink – Opposition to Location**

- I am not opposed to a year-round ice rink, but strongly oppose its location inside Warinanco Park.

**Personal Connection**

- As a former Elizabeth resident who grew up using the park, Warinanco Park served as my "backyard" growing up. For many urban families with limited green space, public parks remain essential—not a luxury.

**Historic & Design Significance~ The Olmsted Legacy**

- Over one hundred years ago, the Union County Park Commission hired the celebrated Olmsted Brothers firm to design Warinanco Park, and our Union County parks overall. The Olmsted firm, founded by Frederick L. Olmsted, the visionary behind New York City's Central Park, Brooklyn's Prospect Park, the U.S. Capitol Grounds, Newark's Branchbrook Park, and our Union County Parks.
- Warinanco Park is an Olmsted Brothers–designed park, intentionally created as a democratic, restorative green space.
- According to the NJ State Historic Preservation Office (NJSHPO), Warinanco Park is considered historic and, in their opinion, eligible for listing on the State and National Registers of Historic Places (NJSHPO map attached).
- Justin's Grove is one of several groves in Warinanco Park—a hallmark design element found in many Olmsted-designed parks nationwide. Eliminating the Grove would permanently alter a distinctive feature of the celebrated Olmsted design tradition.

- Altering its design erodes one of the nation's most important landscape legacies.

### **Loss of Memorial Grove**

- The project would remove 60–70 century-old oaks from "Justin's Grove," a memorial honoring a local youth. This would erase both natural and personal history from our public space.

### **Equity & Environmental Justice**

- The construction of a second ice skating rink would benefit only a segment of the community. It will primarily serve ice hockey clubs and teams from other communities that have the resources to participate in a costly sport.
- The high costs of ice hockey (\$2,400–\$7,000 per child per season) make the sport inaccessible for most local families.
- The surrounding community is designated an Overburdened Community (map attached). As "compensation," the County proposes to restrict 6.15± acres of wooded land in Cranford (Block 202, Lot 26) under Green Acres. Yet Cranford has significantly fewer overburdened areas and already enjoys multiple parks—Nomahegan, Hanson, Sperry, Unami—and large private yards. This replacement land does not equitably compensate for the loss of green space in the Warinanco Park community.
- The environmental burden of tree loss would fall on the entire community, particularly in already green-space-scarce neighborhoods.

### **Tree Survey- ( Attached)**

- In Union County Assistant Counsel Kevin Campbell's Response to my objection to the destruction of Justin's Grove, he stated that "these trees are nearing the end of their natural life span" (per Dan Bernier's Environmental Assessment Report for this project). However, the independent tree survey does not support this claim, and Mr. Bernier is not an arborist qualified to make such an assessment.
- Mature oaks are the lifelines of our ecosystem. They provide deep shade, filter pollutants, produce oxygen, and offer natural flood protection. Each tree supports a complex web of wildlife, offering food and shelter to countless species. Their loss would disrupt the ecological balance and our community's connection with nature.

### **Request:**

Please deny this project in its current location. Build a new rink where it does not destroy historic oaks or compromise an Olmsted-designed park, and continue to allow the gathering space intended for the community.

### **Attached files:**

1. SHPO Map
2. Overburden Community Identification Map (Environmental Justice Tool)
  1. Map of Warinanco Park
  2. Map of proposed "compensation" lot.
3. Tree Survey
4. The County's Response to my letter.

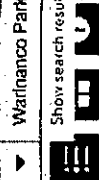
Thank you for your time.

Best Regards,

Kathy Cevallos  
Westfield Resident  
Union County

Warinanco Park, Warinanco X

Show search results for Warina



Historic Properties	
Name:	Warinanco Park
Alternate Name:	
Address:	Foughly bounded by Thompson Avenue, County Rte 616, State Hwy 27, County Rte 616
Status:	Eligible INDV. 8/10/1983
Demolished:	No
National Historic Landmark:	
National Register:	
NJ Register:	
Determination of Eligibility (NPS):	
SHPO Opinion (HPO):	8/10/1983
Certification of Eligibility:	
Zoom:	10

8x

Fwd: SHC 2000046 Warinanco Park Ice Rink



Sep 15, 2025,  
10:42 PM (17 hours  
ago)

**Kathy Cevallos**

<

to David

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Kevin Campbell** <kcampbell@ucnj.org>

Date: Thu, Aug 14, 2025, 2:33 PM

Subject: RE: SHC 2000046 Warinanco Park Ice Rink

To: Kathy Cevallos

Dear Ms. Cevallos,

Thank you for your email on the County's application to construct an ice rink in Warinanco Park.

You made several points. I will address them in the order they were raised.

9x

First, the Olmsted's vision (father and sons) was that their parks be used for active recreation and the passive enjoyment of nature.

Second, the trees you refer to were there when the park was developed. But the Olmsted Brothers removed all the undergrowth, thereby creating a grove. The County maintained the grove for the last century. **But the result was/is that no new/younger trees grew up at the site; and now, these trees are nearing the end of their natural life span (per Dan Bernier's Environmental Assessment Report for this project).**

Third, the proposed rink is going to occupy 1.14 acres of land in this 205 acre sized Park. And this is only of the County's 35 parks, which total over 5,200 in size. Large areas of this park system are for active recreation, but a far larger area is undeveloped open space and passive recreation. In light of this, there is enough available land to serve groups of all sizes and make-ups – kids, seniors, dog-walkers, runners, swimmers, field sports, basketball courts, picnickers, hikers, fishermen, kayakers, festival and music concert goers, airplane model enthusiasts. and yes, ice hockey players.

In summary, Union County will continue to work with the NJ Department of Environmental Protection's Green Acres program, to comply with their regulations and requirements, and to proceed with this project so as to minimize the effect to the greatest extent possible.

Thank you though for your comments. They will be sent to the NJ Department of Environmental Protection and the Statehouse Commission for review.

Very truly yours,

10x

Kevin Campbell

County of Union

Assistant County Counsel

10 Elizabethtown Plaza

Elizabeth, NJ 07202

908-527-4250

**From:** Kathy Cevallos < >  
**Sent:** Monday, August 11, 2025 12:09 PM  
**To:** PublicLandCompliance@dep.nj.gov  
**Cc:** Kevin Campbell <kcampbell@ucnj.org>  
**Subject:** SHC 2000046 Warinanco Park Ice Rink

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County of Union, County Counsel's Office  
Administration Building

llx

10 Elizabethtown Plaza

Elizabeth, NJ 07207

Attn: Kevin Campbell, Esq.

To NJ DEP & Mr.Campbell,

I am writing regarding the ***Minor Diversion/Disposal Application for the construction of an indoor ice rink in Warinanco Park in Roselle Park, NJ.***

Let me state, I am not opposed to the ice rink for year-round use; I am opposed to the proposed location.

I grew up in Elizabeth, and from a very young age, Warinanco Park was woven into the fabric of my life. It was where we celebrated every special occasion, where we went for everyday play, and where we found open space when we had none of our own. You see, our backyard at home was more concrete than green. I'll never forget when our elderly Sicilian landlord was swindled by a couple of so-called masons who "redid" part of the yard by sloshing cement around as if tossing out a bucket of water for quick cash. After that, there was no lawn to run on, no place to pitch a ball or set up a picnic table. So Warinanco Park became our backyard. Sure, we had to drive there, but once we arrived, it more than made up for the trip—it was incredible.

From childhood through my teen years, every inch of that park became part of my story. As the children of a single mother, my brother and I didn't have the suburban experience—no one-family home, no sprawling backyard, no weekends at private clubs or green estates. Public parks like Warinanco weren't just a convenience—they were essential. They gave us the outdoor escape we craved and the space we needed to grow. And here's the truth: not much has changed for Elizabeth residents. Green space is still scarce. If anything, it's worse. Apartments and housing developments now dominate the landscape even more, and homes with real yards are few and far between.

When I later rediscovered our local parks—including Warinanco—I was struck by their enduring

natural beauty. As I learned more about their history, I discovered that Warinanco, like many of our local parks, was designed by the celebrated Olmsted Brothers Landscape Architect Firm, founded by Frederick Law Olmsted, the visionary behind Central Park. Suddenly, it all made sense.

Olmsted saw parks as democratic spaces—places where people of all socioeconomic backgrounds could mingle and enjoy the outdoors together. He believed that well-planned public spaces were essential to social cohesiveness, civic pride, and the public's physical and mental well-being. His work profound commitment to the belief in the social common good. Parks, in his view, were for all people.

An Olmsted-designed park was my backyard growing up? Who knew? What a gift. A gift given to us over 100 years ago—green spaces intentionally created for the people of Union County—now at risk of being diminished piece by piece.

Let's be clear: we already have an existing ice skating rink in Warinanco Park. Altering the integrity of an Olmsted design and destroying a grove of historic, century-old oaks to serve a small segment of the community is neither just nor respectful of that gift. The proposed project not only excludes most neighboring youth, but it also erodes the design integrity of one of the nation's most important landscape legacies. And this grove is not just any stand of trees—it is a memorial. "Justin's Grove" honors Justin Jusefyk, who tragically lost his life in a car accident in the park. Removing it would mean erasing both natural history and personal history from our public space.

And let's not ignore the economics: ice hockey is not an accessible sport for most families in the surrounding urban area. The cost alone makes it out of reach for the majority of residents. Here's what families in New Jersey can expect to pay per child, per season:

#### Summary Estimate Costs for NJ Middle & High School Players

Level League/Club per Season	Fees Equipment +	Extras Estimated	Total
Recreational / House ≈ – \$4,200	\$2,000 – \$3,000	\$400 – \$1,200	\$2,400
Travel (Peewee–Bantam)	\$3,200 – \$3,550	\$400 – \$1,200	\$3,600

– \$4,750

High School / U14 League

\$5,600 – \$5,750

\$400 – \$1,200

\$6,000

– \$7,000

These are season costs—not one-time expenses. That reality means the new rink would primarily serve a small group of families who can afford these fees, while the rest of the community bears the environmental cost of losing 60–70 irreplaceable oak trees.

This isn't just about trees—it's about environmental justice. Removing a grove of century-old oaks in a public park to benefit a small, specialized segment of the community puts an unnecessary environmental burden on everyone else—especially in communities already struggling with limited green space. Environmental justice means prioritizing the needs of the whole community, considering long-term ecological and social impacts, and making decisions transparently and inclusively. This proposed rink fails that test. Once those trees are gone, they're gone forever. And when they go, a piece of our history, our heritage, and our community identity goes with them.

For the reasons stated above, I ask that this project be denied. Barring that, at the very least, I request that the deadline of August 11 be extended in order to notify ALL of the Union County and Roselle residents, especially those who will be impacted the most, neighbors to Warinanco Park.

Regards,

Kathy Cevallos

Union County Resident

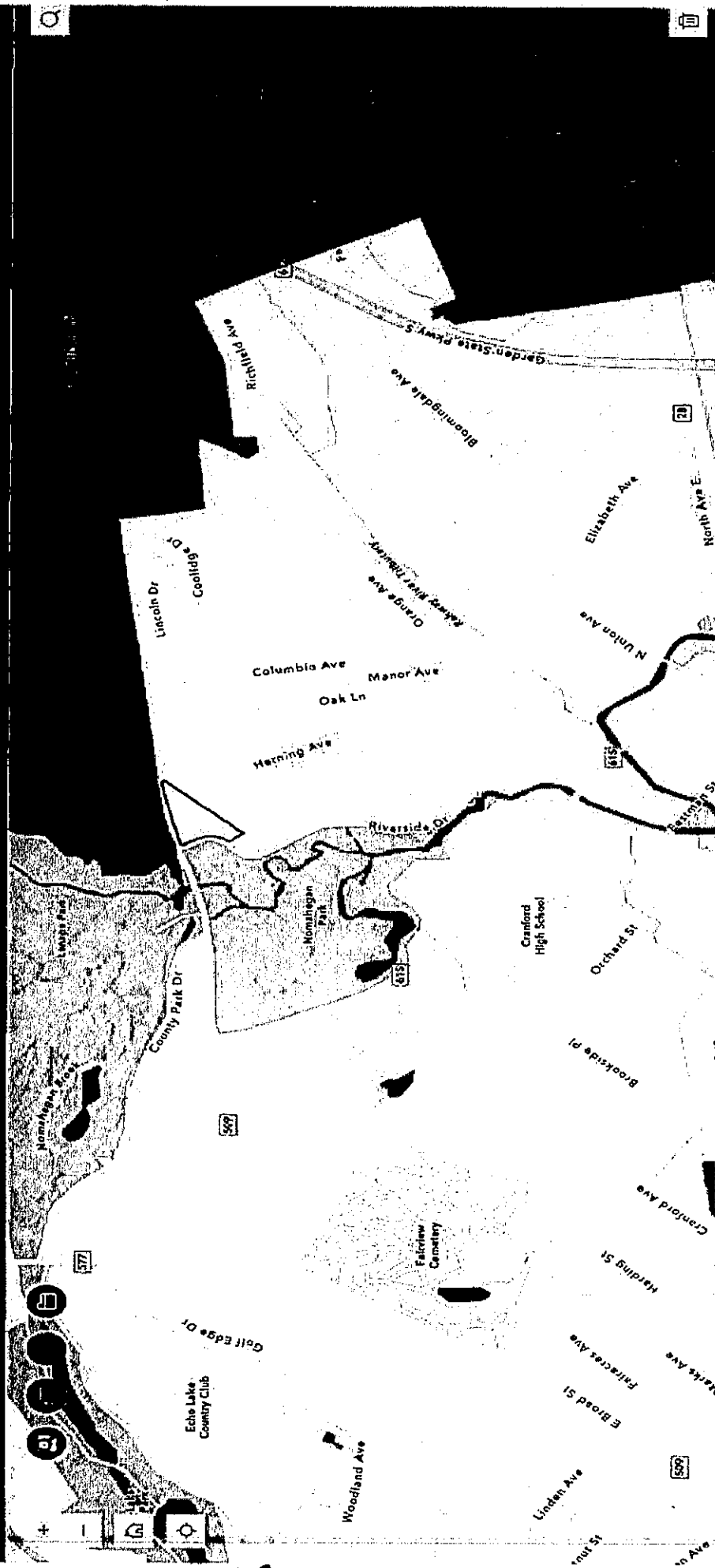
14x



# Environmental Justice, Mapping, Assessment, and Protection Tool (EJMAP)

How to Use EJMAP    Overburdened Communities    Fact Lists    Stressor Summary

## Overburdened Communities



Esri Community Maps Contributors, New Jersey Office of GIS, Esri, TomTom, Garmin, SateGraph, GeoTechnologies, Inc. METI/MASA, USGS EPA, NPS, US Census Bureau, USDA USFWS | Delaware Geological Survey | New Jersey/Delaware boundary data through t... Powered by E

16x

**Bussell, Cynthia [TREAS]**

**From:** Kathy Cevallos < >  
**Sent:** Friday, September 26, 2025 1:47 PM  
**To:** State House Commission [TREAS]; Asw PintorMarin  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] The real cost of the Ice Rink Project at Warinanco Park  
**Attachments:** SHC 2000046 Warinanco Park Ice Rink EMAIL.pdf; Proposed Property BLOCK 202, LOT 26\_ Cranford, Union County.jpg; LUCY Screenshot of Warinanco Park -Eligible status.png; OBC Map Warinanco Park with legend.png; tree survey.pdf

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Dear Assemblywoman Pinto Marin,

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- I am not opposed to a year-round ice rink, but strongly oppose its location inside Warinanco Park.

**Personal Connection**

- As a former Elizabeth resident who grew up using the park, Warinanco Park served as my "backyard" growing up. For many urban families with limited green space, public parks remain essential—not a luxury.

**Historic & Design Significance~ The Olmsted Legacy**

- Over one hundred years ago, the Union County Park Commission hired the celebrated Olmsted Brothers firm to design Warinanco Park, and our Union County parks overall. The Olmsted firm, founded by Frederick L. Olmsted, the visionary behind New York City's Central Park, Brooklyn's Prospect Park, the U.S. Capitol Grounds, Newark's Branchbrook Park, and our Union County Parks.
- Warinanco Park is an Olmsted Brothers–designed park, intentionally created as a democratic, restorative green space.
- According to the NJ State Historic Preservation Office (NJSHPO), Warinanco Park is considered historic and, in their opinion, eligible for listing on the State and National Registers of Historic Places (NJSHPO map attached).
- Justin's Grove is one of several groves in Warinanco Park—a hallmark design element found in many Olmsted-designed parks nationwide. Eliminating the Grove would permanently alter a distinctive feature of the celebrated Olmsted design tradition.

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### **Loss of Memorial Grove**

- The project would remove 60–70 century-old oaks from "Justin's Grove," a memorial honoring a local youth. This would erase both natural and personal history from our public space.

### **Equity & Environmental Justice**

- The construction of a second ice skating rink would benefit only a segment of the community. It will primarily serve ice hockey clubs and teams from other communities that have the resources to participate in a costly sport.
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### **Tree Survey- ( Attached)**

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### **Request:**

Please deny this project in its current location. Build a new rink where it does not destroy historic oaks or compromise an Olmsted-designed park, and continue to allow the gathering space intended for the community.

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3. Tree Survey
4. The County's Response to my letter.

Thank you for your time.

Best Regards,  
Kathy Cevallos  
Westfield  
Union County

## Bussell, Cynthia [TREAS]

**From:** Kathy Cevallos <  
**Sent:** Friday, September 26, 2025 1:40 PM  
**To:** State House Commission [TREAS]; SenTesta@njleg.org  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] The real cost of the Ice Rink Project at Warinanco Park  
**Attachments:** Proposed Property BLOCK 202, LOT 26\_ Cranford, Union County.jpg; OBC Map Warinanco Park with legend.png; SHC 2000046 Warinanco Park Ice Rink EMAIL.pdf; LUCY Screenshot of Warinanco Park -Eligible status.png; tree survey.pdf

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### **Historic & Design Significance~ The Olmsted Legacy**

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- The project would remove 60–70 century-old oaks from "Justin's Grove," a memorial honoring a local youth. This would erase both natural and personal history from our public space.

### **Equity & Environmental Justice**

- The construction of a second ice skating rink would benefit only a segment of the community. It will primarily serve ice hockey clubs and teams from other communities that have the resources to participate in a costly sport.
- The high costs of ice hockey (\$2,400–\$7,000 per child per season) make the sport inaccessible for most local families.
- The surrounding community is designated an Overburdened Community (map attached). As "compensation," the County proposes to restrict 6.15± acres of wooded land in Cranford (Block 202, Lot 26) under Green Acres. Yet Cranford has significantly fewer overburdened areas and already enjoys multiple parks—Nomahegan, Hanson, Sperry, Unami—and large private yards. This replacement land does not equitably compensate for the loss of green space in the Warinanco Park community.
- The environmental burden of tree loss would fall on the entire community, particularly in already green-space-scarce neighborhoods.

### **Tree Survey- ( Attached)**

- In Union County Assistant Counsel Kevin Campbell's Response to my objection to the destruction of Justin's Grove, he stated that "these trees are nearing the end of their natural life span" (per Dan Bernier's Environmental Assessment Report for this project). However, the independent tree survey does not support this claim, and Mr. Bernier is not an arborist qualified to make such an assessment.
- Mature oaks are the lifelines of our ecosystem. They provide deep shade, filter pollutants, produce oxygen, and offer natural flood protection. Each tree supports a complex web of wildlife, offering food and shelter to countless species. Their loss would disrupt the ecological balance and our community's connection with nature.

### **Request:**

Please deny this project in its current location. Build a new rink where it does not destroy historic oaks or compromise an Olmsted-designed park, and continue to allow the gathering space intended for the community.

Attached files:

1. SHPO Map
2. Overburden Community Identification Map (Environmental Justice Tool)
  1. Map of Warinanco Park

2. Map of proposed "compensation" lot.
3. Tree Survey
4. The County's Response to my letter.

Thank you for your time.

Best Regards,

Kathy Cevallos  
Westfield  
Union County Resident

## Bussell, Cynthia [TREAS]

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**From:** Kathy Cevallos <  
**Sent:** Friday, September 26, 2025 1:34 PM  
**To:** Vin Gopal; State House Commission [TREAS]  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] The Community cost of the Ice-Skate Rink at Warinanco Park  
**Attachments:** LUCY Screenshot of Warinanco Park -Eligible status.png; OBC Map Warinanco Park with legend.png; Proposed Property BLOCK 202, LOT 26\_ Cranford, Union County.jpg; tree survey.pdf; SHC 2000046 Warinanco Park Ice Rink EMAIL.pdf

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**New Jersey State Government Employees Should Forward Messages That May Be Cyber Security Risks To PhishReport@cyber.nj.gov.**

Dear Senator Gopal,

I am writing about the Minor Diversion/Disposal Application for the proposed indoor ice skating rink in Warinanco Park, Roselle Park, NJ. I would greatly appreciate your leadership on the State House Commission to ensure that Justin's Grove in Warinanco Park is not lost to a second hockey rink without full consideration of the following points.

### **Support for Rink – Opposition to Location**

- I am not opposed to a year-round ice rink, but strongly oppose its location inside Warinanco Park.

### **Personal Connection**

- As a former Elizabeth resident who grew up using the park, Warinanco Park served as my "backyard" growing up. For many urban families with limited green space, public parks remain essential—not a luxury.

### **Historic & Design Significance~ The Olmsted Legacy**

- Over one hundred years ago, the Union County Park Commission hired the celebrated Olmsted Brothers firm to design Warinanco Park, and our Union County parks overall. The Olmsted firm, founded by Frederick L. Olmsted, the visionary behind New York City's Central Park, Brooklyn's Prospect Park, the U.S. Capitol Grounds, Newark's Branchbrook Park, and our Union County Parks.
- Warinanco Park is an Olmsted Brothers–designed park, intentionally created as a democratic, restorative green space.
- According to the NJ State Historic Preservation Office (NJSHPO), Warinanco Park is considered historic and, in their opinion, eligible for listing on the State and National Registers of Historic Places (NJSHPO map attached).
- Justin's Grove is one of several groves in Warinanco Park—a hallmark design element found in many Olmsted-designed parks nationwide. Eliminating the Grove would permanently alter a distinctive feature of the celebrated Olmsted design tradition.

- Altering its design erodes one of the nation's most important landscape legacies.

### **Loss of Memorial Grove**

- The project would remove 60–70 century-old oaks from "Justin's Grove," a memorial honoring a local youth. This would erase both natural and personal history from our public space.

### **Equity & Environmental Justice**

- The construction of a second ice skating rink would benefit only a segment of the community. It will primarily serve ice hockey clubs and teams from other communities that have the resources to participate in a costly sport.
- The high costs of ice hockey (\$2,400–\$7,000 per child per season) make the sport inaccessible for most local families.
- The surrounding community is designated an Overburdened Community (map attached). As "compensation," the County proposes to restrict 6.15± acres of wooded land in Cranford (Block 202, Lot 26) under Green Acres. Yet Cranford has significantly fewer overburdened areas and already enjoys multiple parks—Nomahegan, Hanson, Sperry, Unami—and large private yards. This replacement land does not equitably compensate for the loss of green space in the Warinanco Park community.
- The environmental burden of tree loss would fall on the entire community, particularly in already green-space-scarce neighborhoods.

### **Tree Survey- ( Attached)**

- In Union County Assistant Counsel Kevin Campbell's Response to my objection to the destruction of Justin's Grove, he stated that "these trees are nearing the end of their natural life span" (per Dan Bernier's Environmental Assessment Report for this project). However, the independent tree survey does not support this claim, and Mr. Bernier is not an arborist qualified to make such an assessment.
- Mature oaks are the lifelines of our ecosystem. They provide deep shade, filter pollutants, produce oxygen, and offer natural flood protection. Each tree supports a complex web of wildlife, offering food and shelter to countless species. Their loss would disrupt the ecological balance and our community's connection with nature.

### **Request:**

Please deny this project in its current location. Build a new rink where it does not destroy historic oaks or compromise an Olmsted-designed park, and continue to allow the gathering space intended for the community.

### **Attached files:**

1. SHPO Map
2. Overburden Community Identification Map (Environmental Justice Tool)
  1. Map of Warinanco Park
  2. Map of proposed "compensation" lot.
3. Tree Survey
4. The County's Response to my letter.

Thank you for your time.

Best Regards,

Kathy Cevallos  
Westfield Resident  
Union County

**From:** [david.williams](mailto:david.williams)  
**To:** [SenBSmith@njleg.org](mailto:SenBSmith@njleg.org); [State House Commission \[TREAS\]](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Science and stewardship in Warinanco Park decision  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 16, 2025 6:42:32 PM

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**New Jersey State Government Employees Should Forward Messages That May Be Cyber Security Risks To [PhishReport@cyber.nj.gov](mailto:PhishReport@cyber.nj.gov).**

**Dear Senator Smith,**

I am David Williams, a horticulturist and former owner of Williams Nursery in Westfield, NJ. As Chair of the Senate Environment and Energy Committee, you have long been a leader in ensuring that environmental decisions are grounded in science and stewardship. I am asking you, in your role on the State House Commission, to apply that same standard of care in reviewing the proposed diversion in Warinanco Park.

**Key points:**

- **Conflicting science and unique White Oak stand:** The county's Environmental Assessment minimizes White Oaks, yet an independent 2024 survey documented 33 viable White Oaks out of 65 trees, making them the dominant canopy species in Justin's Grove. This contradiction must be reconciled before any decision is made.
- **Climate resilience and urban heat:** Removing over 4 acres of mature canopy in a densely used urban park will worsen stormwater flooding, increase urban heat, and degrade air quality. This runs counter to New Jersey's climate resilience and forestry goals, including efforts under the NJ Forest Action Plan.
- **Historic significance:** Warinanco Park was designed by the Olmsted Brothers and deemed eligible for the State and National Registers in 1983. The original plan included five picnic groves; Justin's Grove is one of those designed features. Removing it permanently erases part of that legacy.
- **Better alternative exists:** Oak Ridge Park, a former golf course, is county-owned, does not require tree removal, and avoids drainage issues. This is the environmentally responsible site.
- **Acreage discrepancy:** The application cites 1.14 acres, while the engineering plans show more than 4 acres slated for clearing. This raises questions about the accuracy and reliability of the application.
- **Public notice concerns:** Although signs were placed at park entrances, the county website notice was posted only hours before the hearing, limiting meaningful public engagement.

26x

- **Independent verification:** If there is disagreement about tree health, a qualified state urban forester or NJ Forest Service Urban and Community Forestry official should provide an independent review before any final decision. Proceeding without this step would, in my opinion, be negligent.

**Supporting documents (Dropbox folder link):**

1. **Independent Tree Survey (Dec 2024)** – Documents 87 trees, of which 33 viable White Oaks dominate the canopy.
2. **County Environmental Assessment Report – WSC Addition** – Union County’s own report, which minimizes White Oaks and understates clearing acreage.
3. **Justin’s Grove Preservation Report (Rev. 5)** – Historical documentation linking Justin’s Grove to the 1924 Olmsted Brothers design and picnic grove plan.
4. **Overview Photos (2024 vs 1930 Aerials)** – Demonstrates nearly a century of continuity in Justin’s Grove.
5. **Conceptual Site Plan (2023, Suburban Consulting Engineers)** – Shows more than 4 acres of removal, contradicting the application’s stated 1.14-acre diversion.
6. **SHPO Opinion Letter (1983)** – Confirms Warinanco Park’s eligibility for the State and National Registers.

Dropbox folder:

[https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/17ika2loh38o5opxfzk2y/AJebyxuvLn\\_P621yy2BHMm0?rlkey=n2z8qywj0mvlco1qmr67k8si&st=s5fyxapv&dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/17ika2loh38o5opxfzk2y/AJebyxuvLn_P621yy2BHMm0?rlkey=n2z8qywj0mvlco1qmr67k8si&st=s5fyxapv&dl=0)

Community petition (Change.org):

[https://www.change.org/p/prevent-the-destruction-of-justin-s-grove-in-warinanco-park?source\\_location=search](https://www.change.org/p/prevent-the-destruction-of-justin-s-grove-in-warinanco-park?source_location=search)

Thank you for ensuring that this decision is guided by sound science, respect for historic landscapes, and the principles of stewardship that have long defined your leadership.

Respectfully,

**David Williams**

Horticulturist

Former Owner, Williams Nursery

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**From:** david williams  
**To:** john dimaio; State House Commission [TREAS]  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Accuracy and fiscal responsibility in Warinanco Park proposal  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 16, 2025 6:34:08 PM

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**Dear Assemblyman DiMaio,**

I am David Williams, a horticulturist and former owner of Williams Nursery in Westfield, NJ. I am asking you, in your role on the State House Commission, to carefully review the Warinanco Park diversion before any approval is granted.

**Key points:**

- **Acreage discrepancy:** The application cites 1.14 acres, yet the site plans from Suburban Consulting Engineers clearly show more than 4 acres of trees and vegetation marked for removal. This is a significant understatement that calls into question the accuracy of the application. Decisions based on flawed numbers expose the state to criticism and potential legal challenges.
- **Conflicting science and unique White Oak stand:** The county minimizes White Oaks in its assessment, but the independent 2024 survey documented 33 viable White Oaks out of 65 trees. Justin's Grove is dominated by White Oaks and is rare within the park.
- **Fiscal responsibility:** Taxpayer money should not be spent advancing a project when the application itself is internally inconsistent. At a minimum, independent verification is needed before additional public funds are committed.
- **Historic significance:** Warinanco Park is an Olmsted Brothers design and was deemed eligible for the State and National Registers in 1983. The original plan included five picnic groves. Removing Justin's Grove destroys a designed civic amenity.
- **Better alternative exists:** Oak Ridge Park, a former golf course, is county-owned, requires no major tree removal, and has no drainage constraints. Moving the project there would avoid unnecessary costs and loss of trees.
- **Public notice concerns:** Signs were posted at park entrances, but the county website notice appeared only hours before the hearing, limiting meaningful participation.
- **Climate resilience and urban heat:** Removing mature canopy in an urban park will worsen heat, flooding, and air quality and conflicts with New Jersey's climate and urban forestry goals.

28x

- **Independent verification:** If the county disputes tree condition, a qualified state urban forester or NJ Forest Service Urban and Community Forestry official should assess the grove before any decision. Failing to do so would, in my opinion, be negligent.

**Supporting documents (Dropbox folder link):**

1. **Independent Tree Survey (Dec 2024)** – Documents 87 trees, of which 33 viable White Oaks dominate the canopy.
2. **County Environmental Assessment Report – WSC Addition** – Union County’s own report, which minimizes White Oaks and understates clearing acreage.
3. **Justin’s Grove Preservation Report (Rev. 5)** – Historical documentation linking Justin’s Grove to the 1924 Olmsted Brothers design and picnic grove plan.
4. **Overview Photos (2024 vs 1930 Aerials)** – Demonstrates nearly a century of continuity in Justin’s Grove.
5. **Conceptual Site Plan (2023, Suburban Consulting Engineers)** – Shows more than 4 acres of removal, contradicting the application’s stated 1.14-acre diversion.
6. **SHPO Opinion Letter (1983)** -- Confirms Warinanco Park’s eligibility for the State and National Registers.

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Community petition (Change.org):

[https://www.change.org/p/prevent-the-destruction-of-justin-s-grove-in-warinanco-park?source\\_location=search](https://www.change.org/p/prevent-the-destruction-of-justin-s-grove-in-warinanco-park?source_location=search)

Thank you for your time and for ensuring that the Commission’s decisions are based on accurate data and sound fiscal stewardship. I would welcome the opportunity to speak with your office.

Respectfully,

**David Williams**

Horticulturist

Former Owner. Williams Nursery

**From:** david williams  
**To:** State House Commission [TREAS]  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] ATTN: Treasurer Elizabeth Maher Muoio Subject: Safeguarding public trust – Warinanco Park diversion  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 16, 2025 6:57:14 PM

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**New Jersey State Government Employees Should Forward Messages That May Be Cyber Security Risks To PhishReport@cyber.nj.gov.**

**Subject:** Safeguarding public trust – Warinanco Park diversion

**Dear Treasurer Muoio,**

I am David Williams, a horticulturist and former owner of Williams Nursery in Westfield, NJ. As State Treasurer and a member of the State House Commission, your leadership is vital in ensuring that this decision sets the right precedent for the stewardship of New Jersey’s parklands.

**Key points:**

- **Statewide precedent:** Approval of this diversion will not only impact Warinanco Park but will establish a precedent that affects parklands across New Jersey. Allowing removal of a historic Olmsted grove on the basis of conflicting data sends a troubling message for all future applications.
- **Policy consistency:** The application under review cites 1.14 acres, yet site plans show more than 4 acres marked for clearing. This discrepancy undermines confidence in the process and risks conflicting with the Treasury’s responsibility for accuracy and accountability.
- **Conflicting science and unique White Oak stand:** While the county minimizes White Oaks, an independent 2024 survey documented 33 viable White Oaks out of 65 trees. Justin’s Grove is dominated by White Oaks — a rare stand within the park system — and this conflict in data must be resolved before any action is taken.
- **Historic significance:** Warinanco Park was designed by the Olmsted Brothers and deemed eligible for the State and National Registers in 1983. The original plan included five picnic groves, and Justin’s Grove is one of them. Removing it undermines both historic integrity and public trust.
- **Better alternative exists:** Oak Ridge Park, a former golf course, is county-owned, requires no major tree removal, and avoids drainage challenges. Relocating the project there would protect both canopy and credibility.

**Public trust and transparency:** Signs were posted at park entrances, but the county's website notice appeared only hours before the hearing. For a decision of this magnitude, the process must be fully transparent.

- **Independent verification:** If the county disputes tree health, a state urban forester or NJ Forest Service Urban and Community Forestry official should conduct an independent review. Proceeding without this safeguard would, in my opinion, be negligent.

**Supporting documents (Dropbox folder link):**

1. **Independent Tree Survey (Dec 2024)** – Documents 87 trees, of which 33 viable White Oaks dominate the canopy.
2. **County Environmental Assessment Report – WSC Addition** – Union County's own report, which minimizes White Oaks and understates clearing acreage.
3. **Justin's Grove Preservation Report (Rev. 5)** – Historical documentation linking Justin's Grove to the 1924 Olmsted Brothers design and picnic grove plan.
4. **Overview Photos (2024 vs 1930 Aerials)** – Demonstrates nearly a century of continuity in Justin's Grove.
5. **Conceptual Site Plan (2023, Suburban Consulting Engineers)** – Shows more than 4 acres of removal, contradicting the application's stated 1.14-acre diversion.
6. **SHPO Opinion Letter (1983)** – Confirms Warinanco Park's eligibility for the State and National Registers.

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Community petition (Change.org):

[https://www.change.org/p/prevent-the-destruction-of-justin-s-grove-in-warinanco-park?source\\_location=search](https://www.change.org/p/prevent-the-destruction-of-justin-s-grove-in-warinanco-park?source_location=search)

Thank you for your leadership in safeguarding New Jersey's parklands and ensuring that this decision reflects accuracy, fairness, and the public trust.

Respectfully,

**David Williams**

Horticulturist

Former Owner, Williams Nursery

David Williams

Garden Center Consultants LLC

Garden Center Consultants

Facebook: Garden Center Consultants on FB

**From:** david williams  
**To:** Vin Gopal; State House Commission [TREAS]  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Community health and fairness in Warinanco Park decision  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 16, 2025 6:38:46 PM

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**New Jersey State Government Employees Should Forward Messages That May Be Cyber Security Risks To** PhishReport@cyber.nj.gov.

**Dear Senator Gopal,**

I am David Williams, a horticulturist and former owner of Williams Nursery in Westfield, NJ. I am asking you, in your role on the State House Commission, to carefully consider the impact of the proposed diversion in Warinanco Park on community health and equity.

**Key points:**

- **Community health and benefit:** Justin's Grove provides shade, clean air, and recreational space to thousands of residents, many of whom rely on this park because they lack access to private green space. Replacing the grove with a second hockey rink for a limited user group undermines community benefit and public health.
- **Conflicting science and unique White Oak stand:** The county minimizes White Oaks in its assessment, but an independent 2024 survey documented 33 viable White Oaks out of 65 trees. Justin's Grove is a rare White Oak stand within the park and ecologically valuable.
- **Historic significance:** Warinanco Park was designed by the Olmsted Brothers and deemed eligible for the State and National Registers in 1983. The original plan included five picnic groves, and Justin's Grove is one of those designed gathering spaces. Its removal erases part of that legacy.
- **Better alternative exists:** Oak Ridge Park, a former golf course, is county-owned, requires no major tree removal, and has no drainage challenges. It is the more responsible location for this project.
- **Public notice concerns:** While signs were posted at park entrances, the county's website notice appeared only hours before the hearing, limiting meaningful public engagement.
- **Acreage discrepancy:** The application cites 1.14 acres, yet engineering plans show more than 4 acres of removal. This threefold understatement raises serious questions about the accuracy of the submission.
- **Climate resilience and urban heat:** Removing over 4 acres of mature canopy will

worsen flooding, increase urban heat, and degrade air quality — all issues that directly affect community health.

- **Independent verification:** If the county disputes tree condition, a qualified state urban forester or NJ Forest Service Urban and Community Forestry official should assess the grove before any decision. Failing to do so would, in my opinion, be negligent for a decision of this magnitude.

**Supporting documents (Dropbox folder link):**

1. **Independent Tree Survey (Dec 2024)** – Documents 87 trees, of which 33 viable White Oaks dominate the canopy.
2. **County Environmental Assessment Report – WSC Addition** – Union County’s own report, which minimizes White Oaks and understates clearing acreage.
3. **Justin’s Grove Preservation Report (Rev. 5)** – Historical documentation linking Justin’s Grove to the 1924 Olmsted Brothers design and picnic grove plan.
4. **Overview Photos (2024 vs 1930 Aerials)** – Demonstrates nearly a century of continuity in Justin’s Grove.
5. **Conceptual Site Plan (2023, Suburban Consulting Engineers)** – Shows more than 4 acres of removal, contradicting the application’s stated 1.14-acre diversion.
6. **SHPO Opinion Letter (1983)** – Confirms Warinanco Park’s eligibility for the State and National Registers.

Dropbox folder:

[https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/17ika2loh38o5opxfzk2y/AJebyxuvLn\\_P621yy2BHMm0?rlkey=n2z8qywj0mvklco1qmr67k8si&st=s5fyxapv&dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/17ika2loh38o5opxfzk2y/AJebyxuvLn_P621yy2BHMm0?rlkey=n2z8qywj0mvklco1qmr67k8si&st=s5fyxapv&dl=0)

Community petition (Change.org):

[https://www.change.org/p/prevent-the-destruction-of-justin-s-grove-in-warinanco-park?source\\_location=search](https://www.change.org/p/prevent-the-destruction-of-justin-s-grove-in-warinanco-park?source_location=search)

Thank you for your commitment to community health and fairness. I would be glad to provide more details or discuss this further with your office.

Respectfully,

**David Williams**

Horticulturist

Former Owner, Williams Nursery

**From:** david williams  
**To:** SenBucco@nileg.org; State House Commission [TREAS]  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Fiscal accountability and accuracy in Warinanco Park proposal  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 16, 2025 6:40:33 PM

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**New Jersey State Government Employees Should Forward Messages That May Be Cyber Security Risks To** [PhishReport@cyber.nj.gov](mailto:PhishReport@cyber.nj.gov).

**Dear Senator Bucco,**

I am David Williams, a horticulturist and former owner of Williams Nursery in Westfield, NJ. I am writing to urge you, in your role on the State House Commission, to withhold approval of the Warinanco Park diversion until clear and accurate information is provided and an independent review is conducted.

**Key points:**

- **Acreage discrepancy and accuracy:** The county's application cites 1.14 acres, but the engineering plans show over 4 acres of trees and vegetation slated for removal. This threefold understatement raises serious concerns about the accuracy of the application and the basis on which taxpayer resources are being committed.
- **Taxpayer accountability:** Public funds should not be spent advancing a project when the underlying data is internally inconsistent. At the very least, the Commission should demand independent verification before approving a permanent diversion of public parkland.
- **Conflicting science and unique White Oak stand:** While the county minimizes White Oaks in its assessment, an independent 2024 survey documented 33 viable White Oaks out of 65 trees. This makes Justin's Grove a rare White Oak stand in Union County and an ecological asset worth preserving.
- **Better alternative exists:** Oak Ridge Park, a former golf course, is county-owned, does not require major tree removal, and avoids drainage issues. This practical alternative avoids waste and destruction.
- **Historic significance:** Warinanco Park, designed by the Olmsted Brothers, was deemed eligible for the State and National Registers in 1983. Its original plan included five picnic groves. Removing Justin's Grove erases part of that historic design.
- **Independent verification:** If there is any dispute over tree health, a qualified state urban forester or NJ Forest Service Urban and Community Forestry official should be tasked with an independent review. Proceeding without it would, in my opinion, be negligent.

34x

- **Public notice concerns:** While signs were posted at entrances, the county website notice was posted only hours before the hearing, limiting meaningful public input.

**Supporting documents (Dropbox folder link):**

1. **Independent Tree Survey (Dec 2024)** – Documents 87 trees, of which 33 viable White Oaks dominate the canopy.
2. **County Environmental Assessment Report – WSC Addition** – Union County’s own report, which minimizes White Oaks and understates clearing acreage.
3. **Justin’s Grove Preservation Report (Rev. 5)** – Historical documentation linking Justin’s Grove to the 1924 Olmsted Brothers design and picnic grove plan.
4. **Overview Photos (2024 vs 1930 Aerials)** – Demonstrates nearly a century of continuity in Justin’s Grove.
5. **Conceptual Site Plan (2023, Suburban Consulting Engineers)** – Shows more than 4 acres of removal, contradicting the application’s stated 1.14-acre diversion.
6. **SHPO Opinion Letter (1983)** – Confirms Warinanco Park’s eligibility for the State and National Registers.

Dropbox folder:

[https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/17ika2loh38o5opxfzk2y/AJebyxuvLn\\_P621yy2BHMm0?rlkey=n2z8qywj0mvyklco1qmr67k8si&st=s5fyxapv&dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/17ika2loh38o5opxfzk2y/AJebyxuvLn_P621yy2BHMm0?rlkey=n2z8qywj0mvyklco1qmr67k8si&st=s5fyxapv&dl=0)

Community petition (Change.org):

[https://www.change.org/p/prevent-the-destruction-of-justin-s-grove-in-warinanco-park?source\\_location=search](https://www.change.org/p/prevent-the-destruction-of-justin-s-grove-in-warinanco-park?source_location=search)

Thank you for your attention to accuracy, fiscal accountability, and practical solutions. I would welcome the chance to provide additional information to your office.

Respectfully,

**David Williams**

Horticulturist

Former Owner, Williams Nursery

**From:** david williams  
**To:** Shabazz, Tariq [TREAS]; State House Commission [TREAS]  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Fiscal accuracy and long-term planning – Warinanco Park diversion  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 16, 2025 6:46:42 PM

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**New Jersey State Government Employees Should Forward Messages That May Be Cyber Security Risks To PhishReport@cyber.nj.gov.**

**Dear Director Shabazz,**

I am David Williams, a horticulturist and former owner of Williams Nursery in Westfield, NJ. I am writing to you in your role on the State House Commission regarding the proposed diversion in Warinanco Park. Decisions of this magnitude must be grounded in fiscal accuracy, transparent planning, and compliance with state policy goals.

**Key points:**

- **Acreeage discrepancy and fiscal accuracy:** The county’s application cites 1.14 acres, while engineering plans show more than 4 acres of trees and vegetation slated for removal. This threefold understatement raises concerns about the accuracy of the submission and whether fiscal implications have been fully assessed.
- **Cost-effective alternatives:** Oak Ridge Park, a former golf course, is county-owned and requires no major tree removal or drainage work. Relocating the project there would avoid unnecessary expenses while preserving valuable canopy at Warinanco.
- **Conflicting science and unique White Oak stand:** While the county minimizes White Oaks in its assessment, the independent 2024 survey documented 33 viable White Oaks out of 65 trees. Justin’s Grove is a rare White Oak stand within the park and ecologically significant.
- **Public trust and accountability:** The public expects state decisions to be transparent and fiscally sound. Proceeding on the basis of conflicting data and understated impacts undermines confidence in the process.
- **Compliance with state policy goals:** Removing over 4 acres of mature canopy in an urban park runs counter to New Jersey’s climate resilience and urban forestry commitments, including canopy equity in underserved communities.
- **Independent verification:** If tree condition is in question, a qualified state urban forester or NJ Forest Service Urban and Community Forestry official should provide an independent review. Approving a permanent diversion without this step would, in my opinion, be negligent.

**Supporting documents (Dropbox folder link):**

36x

1. **Independent Tree Survey (Dec 2024)** – Documents 87 trees, of which 33 viable White Oaks dominate the canopy.
2. **County Environmental Assessment Report – WSC Addition** – Union County’s own report, which minimizes White Oaks and understates clearing acreage.
3. **Justin’s Grove Preservation Report (Rev. 5)** – Historical documentation linking Justin’s Grove to the 1924 Olmsted Brothers design and picnic grove plan.
4. **Overview Photos (2024 vs 1930 Aerials)** – Demonstrates nearly a century of continuity in Justin’s Grove.
5. **Conceptual Site Plan (2023, Suburban Consulting Engineers)** – Shows more than 4 acres of removal, contradicting the application’s stated 1.14-acre diversion.
6. **SHPO Opinion Letter (1983)** – Confirms Warinanco Park’s eligibility for the State and National Registers.

Dropbox folder:

[https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/17ika2loh38o5opxfzk2y/AJebyxuvLn\\_P621yy2BHMm0?rlkey=n2z8qywj0mvklco1qmr67k8si&st=s5fyxapv&dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/17ika2loh38o5opxfzk2y/AJebyxuvLn_P621yy2BHMm0?rlkey=n2z8qywj0mvklco1qmr67k8si&st=s5fyxapv&dl=0)

Community petition (Change.org):

[https://www.change.org/p/prevent-the-destruction-of-justin-s-grove-in-warinanco-park?source\\_location=search](https://www.change.org/p/prevent-the-destruction-of-justin-s-grove-in-warinanco-park?source_location=search)

Thank you for ensuring that fiscal integrity and long-term planning guide this decision. I would be glad to provide additional details to your office.

Respectfully,

**David Williams**

Horticulturist

Former Owner. Williams Nursery

**From:** david williams  
**To:** GOV Constituent Relations [gov]; State House Commission [TREAS]  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Leadership and stewardship – Protecting Justin’s Grove in Warinanco Park  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 16, 2025 7:05:44 PM

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**New Jersey State Government Employees Should Forward Messages That May Be Cyber Security Risks To** PhishReport@cyber.nj.gov.

**Dear Governor Murphy,**

I am David Williams, a horticulturist and former owner of Williams Nursery in Westfield, NJ. As Presiding Officer of the State House Commission, you have a pivotal opportunity to safeguard both the integrity of the Commission and the legacy of New Jersey’s public parklands by ensuring that Justin’s Grove in Warinanco Park is not lost without full and independent review.

**Key points:**

- **Leadership and legacy:** The decision before the Commission will shape not only the future of Warinanco Park but also the precedent for how New Jersey treats its historic and community parklands. Protecting Justin’s Grove would honor your administration’s commitments to climate resilience, equity, and stewardship.
- **Statewide precedent:** Approving the removal of a century-old Olmsted grove on the basis of conflicting data and understated acreage risks weakening protections for parks across the state. This is not just a Union County issue; it sets a model for every diversion application that follows.
- **Acreage discrepancy:** The application cites 1.14 acres, but engineering plans show more than 4 acres of trees and vegetation slated for removal. This threefold understatement raises serious questions about accuracy and credibility.
- **Conflicting science and unique White Oak stand:** While the county minimizes White Oaks, an independent 2024 survey documented 33 viable White Oaks out of 65 trees. Justin’s Grove is dominated by White Oaks and is rare within the park. This conflict in the record must be resolved before any final decision.
- **Historic significance:** Warinanco Park was designed by the Olmsted Brothers and deemed eligible for the State and National Registers in 1983. The original plan included five picnic groves; Justin’s Grove is one of those designed public spaces. Removing it erases part of that legacy.
- **Community fairness:** Warinanco serves a diverse urban population. Replacing a shaded picnic grove with a second hockey rink that serves a narrow user group is inequitable and conflicts with environmental justice principles.

38x

- **Better alternative exists:** Oak Ridge Park, a former golf course, is county-owned, requires no major tree removal, and avoids drainage challenges. This practical option preserves canopy while addressing recreational needs.
- **Independent verification:** If there is any dispute over tree health, a state urban forester or NJ Forest Service Urban and Community Forestry official should conduct an independent review. Proceeding without this safeguard would, in my opinion, be negligent.

**Supporting documents (Dropbox folder link):**

1. **Independent Tree Survey (Dec 2024)** – Documents 87 trees, of which 33 viable White Oaks dominate the canopy.
2. **County Environmental Assessment Report – WSC Addition** – Union County’s own report, which minimizes White Oaks and understates clearing acreage.
3. **Justin’s Grove Preservation Report (Rev. 5)** – Historical documentation linking Justin’s Grove to the 1924 Olmsted Brothers design and picnic grove plan.
4. **Overview Photos (2024 vs 1930 Aerials)** – Demonstrates nearly a century of continuity in Justin’s Grove.
5. **Conceptual Site Plan (2023, Suburban Consulting Engineers)** – Shows more than 4 acres of removal, contradicting the application’s stated 1.14-acre diversion.
6. **SHPO Opinion Letter (1983)** – Confirms Warinanco Park’s eligibility for the State and National Registers.

Dropbox folder:

[https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/17ika2loh38o5opxfzk2y/AJebyxuvLn\\_P621yy2BHMm0?rlkey=n2z8qywj0mvklco1qmr67k8si&st=s5fyxapv&dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/17ika2loh38o5opxfzk2y/AJebyxuvLn_P621yy2BHMm0?rlkey=n2z8qywj0mvklco1qmr67k8si&st=s5fyxapv&dl=0)

Community petition (Change.org):

[https://www.change.org/p/prevent-the-destruction-of-justin-s-grove-in-warinanco-park?source\\_location=search](https://www.change.org/p/prevent-the-destruction-of-justin-s-grove-in-warinanco-park?source_location=search)

Governor, this decision is about more than one project — it is about your administration’s legacy of stewardship, equity, and climate leadership. I urge you to stand with the people of Union County and protect Justin’s Grove.

Respectfully,

**David Williams**

Horticulturist

Former Owner, Williams Nursery

**From:** [david williams](#)  
**To:** [Almeida, Lisa \[GOV\]](#); [State House Commission \[TREAS\]](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Legal sufficiency and precedent – Warinanco Park diversion  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 16, 2025 7:00:44 PM

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**New Jersey State Government Employees Should Forward Messages That May Be Cyber Security Risks To** [PhishReport@cyber.nj.gov](mailto:PhishReport@cyber.nj.gov).

**Dear Ms. Almeida,**

I am David Williams, a horticulturist and former owner of Williams Nursery in Westfield, NJ. In your capacity as Deputy Chief Counsel in the Governor's Office and an alternate on the State House Commission, your role is essential in ensuring that the Commission's decisions meet the highest legal standards and set sound precedents for future cases.

**Key points:**

- **Legal sufficiency and precedent:** Approving this diversion on the basis of conflicting data and understated acreage creates a precedent that threatens the integrity of future State House Commission reviews. It risks undermining both the Governor's office and the Commission's credibility in defending its decisions.
- **Acreage discrepancy:** The county's application states 1.14 acres, but engineering plans show more than 4 acres of trees and vegetation slated for removal. A threefold understatement raises questions about the accuracy and reliability of the submission.
- **Conflicting science and unique White Oak stand:** The county minimizes White Oaks, yet the independent 2024 tree survey documented 33 viable White Oaks out of 65 trees. This conflict between reports has not been resolved, making it legally questionable to proceed without an independent review.
- **Historic significance:** Warinanco Park, designed by the Olmsted Brothers, was deemed eligible for the State and National Registers in 1983. The original plan included five picnic groves; Justin's Grove is one of them. Removing it erases a historic designed landscape that has been recognized as significant.
- **Process and public notice:** While signs were placed at park entrances, the county's website notice was posted only hours before the hearing. Lack of adequate public notice could be challenged as a violation of fair process.
- **Better alternative exists:** Oak Ridge Park, a former golf course, is county-owned and requires no major tree removal or drainage work. Relocating the project there addresses demand without creating unnecessary legal exposure.

- **Independent verification:** If tree health is in question, a qualified state urban forester or NJ Forest Service Urban and Community Forestry official should provide an independent assessment. Proceeding without this safeguard could expose the Commission to claims of negligence.
- **Policy alignment:** Removing more than 4 acres of mature canopy in an urban park runs counter to New Jersey's stated climate resilience and forestry goals. Legal review should consider whether approving this project contradicts broader state policy commitments.

**Supporting documents (Dropbox folder link):**

1. **Independent Tree Survey (Dec 2024)** – Documents 87 trees, of which 33 viable White Oaks dominate the canopy.
2. **County Environmental Assessment Report – WSC Addition** – Union County's own report, which minimizes White Oaks and understates clearing acreage.
3. **Justin's Grove Preservation Report (Rev. 5)** – Historical documentation linking Justin's Grove to the 1924 Olmsted Brothers design and picnic grove plan.
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5. **Conceptual Site Plan (2023, Suburban Consulting Engineers)** – Shows more than 4 acres of removal, contradicting the application's stated 1.14-acre diversion.
6. **SHPO Opinion Letter (1983)** – Confirms Warinanco Park's eligibility for the State and National Registers.

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Community petition (Change.org):

[https://www.change.org/p/prevent-the-destruction-of-justin-s-grove-in-warinanco-park?source\\_location=search](https://www.change.org/p/prevent-the-destruction-of-justin-s-grove-in-warinanco-park?source_location=search)

Thank you for ensuring that the Commission's work meets the highest standards of legal sufficiency, fairness, and process integrity. I would be glad to provide additional details or materials to your office.

Respectfully,

**David Williams**

Horticulturist

Former Owner, Williams Nursery

**From:** [david.williams](mailto:david.williams)  
**To:** [AswMunoz@nileg.org](mailto:AswMunoz@nileg.org); State House Commission [TREAS]  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Please table Warinanco diversion pending independent tree assessment  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 16, 2025 6:22:44 PM

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**New Jersey State Government Employees Should Forward Messages That May Be Cyber Security Risks To** [PhishReport@cyber.nj.gov](mailto:PhishReport@cyber.nj.gov).

**Dear Assemblywoman Muñoz,**

I am David Williams, a horticulturist and former owner of Williams Nursery in Westfield, NJ. I am asking you, in your role on the State House Commission, to table the Warinanco Park diversion for Justin's Grove until an independent state urban forester verifies the health of the trees and the application discrepancies are resolved.

**Key points:**

- **Conflicting science and unique White Oak stand:** The county minimizes White Oaks in its assessment, but the independent 2024 survey documented 33 viable White Oaks out of 65 trees. Justin's Grove is dominated by White Oaks and is rare within the park.
- **Historic significance:** Warinanco Park is an Olmsted Brothers design and was deemed eligible for State and National Registers in 1983. The original plan included five picnic groves. Removing Justin's Grove destroys a designed civic amenity.
- **Better alternative exists:** Oak Ridge Park, a former golf course, is county-owned, requires no major tree removal, and has no drainage constraints. The proposed "replacement" land is next to an already wooded suburban park in Cranford and does not offset canopy loss where it matters.
- **Public notice concerns:** Signs were posted at park entrances, but the county website notice appeared only hours before the hearing, limiting meaningful participation.
- **Acreage discrepancy:** The application cites 1.14 acres, yet plans show more than 4 acres of trees and vegetation marked for removal.
- **Climate resilience and urban heat:** Removing mature canopy in an urban park will worsen heat, flooding, and air quality and conflicts with New Jersey's climate and urban forestry goals.
- **Independent verification:** If the county disputes tree condition, a qualified state urban forester or NJ Forest Service Urban and Community Forestry official should assess the grove before any decision. In my opinion, failing to take this step would be negligent for a decision of this magnitude.

42x

**Supporting documents (Dropbox folder link):**

1. **Independent Tree Survey (Dec 2024)** – Documents 87 trees, of which 33 viable White Oaks dominate the canopy.
2. **County Environmental Assessment Report – WSC Addition** – Union County’s own report, which minimizes White Oaks and understates clearing acreage.
3. **Justin’s Grove Preservation Report (Rev. 5)** – Historical documentation linking Justin’s Grove to the 1924 Olmsted Brothers design and picnic grove plan.
4. **Overview Photos (2024 vs 1930 Aerials)** – Demonstrates nearly a century of continuity in Justin’s Grove.
5. **Conceptual Site Plan (2023, Suburban Consulting Engineers)** – Shows more than 4 acres of removal, contradicting the application’s stated 1.14-acre diversion.
6. **SHPO Opinion Letter (1983)** – Confirms Warinanco Park’s eligibility for the State and National Registers.

Dropbox folder:

[https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/17ika2loh38o5opxfzk2y/AJebyxuvLn\\_P621yy2BHMm0?rlkey=n2z8qywj0mvyklco1qmr67k8si&st=s5fyxapv&dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/17ika2loh38o5opxfzk2y/AJebyxuvLn_P621yy2BHMm0?rlkey=n2z8qywj0mvyklco1qmr67k8si&st=s5fyxapv&dl=0)

Community petition (Change.org):

[https://www.change.org/p/prevent-the-destruction-of-justin-s-grove-in-warinanco-park?source\\_location=search](https://www.change.org/p/prevent-the-destruction-of-justin-s-grove-in-warinanco-park?source_location=search)

Thank you for your consideration and for protecting an irreplaceable public resource. I would welcome the chance to speak with your office.

Respectfully,

**David Williams**

Horticulturist

Former Owner, Williams Nursery

**From:** [david.Williams](mailto:david.Williams)  
**To:** [Jo.novia@treas.state.nj.us](mailto:Jo.novia@treas.state.nj.us); State House Commission [TREAS]  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Process integrity and transparency – Warinanco Park diversion  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 16, 2025 6:48:16 PM

This message came from an **EXTERNAL** address ([dave@gardencenterconsultants.com](mailto:dave@gardencenterconsultants.com)). **DO NOT** click on links or attachments unless you know the sender and the content is safe.  
**New Jersey State Government Employees Should Forward Messages That May Be Cyber Security Risks To** [PhishReport@cyber.nj.gov](mailto:PhishReport@cyber.nj.gov).

Dear Ms. Povia,

I am David Williams, a horticulturist and former owner of Williams Nursery in Westfield, NJ. I am writing regarding the proposed diversion of Justin's Grove in Warinanco Park. As Chief of Staff in the Treasurer's Office and an alternate on the State House Commission, your role is vital to ensuring that this decision is made transparently and in full compliance with state policy.

**Key points:**

- **Process integrity:** The county's application cites 1.14 acres of impact, yet engineering plans show more than 4 acres of removal. Approving an application with such a discrepancy would undermine the credibility of the process.
- **Transparency:** While signs were placed at park entrances, the county website notice was posted only hours before the hearing, preventing meaningful public participation. For a decision that permanently alters an Olmsted park, the process must be beyond reproach.
- **Conflicting science and unique White Oak stand:** The county minimizes White Oaks, but an independent 2024 survey documented 33 viable White Oaks out of 65 trees. Justin's Grove is dominated by White Oaks — rare within the park — and this conflict must be resolved before moving forward.
- **Historic significance:** Warinanco Park, designed by the Olmsted Brothers, was deemed eligible for the State and National Registers in 1983. The original plan included five picnic groves; Justin's Grove is one of those designed civic spaces.
- **Better alternative exists:** Oak Ridge Park, a former golf course, is county-owned and requires no major tree removal or drainage work. This practical option preserves both canopy and process credibility.
- **Independent verification:** If the county disputes tree condition, a state urban forester or NJ Forest Service Urban and Community Forestry official should provide an independent review. Proceeding without this safeguard would, in my opinion, be negligent.

44x

- **Climate resilience and public policy:** Removing over 4 acres of mature canopy in an urban park runs counter to New Jersey's own climate resilience and forestry goals.

**Supporting documents (Dropbox folder link):**

1. **Independent Tree Survey (Dec 2024)** – Documents 87 trees, of which 33 viable White Oaks dominate the canopy.
2. **County Environmental Assessment Report – WSC Addition** – Union County's own report, which minimizes White Oaks and understates clearing acreage.
3. **Justin's Grove Preservation Report (Rev. 5)** – Historical documentation linking Justin's Grove to the 1924 Olmsted Brothers design and picnic grove plan.
4. **Overview Photos (2024 vs 1930 Aerials)** – Demonstrates nearly a century of continuity in Justin's Grove.
5. **Conceptual Site Plan (2023, Suburban Consulting Engineers)** – Shows more than 4 acres of removal, contradicting the application's stated 1.14-acre diversion.
6. **SHPO Opinion Letter (1983)** – Confirms Warinanco Park's eligibility for the State and National Registers.

Dropbox folder:

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Community petition (Change.org):

[https://www.change.org/p/prevent-the-destruction-of-justin-s-grove-in-warinanco-park?source\\_location=search](https://www.change.org/p/prevent-the-destruction-of-justin-s-grove-in-warinanco-park?source_location=search)

Thank you for ensuring that the Commission's work meets the highest standards of transparency and fairness. I would be glad to provide further details or materials to your office.

Respectfully,

**David Williams**

Horticulturist

Former Owner, Williams Nursery

45x

**From:** david williams  
**To:** Asw PintorMarin; State House Commission [TREAS]  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Protect Justin's Grove – environmental justice and Warinanco Park proposal  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 16, 2025 6:31:54 PM

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**New Jersey State Government Employees Should Forward Messages That May Be Cyber Security Risks To** PhishReport@cyber.nj.gov.

**Dear Assemblywoman Pintor Marin,**

I am David Williams, a horticulturist and former owner of Williams Nursery in Westfield, NJ. I am asking for your leadership on the State House Commission to ensure that Justin's Grove in Warinanco Park is not lost to a second hockey rink without full and independent review.

**Key points:**

- **Environmental justice:** Warinanco Park serves a diverse, urban community that already faces disproportionate environmental burdens. The grove provides shade, clean air, stormwater control, and recreational space for residents who may not have access to private yards or tree cover. Replacing it with a hockey rink that serves a narrow user group is inequitable, undermines community health, and contradicts the principles of environmental justice.
- **Conflicting science and unique White Oak stand:** The county minimizes White Oaks in its assessment, but the independent 2024 survey documented 33 viable White Oaks out of 65 trees. Justin's Grove is dominated by White Oaks and is rare within the park.
- **Historic significance:** Warinanco Park is an Olmsted Brothers design and was deemed eligible for the State and National Registers in 1983. The original plan included five picnic groves. Removing Justin's Grove destroys a designed civic amenity.
- **Better alternative exists:** Oak Ridge Park, a former golf course, is county-owned, requires no major tree removal, and has no drainage constraints. The proposed "replacement" land is next to an already wooded suburban park and does not offset canopy loss where it matters.
- **Public notice concerns:** Signs were posted at park entrances, but the county website notice appeared only hours before the hearing, limiting meaningful participation.
- **Acreage discrepancy:** The application cites 1.14 acres, yet plans show more than 4 acres of trees and vegetation marked for removal.
- **Climate resilience and urban heat:** Removing mature canopy in an urban park will worsen heat, flooding, and air quality and conflicts with New Jersey's climate and urban

46x

forestry goals.

- **Independent verification:** If the county disputes tree condition, a qualified state urban forester or NJ Forest Service Urban and Community Forestry official should assess the grove before any decision. In my opinion, failing to take this step would be negligent for a decision of this magnitude.

**Supporting documents (Dropbox folder link):**

1. **Independent Tree Survey (Dec 2024)** – Documents 87 trees, of which 33 viable White Oaks dominate the canopy.
2. **County Environmental Assessment Report – WSC Addition** – Union County’s own report, which minimizes White Oaks and understates clearing acreage.
3. **Justin’s Grove Preservation Report (Rev. 5)** – Historical documentation linking Justin’s Grove to the 1924 Olmsted Brothers design and picnic grove plan.
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6. **SHPO Opinion Letter (1983)** – Confirms Warinanco Park’s eligibility for the State and National Registers.

Dropbox folder:

[https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/17ika2loh38o5opxfzk2y/AJebyxuvLn\\_P621yy2BHMM0?rlkey=n2z8qywj0mvklco1qmr67k8si&st=s5fyxapv&dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/17ika2loh38o5opxfzk2y/AJebyxuvLn_P621yy2BHMM0?rlkey=n2z8qywj0mvklco1qmr67k8si&st=s5fyxapv&dl=0)

Community petition (Change.org):

[https://www.change.org/p/prevent-the-destruction-of-justin-s-grove-in-warinanco-park?source\\_location=search](https://www.change.org/p/prevent-the-destruction-of-justin-s-grove-in-warinanco-park?source_location=search)

I hope you will stand with the residents of Union County in protecting this irreplaceable public space and addressing the inequities this proposal would create. I would be glad to provide additional information or meet with your office.

Respectfully,

**David Williams**

Horticulturist

Former Owner, Williams Nursery

**From:** david williams  
**To:** SenTesta@nileg.org; State House Commission [TREAS]  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Protecting public trust – Warinanco Park diversion  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 16, 2025 6:36:35 PM

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**New Jersey State Government Employees Should Forward Messages That May Be Cyber Security Risks To** PhishReport@cyber.nj.gov.

**Dear Senator Testa,**

I am David Williams, a horticulturist and former owner of Williams Nursery in Westfield, NJ. I am asking you, in your role on the State House Commission, to scrutinize the proposed diversion in Warinanco Park and ensure that decisions are made fairly, with accuracy and respect for public trust.

**Key points:**

- **Accuracy and fairness:** The application states 1.14 acres of impact, yet engineering plans show more than 4 acres of trees and vegetation marked for removal. This discrepancy is not a small matter — it is a threefold understatement that undermines trust in the application process.
- **Public trust in parkland:** Justin’s Grove is part of a county park originally designed by the Olmsted Brothers. This land was set aside for public benefit, and any decision to permanently divert it must be handled with the highest standards of fairness and transparency.
- **Conflicting science and unique White Oak stand:** While the county minimizes White Oaks, an independent 2024 survey documented 33 viable White Oaks out of 65 trees. Justin’s Grove is a rare White Oak stand in Union County and deserves preservation.
- **Better alternative exists:** Oak Ridge Park, a former golf course, is county-owned, requires no major tree removal, and avoids drainage challenges. Relocating the rink there respects both taxpayers and park users.
- **Independent verification required:** If the county disputes tree condition, a qualified state urban forester or NJ Forest Service Urban and Community Forestry official should assess the grove before any final decision. Failing to do so would, in my opinion, be negligent in protecting the public’s resource.
- **Public notice concerns:** Signs were posted at park entrances, but website notice appeared only hours before the hearing, limiting meaningful public participation.
- **Climate and flooding risk:** Removing over 4 acres of mature canopy in an urban park

48x

will worsen heat, flooding, and air quality, contradicting state climate goals.

**Supporting documents (Dropbox folder link):**

1. **Independent Tree Survey (Dec 2024)** – Documents 87 trees, of which 33 viable White Oaks dominate the canopy.
2. **County Environmental Assessment Report – WSC Addition** – Union County’s own report, which minimizes White Oaks and understates clearing acreage.
3. **Justin’s Grove Preservation Report (Rev. 5)** – Historical documentation linking Justin’s Grove to the 1924 Olmsted Brothers design and picnic grove plan.
4. **Overview Photos (2024 vs 1930 Aerials)** – Demonstrates nearly a century of continuity in Justin’s Grove.
5. **Conceptual Site Plan (2023, Suburban Consulting Engineers)** – Shows more than 4 acres of removal, contradicting the application’s stated 1.14-acre diversion.
6. **SHPO Opinion Letter (1983)** – Confirms Warinanco Park’s eligibility for the State and National Registers.

Dropbox folder:

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Community petition (Change.org):

[https://www.change.org/p/prevent-the-destruction-of-justin-s-grove-in-warinanco-park?source\\_location=search](https://www.change.org/p/prevent-the-destruction-of-justin-s-grove-in-warinanco-park?source_location=search)

Thank you for your attention to this matter and for standing up for fairness, accuracy, and the protection of public resources. I would welcome the opportunity to provide more information to your office.

Respectfully,

**David Williams**

Horticulturist

Former Owner, Williams Nursery

**From:** david williams  
**To:** Akhter, Assad [GOV]; State House Commission [TREAS]  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Transparency and fairness in Warinanco Park diversion  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 16, 2025 7:02:17 PM

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**New Jersey State Government Employees Should Forward Messages That May Be Cyber Security Risks To** PhishReport@cyber.nj.gov.

**Dear Mr. Akhter,**

I am David Williams, a horticulturist and former owner of Williams Nursery in Westfield, NJ. As First Alternate representing the Governor on the State House Commission, you play a vital role in ensuring that decisions are consistent with the Governor's commitment to fairness, transparency, and protecting New Jersey's public spaces.

**Key points:**

- **Community fairness:** Warinanco Park serves a diverse community that relies on its open spaces for shade, recreation, and gathering. Removing Justin's Grove for a second hockey rink primarily serving a narrow user group is inequitable and undermines the spirit of shared public resources.
- **Transparency:** Although signs were posted at park entrances, the county's website notice of the public hearing was posted only hours before the meeting. Such limited notice denies the community a fair opportunity to be heard.
- **Conflicting science and unique White Oak stand:** The county minimizes White Oaks, but an independent 2024 survey documented 33 viable White Oaks out of 65 trees. Justin's Grove is dominated by White Oaks and stands out as a rare ecological and historic resource.
- **Acreage discrepancy:** The application cites 1.14 acres of impact, while engineering plans show more than 4 acres of trees and vegetation slated for removal. This threefold understatement raises serious questions about accuracy and credibility.
- **Historic significance:** Warinanco Park was designed by the Olmsted Brothers and deemed eligible for the State and National Registers in 1983. The original plan included five picnic groves, and Justin's Grove is one of those designed public amenities. Its removal erases part of the Olmsted legacy.
- **Better alternative exists:** Oak Ridge Park, a former golf course, is county-owned, requires no major tree removal, and avoids drainage challenges. Moving the rink there would preserve both canopy and credibility.

50x

- **Independent verification:** If tree condition is in question, a state urban forester or NJ Forest Service Urban and Community Forestry official should provide an independent review. Proceeding without this safeguard would, in my opinion, be negligent.
- **Policy consistency:** Removing mature canopy in an urban park contradicts the Governor's stated commitments to climate resilience, urban forestry, and equitable access to green space.

**Supporting documents (Dropbox folder link):**

1. **Independent Tree Survey (Dec 2024)** – Documents 87 trees, of which 33 viable White Oaks dominate the canopy.
2. **County Environmental Assessment Report – WSC Addition** – Union County's own report, which minimizes White Oaks and understates clearing acreage.
3. **Justin's Grove Preservation Report (Rev. 5)** – Historical documentation linking Justin's Grove to the 1924 Olmsted Brothers design and picnic grove plan.
4. **Overview Photos (2024 vs 1930 Aerials)** – Demonstrates nearly a century of continuity in Justin's Grove.
5. **Conceptual Site Plan (2023, Suburban Consulting Engineers)** – Shows more than 4 acres of removal, contradicting the application's stated 1.14-acre diversion.
6. **SHPO Opinion Letter (1983)** – Confirms Warinanco Park's eligibility for the State and National Registers.

Dropbox folder:

[https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/17jka2loh38o5opxfzk2y/AJebyxuvLn\\_P621yy2BHMm0?rlkey=n2z8qywj0mvklco1qmr67k8si&st=s5fyxapv&dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/17jka2loh38o5opxfzk2y/AJebyxuvLn_P621yy2BHMm0?rlkey=n2z8qywj0mvklco1qmr67k8si&st=s5fyxapv&dl=0)

Community petition (Change.org):

[https://www.change.org/p/prevent-the-destruction-of-justin-s-grove-in-warinanco-park?source\\_location=search](https://www.change.org/p/prevent-the-destruction-of-justin-s-grove-in-warinanco-park?source_location=search)

Thank you for ensuring that this decision reflects fairness, transparency, and the Governor's leadership in protecting historic and irreplaceable public spaces.

Respectfully,

**David Williams**

Horticulturist

Former Owner, Williams Nursery

**From:** david williams  
**To:** Robert Karabinchak; State House Commission [TREAS]  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Urgent review needed: Warinanco Park diversion  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 16, 2025 6:25:00 PM

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**New Jersey State Government Employees Should Forward Messages That May Be Cyber Security Risks To** PhishReport@cyber.nj.gov.

**Dear Assemblyman Karabinchak,**

As a horticulturist and former owner of Williams Nursery in Westfield, NJ, I am reaching out regarding the application before the State House Commission to clear Justin's Grove in Warinanco Park. Given the conflicting data and the grove's unique historic and ecological value, I urge you to withhold approval until a full, independent review is conducted.

**Key points:**

- **Conflicting science and unique White Oak stand:** The county minimizes White Oaks in its assessment, but the independent 2024 survey documented 33 viable White Oaks out of 65 trees. Justin's Grove is dominated by White Oaks and is rare within the park.
- **Historic significance:** Warinanco Park is an Olmsted Brothers design and was deemed eligible for State and National Registers in 1983. The original plan included five picnic groves. Removing Justin's Grove destroys a designed civic amenity.
- **Better alternative exists:** Oak Ridge Park, a former golf course, is county-owned, requires no major tree removal, and has no drainage constraints. The proposed "replacement" land is next to an already wooded suburban park and does not offset canopy loss where it matters.
- **Public notice concerns:** Signs were posted at park entrances, but the county website notice appeared only hours before the hearing, limiting meaningful participation.
- **Acreage discrepancy:** The application cites 1.14 acres, yet plans show more than 4 acres of trees and vegetation marked for removal.
- **Climate resilience and urban heat:** Removing mature canopy in an urban park will worsen heat, flooding, and air quality and conflicts with New Jersey's climate and urban forestry goals.
- **Independent verification:** If the county disputes tree condition, a qualified state urban forester or NJ Forest Service Urban and Community Forestry official should assess the grove before any decision. In my opinion, failing to take this step would be negligent for a decision of this magnitude.

52x

**Supporting documents (Dropbox folder link):**

1. **Independent Tree Survey (Dec 2024)** – Documents 87 trees, of which 33 viable White Oaks dominate the canopy.
2. **County Environmental Assessment Report – WSC Addition** – Union County’s own report, which minimizes White Oaks and understates clearing acreage.
3. **Justin’s Grove Preservation Report (Rev. 5)** – Historical documentation linking Justin’s Grove to the 1924 Olmsted Brothers design and picnic grove plan.
4. **Overview Photos (2024 vs 1930 Aerials)** – Demonstrates nearly a century of continuity in Justin’s Grove.
5. **Conceptual Site Plan (2023, Suburban Consulting Engineers)** – Shows more than 4 acres of removal, contradicting the application’s stated 1.14-acre diversion.
6. **SHPO Opinion Letter (1983)** – Confirms Warinanco Park’s eligibility for the State and National Registers.

Dropbox folder:

[https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/17ika2loh38o5opxfzk2y/AJebyxuvLn\\_P621yy2BHMm0?rlkey=n2z8qywj0mvklco1qmr67k8si&st=s5fyxapv&dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/17ika2loh38o5opxfzk2y/AJebyxuvLn_P621yy2BHMm0?rlkey=n2z8qywj0mvklco1qmr67k8si&st=s5fyxapv&dl=0)

Community petition (Change.org):

[https://www.change.org/p/prevent-the-destruction-of-justin-s-grove-in-warinanco-park?source\\_location=search](https://www.change.org/p/prevent-the-destruction-of-justin-s-grove-in-warinanco-park?source_location=search)

Thank you for your time and careful attention to this matter. I would welcome the opportunity to discuss this further with your office.

Respectfully,

**David Williams**

Horticulturist

Former Owner, Williams Nursery

**From:** [david williams](#)  
**To:** [Belardino, Luann \[GOV\]; State House Commission \[TREAS\]](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Warinanco Park diversion – materials for Counsel review (Justin's Grove)  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 16, 2025 7:25:02 PM

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**Dear Ms. Belardino,**

Lisa Almeida advised me to contact you regarding the State House Commission matter on Warinanco Park (Justin's Grove). I'm David Williams, a horticulturist and former owner of Williams Nursery in Westfield, NJ. I'm writing to ensure the Governor's Office of Counsel has our documentation and is aware of several issues that, in my view, warrant tabling the diversion pending independent review.

**Key points for Counsel:**

- **Acreage discrepancy:** The application states 1.14 acres, while stamped engineering plans show more than 4 acres of trees/vegetation marked for removal (a threefold understatement).
- **Conflicting science / unique White Oak stand:** The county minimizes White Oaks; an independent 2024 survey documented 33 viable White Oaks out of 65 trees, making Justin's Grove a rare White Oak stand within the park.
- **Historic resource:** Warinanco is an **Olmsted Brothers** park deemed **eligible for State & National Registers (1983)**; the original plan included five picnic groves. Removing Justin's Grove erases a historic designed feature.
- **Process transparency:** Website notice for the hearing appeared only hours beforehand, limiting meaningful public participation.
- **Practical alternative: Oak Ridge Park** (former golf course) is county-owned, requires no major tree removal, and avoids drainage issues.
- **Independent verification request:** If tree condition is disputed, we ask that a **state urban forester / NJ Forest Service UCF** conduct an independent health assessment before any decision.

**Supporting Documents (Dropbox folder):**

- *Independent Tree Survey (Dec 2024)* – Inventory of 87 trees, showing 33 viable White Oaks dominating the canopy.

54x

*County Environmental Assessment Report – WSC Addition* – Union County’s own report, which minimizes White Oaks and understates clearing acreage.

- *Justin’s Grove Preservation Report (Rev. 5)* – Comprehensive summary of historic, ecological, and cultural significance.
- *Overview Photos (2024 vs. 1930 Aerials)* – Side-by-side images showing continuity of the grove over nearly a century.
- *Conceptual Site Plan (2023, Suburban Consulting Engineers)* – Engineering drawings showing more than 4 acres cleared, versus the 1.14 acres claimed.
- *SHPO Opinion Letter (1983)* – Confirms Warinanco Park’s eligibility for State and National Registers.

Dropbox folder:

[https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/17ika2loh38o5opxfzk2y/AJebyxuvLn\\_P621yy2BHMm0?rlkey=n2z8qywj0mvklco1qmr67k8si&st=s5fyxapv&dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/17ika2loh38o5opxfzk2y/AJebyxuvLn_P621yy2BHMm0?rlkey=n2z8qywj0mvklco1qmr67k8si&st=s5fyxapv&dl=0)

Community petition (Change.org):

[https://www.change.org/p/prevent-the-destruction-of-justin-s-grove-in-warinanco-park?source\\_location=search](https://www.change.org/p/prevent-the-destruction-of-justin-s-grove-in-warinanco-park?source_location=search)

I would be grateful if you could share these concerns and materials with the appropriate attorneys and staff preparing the Governor’s position for the Commission.

Respectfully,

**David Williams**

Horticulturist | Former Owner, Williams Nursery

**From:** Michael DuHaime  
**Sent:** Friday, September 26, 2025 3:29 PM  
**To:** State House Commission [TREAS]  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Monday vote - Warinanco Park

This message came from an **EXTERNAL** address ( [REDACTED] ) **DO NOT** click on links or attachments unless you know the sender and the content is safe.  
**New Jersey State Government Employees Should Forward Messages That May Be Cyber Security Risks To PhishReport@cyber.nj.gov.**

Hello,

My name is Mike DuHaime of Westfield, NJ.

I write today to respectfully support and urge a YES vote on Monday's state house commission vote regarding the new ice rink in Warinanco Park.

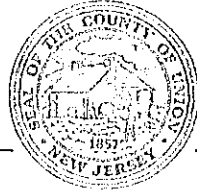
I am the president of the Cranford Hockey Club, a non-profit volunteer-run and -coached youth sports organization in Union County. We have approximately 300 families in our club who will benefit greatly from this visionary project, with children ranging from ages 6-18 playing travel or beginner ice hockey, or in our learn-to-play program. While predominantly from Union County, families in our club also hail from Essex, Somerset, Morris, and Middlesex Counties.

The new county ice rink is sorely needed as ice time is scarce and expensive, not just for our youth club, but also for local boys' and girls' high school programs who routinely practice at 5:45am before school, or have games at 11pm on weeknights. A new county rink will provide opportunities for many more kids and adults to play at reasonable times for students and affordable prices, especially with the Cranford Hockey Club's scholarship program, which is dedicated to making sure there are no financial barriers to playing in our county park.

Personally, two of my three sons have played ice hockey at Warinanco Park both for youth hockey and high school, and I am hopeful more families will enjoy similar happy memories to our times in Warinanco Park.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Mike DuHaime  
President and U18AA Head Coach, Cranford Hockey Club  
CEO, MAD Global Strategy Group  
Trustee and Adjunct Faculty, Rutgers University  
Board Member, Hackensack Meridian Carrier Behavioral Health



# COUNTY OF UNION

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY COUNSEL  
*Bruce H. Bergen, Esq., County Counsel*

September 19, 2025

Senator Bob Smith  
[SenBSmith@njleg.org](mailto:SenBSmith@njleg.org)  
[StateHouseCommission@treas.nj.gov](mailto:StateHouseCommission@treas.nj.gov)

## RE: PROPOSED INDOOR ICE RINK AT WARINANCO PARK

Dear Senator Smith,

Please allow this letter to serve as the County's response to the comments of David Williams that were addressed to you on September 16, 2025. The response follows Mr. Williams bullet points in the same order they were made.

- I do not know what Mr. Williams means by his statement that we 'minimized' White Oaks, nor does he describe how they are 'unique'. It is a beautiful tree, but its range extends throughout most of the eastern United States.
- As to the independent tree survey, that was done by John Linson, a Green Acre approved State Forester and a consultant to the County in this matter. I therefore don't see the contradiction that Mr. Williams refers to.
- It appears that Mr. Williams is confused between the area that is being diverted (i.e. the 1.4 acres), which is permanent, and the construction area, which is not. Per Green Acres regulations, we are obligated to provide tree replacement to compensate for the diverted area.
- While Warinanco Park has some historical significance, it cannot compare to that of Oak Ridge Park. A few buildings in Warinanco, at some distance from the proposed rink, are on the Historic Registries. However, *all* of Oak Ridge is on the Registries. It was a former plantation, with the main house, a part of which dates back to the 1740s, still extant. There is also a historic marker marking the former location of slave quarters.

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The land was given by a Royal Lt. Governor to himself in the 1680s. Some of the land was the scene of a Revolutionary War Battle in 1777 (known then as the Battle of Short Hills – though it is now more commonly applied to another nearby battle). An historic reenactment of the battle took place in 2017. Also, during the Revolution, a woman living in the house was shot and killed by a Hessian. This murder was publicized throughout the new Country as proof of British perfidy.

- Other parks were considered, but the site at Warinanco had the advantage of being next to the existing outdoor rink, which meant the site was already known. It also has easy access to mass transit, and can be reached by several roads and entryways. Moreover, many of our larger parks contained significant amounts of wetlands, while others were limited by topography, design or configuration problems, or difficult access. In addition, the County wanted a site that was close to urban areas and minority populations, both of which, traditionally, have not had exposure to ice skating.

The County also looked for other sites but there were no undeveloped 1.50 parcels of land (the larger size being needed for parking) in the County. As to developed sites, most were in industrial-truck transportation areas that would have been difficult to reach and seen as dangerous to access because of traffic and isolation by schools and families.

Furthermore, the cost of buying and renovating a factory or warehouse would have been cost prohibitive (due to the nearby Port of NY/NJ the cost of such land is expensive). As for commercial buildings, most were too small, and the remainder were under mid-or-long term leases.

- The acreage discrepancy is addressed above.
- The website notice was initially posted a month before the hearing, but through a bureaucratic error, was removed and not restored until the day of, or the day before, the hearing.

But not only was notice provided by the signs, it was also given by a legal notice and subsequent ad in two local newspapers; via letters to nearby homeowners, as well as to municipal officials/agencies of every municipality in the County, including their Environmental Advisory Committees. The matter had also been raised by our Parks Department at a televised County Commissioner meeting on April 10, 2024, as well as reviewed by the Roselle Planning Board, which was open to the public at a regularly scheduled meeting in November of 2024.

It should also be noted that the public hearing for this project was well attended by both supporters and opponents of the indoor rink, and that the County received over 50 written comments in the two-week period after the hearing.

- Other than Mr. Williams unsupported reference, there has been no disagreement about the health of the non-viable trees that were not counted as part of the County's tree compensation requirement.

I would conclude by noting that no diversion would had have been necessary had this been an outdoor ice skating rink, or if the proposed rink been on unfunded park land.

Thank you for your consideration.

Very truly yours,

  
KEVIN CAMPBELL  
Assistant County Counsel

KC/lp

cc: Oana Cadar, NJ Green Acres



# COUNTY OF UNION

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY COUNSEL

*Bruce H. Bergen, Esq., County Counsel*

Via Messenger

September 25, 2025

Eric Brophy  
Secretary, NJ Statehouse Commission  
c/o NJ Department of Treasury  
125 W. State St.  
Trenton, NJ 08625

**RE: UNION COUNTY APPLICATION FOR MINOR DIVERSION  
OF LESS THAN .5 ACRE IN WARINANCO PARK  
Block 1706, Lot 1**

**BOARD OF  
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*County Manager*

AMY CRISP WAGNER  
*Deputy County Manager*

BRUCE H. BERGEN, ESQ.  
*County Counsel*

JAMES E. PELLETTIERE  
*Clerk of the Board*

Dear Mr. Brophy:

The County has a diversion application before the SHC on Monday. We're number 8 on the agenda.

I apologize for the lateness of this submission, but we just discovered a document that is relevant to our application.

It is a copy of the Olmsted Brothers design for Warinanco Park from the 1920s. I am submitting it because contrary to the claims of the many objectors to our proposed project, the grove of trees that we will be removing was not a part of the Olmsted Brothers design. Instead, their design called for it to be converted to a sport's field.


That never occurred. The Union County Park Commission, which controlled the Park then, did not remove the existing trees.

I would also note that we are not removing the full grove as the objectors imply, but only a part of it 66 trees remain, which is exactly half of the existing grove. We will also be planting 50 trees as part of the project's landscaping plan.

I thought better to bring this to your attention now rather than at the meeting.

Thank you for your consideration.

Very truly yours,

  
Kevin Campbell, Esq.  
Assistant County Counsel

KC/mr

cc: Oana Cadar, NJDEP, Green Acres  
Meghan Baratta, NJDEP, HPO  
Victoria Durbin Drake, Director of Parks & Recreation  
Bruce Bergen, Esq., County Counsel

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**From:** nicole adler <  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 27, 2025 4:48 PM  
**To:** State House Commission [TREAS]  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Yes to Warinanco Park Project

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**New Jersey State Government Employees Should Forward Messages That May Be Cyber Security Risks To PhishReport@cyber.nj.gov.**

Hello,

My name is Nicole Adler, and I live in Piscataway, NJ.

I write today to respectfully encourage a YES vote on Monday to move forward with the Warinanco Park project.

As a child I played hockey for Cranford at Warinanco Park and our children have played youth hockey in Warinanco Park for years, and I know a new rink will provide affordable opportunities for many more people from around the state to enjoy this Park.

Sincerely,

Nicole Adler

Celx

**From:** Greg Akselband  
**Sent:** Friday, September 26, 2025 4:27 PM  
**To:** State House Commission [TREAS]  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Warinanco Ice Rink

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**New Jersey State Government Employees Should Forward Messages That May Be Cyber Security Risks To PhishReport@cyber.nj.gov.**

Good Afternoon,

My name is Gregory Akselband, and I live in Westfield, NJ.

I write today to respectfully encourage a YES vote on Monday to move forward with the Warinanco Park project.

Over the years, my children and I have called Warinanco Park our home for ice hockey. Whether it be youth hockey for my kids or adult hockey for myself, Warinanco Park has been a top-notch facility.

I have seen firsthand the impact that Warinanco has had on the NJ ice hockey community at all levels. The addition of a new rink will create an affordable opportunity for those who may have previously found the sport inaccessible. A new rink will not only serve the immediate community but will also benefit the entire state.

A YES vote on Monday will go a long way towards highlighting the inclusivity of the sport in New Jersey.

Respectfully,

Gregory Akselband

G2r

**From:** Joao Reis Almeida  
**Sent:** Friday, September 26, 2025 3:50 PM  
**To:** State House Commission [TREAS]  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Warinanco Park Rink

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Hello,

My name is Joao Almeida, and I live in Union, NJ.

I write today to respectfully encourage a YES vote on Monday to move forward with the Warinanco Park project.

Our child has played youth hockey in Warinanco Park for years, and I know a new rink will provide affordable opportunities for many more people from around the state to enjoy this Park.

Sent from my T-Mobile 5G Device  
Get [Outlook for Android](#)

**From:**  
**Sent:** Monday, September 29, 2025 1:33 AM  
**To:** State House Commission [TREAS]  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Ice Rink at Warinanco Park

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**New Jersey State Government Employees Should Forward Messages That May Be Cyber Security Risks To PhishReport@cyber.nj.gov.**

Dear Commission Members,

My name is Paul Arianas, and I live in Cranford, NJ.

I'm writing to encourage a **YES vote** in favor of moving forward with the new ice rink project at Warinanco Park.

Our family has supported many programs and community activities in Union County over the years. This includes my son, who plays ice hockey for the Cranford Hockey Club. Warinanco Park is a wonderful place that is situated in a great location and offers a variety of activities for the community to enjoy.

However, without a dedicated, year-round home ice rink, families face several challenges. These include long travel times to other rinks for practices and games, weather limitations, and limited space for growing programs for boys and girls in sports. Other towns in New Jersey have successfully upgraded or built new facilities, and they've seen clear benefits in youth participation and community engagement.

This new rink would provide affordable, accessible opportunities for kids and adults across the state. It would strengthen local programs, encourage healthy activities, and bring long-term value to the entire Union County community.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. Please vote **YES** to help make this opportunity a reality.

Respectfully,  
Paul and Jennifer Arianas  
Cranford, NJ

**From:** Dan Atieh <  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 27, 2025 11:34 AM  
**To:** State House Commission [TREAS]  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Support for Warinanco Park Rink Project

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**New Jersey State Government Employees Should Forward Messages That May Be Cyber Security Risks To PhishReport@cyber.nj.gov.**

Hi -

My name is Dan Atieh, and I'm a longtime resident of Cranford, NJ.

I'm writing to express my strong support for the proposed improvements to Warinanco Park, specifically the new rink project coming up for vote on Monday. As a parent of children who have spent years playing youth and high school hockey at Warinanco, I've seen firsthand the value this facility brings to our community.

This project will not only serve local families but expand access to affordable ice time for kids and adults throughout New Jersey. I believe it's a meaningful investment in the future of youth sports, community recreation, and the park itself.

Thank you for your time and consideration—I urge you to vote **YES** and move this important initiative forward.

Thanks,

Dan Atieh

65x

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**From:** C B <  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 28, 2025 6:10 PM  
**To:** State House Commission [TREAS]  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Improvements at Warinanco Park

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Hi,

My name is Jon Ball and I live in Scotch Plains, NJ.

I write today to respectfully encourage a YES vote on Monday to move forward with the Warinanco Park project.

My wife and I have four kids and have raised them in Union county, first in Union Township and currently Scotch Plains, after relocating from Northern Virginia nearly 20 years ago. Our kids are all different but they all share a love of ice skating and the game of hockey. Access to ice is so challenging in Union County. Today, my youngest daughter is part of the first all girls hockey team CHC has ever fielded. She is my youngest of three girls and the only one still playing hockey. These improvements will foster the growth of girls hockey.

Access to ice has severely limited the growth of girls hockey in Union County as girls have been forced to either continue to play coed body checking level or travel outside of Union County to play all girls, no body checking. Additionally, high schools have had to make difficult decisions to not field girls teams because there is no ice.

This rink will have a significant beneficial impact on the community, not just for the current users of the original rink, but for generations to come.

I am the Treasurer of Cranford Hockey Club. My kids played for CHC and I joined the Board because of the club's community first focus. I am very proud of our efforts to drive accessibility to the game of hockey from try hockey and learn to play to our needs based scholarship fund. We have focused on the growing cost of youth sports across the board and have so many initiatives to drive inclusion and access to both ice skating and hockey, not just from the perspective of hockey, but the broader benefits of sport and athletic activities for our communities kids.

CHC has always been limited in our ability to foster a community focus on youth hockey due to limited access to ice. This rink will enable the club to continue its mission and have a positive impact on even more children in our community.

Please vote in support of the improvements to Warinanco Park in support of the children of our community.

Sincerely,  
Jon Ball  
Treasurer, Cranford Hockey

66x

**From:** Jose Beiro <  
**Sent:** Friday, September 26, 2025 4:12 PM  
**To:** State House Commission [TREAS]  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] A new ice rink at Warinanco Park

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**New Jersey State Government Employees Should Forward Messages That May Be Cyber Security Risks To PhishReport@cyber.nj.gov.**

Hello,

My name is Jose Beiro. I currently live in Hillside, NJ. I was born and raised in Newark, NJ.

I write today to respectfully encourage a YES vote on Monday to move forward with the Warinanco Park project.

My daughter has played youth hockey in Warinanco Park for several years. Before that, she learned how to ice skate in Warinanco Park.

We need a new ice rink that my daughter and her peers can enjoy for years to come. We need a new ice rink so that more people—children, teens, and adults—can learn how to ice skate, play hockey, bring dates, have a family outing, etc.

Please vote YES for the new ice rink at Warinanco Park.

Thank you,  
Jose Beiro

**From:**  
**To:** [State House Commission \[TREAS\]](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Justin's Grove Warinanco Park  
**Date:** Saturday, September 6, 2025 6:19:54 PM

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Attention Eric D. Brophy

Dear Mr. Brophy:

As a longterm resident of Plainfield, Union County, I ask that the the Commission does not allow the destruction of Justin's Grove in order that an ice rink be constructed.

Undeveloped land in Union County has greatly decreased; it seems foolish, if not obscene, to develop the little undeveloped land we have. The County has stated that they looked at industrial sites as an option for a rink but for one reason or another, according to the County, the sites were considered unseemly, unattractive to parents of the budding hockey enthusiasts. Have the County revisit the option of established commercial and/or industrial sites

Please deny the destruction of Justin's Grove- a beautiful stand of mature trees which despite what the self serving representatives of the County may say, can still have a long life span ahead of them and are cherished by park goers and friends of Nature and are an Olmsted legacy.

Sincerely,  
Gloria Binkowski  
Plainfield NJ

68x

**From:** Heidi Bogatz <  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 27, 2025 7:32 PM  
**To:** State House Commission [TREAS]  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Warinanco Park - Please vote yes

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My name is Heidi Bogatz and I live in Scotch Plains. I am writing to urge you to please vote yes to approve a new ice rink at Warinanco Park. My son, Wesley, has played hockey there for two years and it really is the only accessible and affordable rink in the area. A new rink would provide the type of access our children deserve and will pay back tenfold.

Thank you so much for your consideration,  
Heidi Bogatz

**From:** [Paula Borenstein](#)  
**To:** [State House Commission \[TREAS\]](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Proposed development n Warinanco Park  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 10, 2025 10:59:32 AM

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The proposed project for the construction of a new indoor ice-skating rink is in **Justin's Grove**—a treasured cluster of approximately 60 to 70 mature oak trees . Many of these majestic oaks are well over 100 years old and were preserved as part of the original design by the renowned Olmsted Brothers Landscape Architecture Firm, whose work shaped the park nearly a century ago. I've attached photos of the grove for your viewing.

Warinanco Park is widely recognized as the crown jewel of the county's park system, designed with great care to honor the "Genius of Place" — a concept championed by Frederick Law Olmsted that emphasizes respecting and enhancing a site's natural features. Removing this historic grove would not only erase irreplaceable green space but also undermine the environmental and social benefits these trees provide, including:

- Air quality improvement through pollutant filtration and oxygen production
- Urban heat reduction via essential shade and cooling
- Habitat support for diverse wildlife and promotion of biodiversity
- Stormwater management and erosion control
- Mental health benefits through serene natural surroundings
- Preservation of a unique historic landscape character

Moreover, this project raises concerns about environmental justice. The removal of so many mature trees to benefit a relatively small segment of the community may disproportionately impact surrounding neighborhoods, which are already facing environmental burdens and limited access to quality green spaces.

Thank you for your needed attention to this matter.

Sincerely,  
Paula Borenstein

76x

**From:** Erika & Frank Briamonte <  
**Sent:** Friday, September 26, 2025 10:14 PM  
**To:** State House Commission [TREAS]  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Vote YES on the Warinanco Park Project

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Hello,

My name is Frank Briamonte, and I live in Scotch Plains, NJ.

I write today to respectfully encourage a YES vote on Monday to move forward with the Warinanco Park project.

My son has played youth ice hockey in Warinanco Park for years, and it has been an integral part of his development it's helped him grow stronger physically, become more confident and learn how to partner with others to achieve a common goal.

Hockey could benefit even more kids in the state if we didn't have such a limited number of rinks. The proposed second rink at Warinanco will provide affordable opportunities for many more people from around the state.

Thank you for your consideration.

Frank Briamonte

**From:** David Cacciatore < >  
**Sent:** Friday, September 26, 2025 7:36 PM  
**To:** State House Commission [TREAS]  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Vote Yes for Warinaco Park project

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Hello,

My name is Dave Cacciatore, and I live in Scotch Plains, NJ.

I write today to respectfully encourage a YES vote on Monday to move forward with the Warinanco Park project.

My wife and I are hockey parents of three kids that call Warinaco Park their home rink - playing for both Cranford Hockey Club and Scotch Plains Fanwood High School. Hockey has given my kids and so many others a chance to have fun, grow, compete, and learn so much over the years. The added rink will keep hockey more affordable and available and can allow for more kids to experience what mine have. The hockey community always gives back, helping grow that community in Union County is the right thing to do

Best regards,

Dave Cacciatore

**From:** Monica Ryan Campion  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 28, 2025 2:16 PM  
**To:** State House Commission [TREAS]  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Warinanco Park Ice Rink - Vote YES!

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Hello,

My name is Monica Campion and I live in Westfield, NJ.

I write today to respectfully encourage a YES vote on Monday to move forward with the Warinanco Park project.

We have four children who play hockey and/or love to ice skate. Our oldest son has been a member of the Cranford Hockey Club for three years, and has played at Warinanco Park. Our younger three children will soon be joining the Club. I know a new rink will provide affordable opportunities for many more people from around the state to enjoy this Park.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Monica Campion

**From:** Jeff Carman <  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 28, 2025 8:14 AM  
**To:** State House Commission [TREAS]  
**Cc:** Christine Carman  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Warinaco Park - please vote Yes

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PhishReport@cyber.nj.gov.

Hello,

My name is Jeff Carman, and I live in Cranford, NJ.

I write today to respectfully encourage a YES vote on Monday to move forward with the Warinaco Park project.

We have three boys who all love hockey and play hockey. They also play baseball, and the difference between the two sports is striking: baseball fields are abundant and practices are easy to schedule, while hockey requires us to drive 45-60 minutes one way, up to 10 times a week, just to find ice until Warinaco opens in October. This is beyond stressful for families who have parents working and traveling.

A new rink at Warinaco is absolutely necessary. Our kids — and many others across the region — have grown up playing hockey in Warinaco Park, and we've seen firsthand how important it is to have a local and reliable facility. This project would not only strengthen opportunities for Cranford and Union County kids, but also ensure that hockey remains accessible for kids and families who love the sport.

Thank you for your time and consideration, and for supporting opportunities that will keep kids active, connected, and growing through the sport.

Best regards,

Jeff & Christine Carman

**From:** Margaret Carroll <  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 28, 2025 9:12 AM  
**To:** State House Commission [TREAS]  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Warinanco Park Project

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Hello,

My name is Margaret Carroll, and I live in Cranford, NJ.

I write today to respectfully encourage a YES vote on Monday to move forward with the Warinanco Park project.

My son, Ben, has played at Warinanco Park since Kindergarten. Hockey has provided an incredible experience for him, teaching him teamwork, consistency, and confidence. Building a new rink will provide affordable opportunities for many more children from around the state, and allow them to grow into caring and passionate adults like Ben. We'd love to see more families enjoy this beautiful Park.

I appreciate your time.

All the Best,

Margaret Carroll

75x

**From:** Mike Carulli  
**Sent:** Friday, September 26, 2025 4:36 PM  
**To:** State House Commission [TREAS]  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Vote YES for the Ice Rink at Warinanco Park

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Dear State House Commission,

My name is Michael Carulli, and I live in Westfield, NJ.

I write today to respectfully encourage a YES vote on Monday to move forward with the Warinanco Park project.

My son has grown up playing youth hockey and is approaching his high school years where he will play both travel and school teams. My daughter does not play hockey but likes to ice skate as well. The rink provides so much entertainment for our family and the Warinanco Park rink will make an affordable opportunity for many other families from around the state to enjoy.

Please vote yes for the rink.

Sincerely,

Michael Carulli

**From:** Lindsay Clark ·  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 27, 2025 10:00 AM  
**To:** State House Commission [TREAS]  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] VOTE YES ON WARINANCO

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Hello,

My name is Lindsay and I live in Westfield, NJ.

I write today to respectfully encourage a YES vote on Monday to move forward with the Warinanco Park project.

Our children have played youth hockey in Warinanco Park for 3 years, and I know a new rink will provide affordable opportunities for many more people from around the state to enjoy this Park.

Please listen to your constituents. Thanks.

**From:** Caralyn Cooley <c:  
**Sent:** Friday, September 26, 2025 3:55 PM  
**To:** State House Commission [TREAS]  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Warinanco Park Project

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Hi!

My name is Caralyn Cooley and I live in Rutherford NJ. I'm writing to ask for your support for youth hockey by voting YES on Monday to move forward with the Warinanco Park Project.

My son Holden plays youth hockey with Cranford Hockey Club in Warinanco Park. Hockey teaches kids so many life skills and lessons -- we truly credit the sport with him becoming the resilient, collaborative young man he is. A new rink will provide affordable opportunities for kids like my son Holden from around the state -- ways to stay active, make friends and be part of a team.

Thank you for your time and appreciate your consideration in supporting the Park project!

Caralyn

**From:** Don Cooley <[redacted]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 26, 2025 5:24 PM  
**To:** State House Commission [TREAS]  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Warinanco Rink

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Please vote Yes on a new ice rink at Warinanco for the oldest hockey club in NJ-The Cranford Hockey Club. These kids travel all over the state just to practice. They really need a home. Again, please vote yes for my son and many others.

In appreciation,  
Don Cooley  
Sent from my iPhone

79x

**From:** Stacy Craig <  
**Sent:** Friday, September 26, 2025 3:53 PM  
**To:** State House Commission [TREAS]  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Warinaco Park Project

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Hello,

My name is Stacy Craig, and I live in Cranford, NJ.

I write today to respectfully encourage a YES vote on Monday to move forward with the Warinaco Park project.

Our daughter has been playing youth hockey in Warinaco Park for years, and a new rink will provide affordable opportunities for many more people from around the state to enjoy this Park. We would love to be able to have this incredible project move forward and give the youth additional places to not only play hockey but have open skate year round.

Sincerely,

Stacy Craig

**From:** Diana Darras < >  
**Sent:** Friday, September 26, 2025 6:57 PM  
**To:** State House Commission [TREAS]  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Warinanco Park Project

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To whom it may concern,

My name is Diana Bryer and I live in Cranford, NJ.

I write today to respectfully encourage a YES vote on Monday to move forward with the Warinanco Park project.

I have grown up enjoying the rink for public skating sessions and so have my children. My son loves it so much he is now playing hockey for Cranford Hockey Club.

Having an additional rink would provide so much more accessibility locally for practices and skating, as well as open this great sport up to other kids who wish to play hockey.

My son loves skating and hockey is a big part of his life. It has awarded him so many great friendships over the course of three years and has taught him so much about good sportsmanship and how to be a great team member. I hope with the additional rink, other kids can experience this great sport.

Thank you for your consideration.

Diana Bryer

Cranford Hockey Mom in vote for an additional rink.

**From:** Mirela Deitz <  
**Sent:** Friday, September 26, 2025 4:46 PM  
**To:** State House Commission [TREAS]  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Please Support the Warinanco Park Ice Rink Project

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Hello,

My name is Mirela Deitz and I am writing to urge you to vote YES on September 29th for the approval of the new ice rink at Warinanco Park.

This project has been in the works for six years and represents an important investment in recreation, community wellness, and opportunities for local youth and families. The rink will serve as a valuable hub for sports, health, and community gathering for generations to come.

Please move this project forward and support a positive future for Warinanco Park and the surrounding community.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best regards,

Mirela Deitz

Best Regards,  
Mirela Deitz

**From:** Catherine Dougherty <  
**Sent:** Friday, September 26, 2025 9:28 PM  
**To:** State House Commission [TREAS]  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Please Support the Warinanco Park Ice Rink Project

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Hello,

My name is Catherine Dougherty and I live in Westfield, NJ.

I am writing to respectfully encourage a **YES vote** on Monday to move forward with the Warinanco Park Ice Rink project. My son has played hockey at Warinanco for the past ten years, and my daughter has been playing there for the last three. My other daughter has spent countless hours in the lobby or Warinanco playing with friends and making core memories in that rink.

This rink has been a second home for our family and countless others, offering a safe, welcoming, and affordable place for kids to learn, grow, and compete.

A new rink will ensure that many more families from across New Jersey can share in the same positive experiences that have meant so much to us. Please help make this long-awaited improvement a reality for the community.

Thank you for your consideration.

**From:** Kevin Dougherty < >  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 27, 2025 7:32 AM  
**To:** State House Commission [TREAS]  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Warinaco Park

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My name is Kevin Dougherty and I live in Westfield NJ.

I am writing in strong support of a new rink at Warinaco Park in Union County.

Frankly, The county and entirety of this part of the state needs it. Private equity is buying up youth hockey and driving prices through the roof for their own profit. Clubs like Cranford Hockey Club, for which I am a board member, and other non profit hockey clubs like ours need places like Warinaco that don't seek to squeeze families for every last dollar in the name of R.O.I.

Cranford Hockey club uses our fundraising to provide hockey free of charge where needed, and affordably for everyone else.

Please make the right decision. This is a no brainer.

**From:** Kevin Dougherty <  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 28, 2025 3:42 PM  
**To:** State House Commission [TREAS]  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Warinanco Park Project- Vote yes

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Good afternoon,

My name is Kevin Dougherty and I live in Scotch Plains, NJ. I write today to respectfully encourage a YES vote on Monday to move forward with the Warinanco Park Project.

My son, Ryan, has played for the Cranford Hockey Club for the past 3 years and I know a new rink will provide many opportunities for more people to enjoy all that the park has to offer. Thank you for your consideration.

Kevin Dougherty

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone

85x

**From:** Robert Duda  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 27, 2025 2:11 PM  
**To:** State House Commission [TREAS]  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Vote YES for Warinanco Park Rink

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Hello,

My name is Rob Duda, and I live in Cranford, NJ. I have been a resident of Union County my entire life.

I write today to respectfully encourage a YES vote on Monday to move forward with the Warinanco Park project.

I grew up skating at Warinanco with my friends from all over Union County. Every weekend we skated two times per weekend. I also grew up playing for the Cranford Hockey Club. Today, both of my children ages 6 and 8 play for the club and I volunteer coaching them as well as the Learn to Play program and the Play Hockey for Free program.

Both of my children intend to play hockey all the way through high school and will continue to volunteer in these programs as well. I am positive a new rink will provide affordable opportunities for many more people from around the state to enjoy this park and the new rink.

Thank you.

Rob Duda

Rob Duda | Senior Vice President  
Automotive & Transportation Strategist



**From:** Bill Dyer  
**Sent:** Friday, September 26, 2025 5:51 PM  
**To:** State House Commission [TREAS]  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Endorsement for Warinanco Park Project

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Dear Sir or Madam,

My name is William Dyer, and I live in Cranford, NJ.

I am writing to respectfully encourage a YES vote on Monday to move forward with the Warinanco Park project.

Both of my children have played youth hockey in Warinanco Park for many years, and I know a new rink will provide affordable opportunities for many more people from around the state to enjoy the park.

Thank you for your consideration.

All the best,  
Bill

Sent from my iPhone

87x

**From:** Erin Egan  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 27, 2025 12:25 PM  
**To:** State House Commission [TREAS]  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]

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My name is Erin Egan, and I live in Cranford, NJ.

I write today to respectfully encourage a YES vote on Monday to move forward with the Warinanco Park project.

My three boys have played youth hockey since 2018 and we look forward to another 10 years of hockey as they progress through high school. Hockey participation has exponentially increased locally since 2018 and I'm not surprised. Hockey is a sport that keeps kids active more than any other sport, encourages quick, strategic thinking, is fast, and FUN. Participation in hockey has contributed to the development of my boys' executive functioning skills in ways I never would have expected. Hockey requires the use of a lot of equipment, the awareness of player safety, preparation, and travel to rinks at all hours of the day. This fosters commitment, accountability, time management skills, and independence. Lastly, the hockey culture and community is the gold standard in youth sports. Families tend to have 2,3,4 kids in youth hockey. Relationships grow. People lean on each other. Community forms. A second rink at Warinanco would also allow more of the Union County community to benefit from this amazing sport.

Also, a second (year-round) rink would allow the non-hockey community to enjoy having an ice rink year-round. Open skates are crowded every week at Warinanco. Slots for school-sponsored skate nights are limited, compelling local schools to go elsewhere for their events. A year-round ice rink gives families a reprieve from outdoor activities in the oppressive heat of July and August

For all of the reasons above, and more I haven't thought of, my family has been excited for this new rink for more than 2 years now. I know a new rink will provide affordable opportunities for many more people from around the state to enjoy all Warinanco Park has to offer.

Thank you for your consideration

Erin Egan

28x

**From:** Jack Egan <j >  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 27, 2025 6:38 AM  
**To:** State House Commission [TREAS]  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Warinanco Rink Vote

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Hello,

My name is Jack Egan, and I live in Cranford, NJ.

I write today to respectfully encourage a YES vote on Monday to move forward with the Warinanco Park project.

Our children have grown up skating and playing youth hockey in Warinanco Park, and I've seen firsthand how the rink fosters teamwork, discipline, and friendships. A new facility would ensure that future generations have the same affordable and accessible opportunities.

Thank you for your consideration and for your continued support of our community.

Sincerely,

Jack Egan

89x

**From:** Mary Elmquist <  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 27, 2025 10:32 AM  
**To:** State House Commission [TREAS]  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Warinaco Park - Ice Rink

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Hello,

My name is Mary Elmquist, and I live in Westfield, NJ.

I write today to respectfully encourage a YES vote on Monday to move forward with the Warinanco Park project.

My son has been playing ice hockey for five years and loves the sport. I know this new rink will allow others to enjoy the sport as much as he has. We are also excited to have another rink within our county.

Thank you,

Mary Elmquist

90x

**From:** Trish Fairweather Cody <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 27, 2025 11:55 AM  
**To:** State House Commission [TREAS]  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Warinanco Park Project

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Hello,

My name is Trish Fairweather Cody, and I live in Fanwood, NJ.

I write today to respectfully encourage a YES vote on Monday to move forward with the Warinanco Park project.

My son recently began playing hockey at Warinanco Park and he's loved his experience. A new park would allow him to play throughout the year, preventing his team from having to travel as far for practices. Additionally, the new rink would give affordable access to hockey and skating for more people around the area.

Please vote YES in our children's best interests!

Trish Fairweather Cody

9/1x

**From:** Mary Feeley  
**Sent:** Friday, September 26, 2025 8:13 PM  
**To:** State House Commission [TREAS]  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Warinaco park

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**New Jersey State Government Employees Should Forward Messages That May Be Cyber Security Risks To PhishReport@cyber.nj.gov.**

Hello,

My name is Mary Feeley and I live in Cranford, NJ for 48 years.

I write today to respectfully encourage a YES vote on Monday to move forward with the Warinanco Park project.

My grandchildren have played youth and now high school hockey in Warinanco Park for years, and I know a new rink will provide affordable opportunities for many more people from around the state to enjoy this Park

For all the years I paid county taxes for nothing I would love to see them put to good use for our youth

Mary Feeley

Cranford NJ

Sent from the all new AOL app for iOS

92y

**From:** Nicole Feeley < >  
**Sent:** Friday, September 26, 2025 5:11 PM  
**To:** State House Commission [TREAS]  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Warinanco Park Project

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Hello,

My name is Nicole Feeley, and I live in Cranford, NJ.

I write today to respectfully encourage a YES vote on Monday to move forward with the Warinanco Park project.

Both my son (age 14) and my daughter (age 11) have played youth hockey with Cranford Hockey Club for the last 6+ years. It's not only been a way for them to be active but they have both formed life long friendships and gained important life skills applicable both on and off the ice, such as teamwork, perseverance, good decision making, and communication. Beyond hockey, both children have also attended birthday parties and school skate nights at Warnianco Park, which provided a safe and fun social atmosphere. A new rink will continue to provide affordable and invaluable opportunities for many more children/people from around the state to enjoy.

Please vote YES to move forward with the Warinanco Park project.

Sincerely,

Nicole Feeley

Sent from my iPhone

93x

**From:** Evan Fischbein  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 27, 2025 3:26 PM  
**To:** State House Commission [TREAS]  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Warinanco Park Project

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Hello,

My name is Evan Fischbein, and I live in Scotch Plains, NJ.

I write today to respectfully encourage a YES vote on Monday to move forward with the Warinanco Park project.

Both of my sons ages 6 and 11 have grown up on that rink, learning to skate, learning to play hockey and now both are currently playing hockey for the Cranford Hockey Club. this rink and its expansion is critical to keeping the youth involved and giving them the necessary increased ice that all the clubs that use Warinanco to continue.

Please, Please, Please VOTE YES!

Respectfully

Evan Fischbein and Family

**From:** Stephen Fischbein · n>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 26, 2025 4:13 PM  
**To:** State House Commission [TREAS]  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]

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Hello,

My name is Stephen Fischbein, and I live in Springfield, NJ.

I write today to respectfully encourage a YES vote on Monday to move forward with the Warinanco Park project.

Our children have played youth/high school hockey in Warinanco Park for years, and I know a new rink will provide affordable opportunities for many more people from around the state to enjoy this Park.

Steve  
Stephen Fischbein  
President  
Just Packaging, Inc.

95x

**From:** Dave Gaetano <  
**Sent:** Friday, September 26, 2025 6:52 PM  
**To:** State House Commission [TREAS]  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] New Rink for Warianco - Roselle Park

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Hello,

My name is David Gaetano, of

I write today to strongly encourage a YES vote on Monday to move forward with the Warinanco Park project.

My son and daughter have played youth hockey with Cranford Hockey Club for over 5 years, and it has resulted in long standing friendships with children all over Union County. It has been amazing to watch them grow and love the game of hockey.

Currently, we are driving all over New Jersey to find ice time, either Newark, Bridgewater, Middletown or Morristown to name a few.

They both plan on playing through high school and Warianco has served as a great home when it can support ice in the cooler months. I know a new rink at Warinanco will add to not only their enjoyment, but for people in Roselle and all the surrounding towns. I love how our league continues to offer scholarships to those in need throughout the area, and another rink will allow so many more to enjoy the benefits of ice and figure skating.

I thank you in advance in anticipation of your yes vote!

David and Jamie Gaetano

Cranford, NJ

**From:** Kair Gebauer <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 27, 2025 8:54 PM  
**To:** State House Commission [TREAS]  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Yes to Warinanco Park

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Hello,

My name is Kair Gebauer, and I live in Scotch Plains, NJ.

I write today to respectfully encourage a YES vote on Monday to move forward with the Warinanco Park project.

My son plays ice hockey, and it has been an incredible outlet for him. With limited space available for teams to practice and play, the expansion of Warinanco would provide much-needed opportunities for him and others to enjoy the sport they love. Warinanco is already such a special place—it feels like a true community center, with a welcoming atmosphere and staff who consistently go out of their way to support everyone who walks through the doors. I have no doubt that the same spirit would carry into the new facility.

Thank you for taking the time to read this and I hope you will support the project.

Respectfully,  
Kair Gebauer

**From:** Cathy Gennaro <  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 28, 2025 6:41 PM  
**To:** State House Commission [TREAS]  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] VOTE YES!

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Hello,

*Our names are Cathy and Chris Gennaro and we live in Green Brook NJ.*

*I write today to respectfully encourage a YES vote on Monday to move forward with the Warinaco Park project.*

*Our son has played in Warinaco Park for many years, not only in youth hockey but also in high school hockey. I know that a new rink will provide affordable opportunities for many people from around the state to enjoy this Park. In a time of crisis for children where far too many engage in unhealthy hobbies including electronics and vaping, an ice rink provides a safe and productive environment to socialize with peers as well as engage in time with family.*

*We urge you to VOTE YES to allow the Warinaco Park Project to move forward for not only the residents of Union County but also the surrounding towns.*

*Respectfully yours,*

*Cathy and Chris Gennaro*

---

**From:** David Gerlach  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 27, 2025 7:26 AM  
**To:** State House Commission [TREAS]  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Warinanco Park Project

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Dear State House Commission Members,

My name is David Gerlach, and I live in Westfield, NJ. I am writing you today to respectfully encourage a YES vote on Monday to move forward with the Warinanco Park project.

As a resident of Union County for the past 14 years and father of 3 sons who play for Cranford Hockey Club, Warinanco has been a home away from home for us for the better part of the last decade. Cranford Hockey Club stands as a beacon of hope in what has become a dark and disturbing trend in youth sports. In an era when we are seeing private equity groups buying clubs, teams and rinks, and the cost of youth sports becoming outrageously expensive as a function of "for profit" business models, Cranford Hockey Club remains one of the few, volunteer driven, non-profit clubs in existence. It is, by far, the best experience I have had as far as youth athletics goes, with any of my 4 children in any sport. The new rink at Warinanco is vital to the club's ability to provide affordable opportunities for the community going forward as well as supporting the local high school hockey programs. Please vote YES on Monday to move forward with the Warinanco Park Project. Let's fight back against the commoditization of our youth and help restore the sense of community that was such a big part of youth athletics just a generation ago.

Sincerely,  
David Gerlach

**From:** Marni Ginter <  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 27, 2025 11:28 AM  
**To:** State House Commission [TREAS]  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] New Ice Rink at Warinanco Park

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Hello,

My name is Marni Ginter, and I live in Cranford, NJ.

I write today to respectfully encourage a YES vote on Monday to move forward with the Warinanco Park project.

My son has played youth hockey in Warinanco Park for years, and I know a new rink will provide affordable opportunities for many more people from around the state to enjoy this Park. Ice hockey has become a very popular sport and we need more rinks to accommodate the growing number of players in this area. We often need to travel 50 minutes each way to an available rink for practice, which is not sustainable. Please vote YES so we have more, closer options for practices and games.

Sincerely,

Marni Ginter

**From:** Tony Gonzales  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 27, 2025 12:18 AM  
**To:** State House Commission [TREAS]  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] New Ice Rink at Warinanco Park

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Hello,

My name is Tony Gonzales, and I'm a proud resident of Cranford, NJ. I write today to respectfully encourage a YES vote on Monday to move forward with the Warinanco Park project. I've been a hockey coach since 2018. I've coached kids aged 6 to 18, from mites all the way to high schoolers. I do it because for me there is no greater joy than helping young athletes become the best version of themselves while playing a sport that I love.

It's true that hockey isn't the only sport that can teach things like perseverance, believing in yourself, or the power of working as a team. But I will say there is no greater analogy than hockey when it comes to teaching how success is born from failure. You can't learn to play this game unless you're willing to fall over and over and keep getting up. That's not just a hockey skill. It's a life skill that these kids will take with them far beyond the rink.

If we get more ice, we can help more kids. We can make the game more accessible. As with all Cranford Hockey Club coaches, I am a volunteer. We do this because we love the sport, and we want to bring its joy to the widest audience we possibly can.

Your vote would make all the difference. Please help us grow the game here in New Jersey!

Best regards,

Tony

low

**From:** Lisa Gootzeit  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 28, 2025 8:05 AM  
**To:** State House Commission [TREAS]  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] From a Local Mom: Please Vote YES for Warinanco Park

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Hello!

My name is Lisa Gootzeit, and I live in Westfield, NJ. We moved here nine years ago to put down roots for our family, and it has truly become home.

I'm writing to respectfully encourage a YES on tomorrow's vote to move forward with the Warinanco Park project.

My son discovered ice hockey two years ago, and it has been life changing. After trying many activities, this is where he found his confidence and joy. But with limited rinks in our area, we often drive 45 minutes or more just to get to practice. Adding another ice rink at Warinanco Park would make an enormous difference, not just for my family, but for countless others who rely on these opportunities to help their kids grow, connect and thrive.

Thank you for your time.

Lisa Gootzeit

Westfield, NJ

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** Lisa Grawehr  
**Sent:** Friday, September 26, 2025 8:57 PM  
**To:** State House Commission [TREAS]  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Ice Rink at Warinaco Park

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To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Richard Grawehr and I live in Westfield, New Jersey. I am writing today to encourage a YES vote on Monday to move ahead with the Warinaco Park project.

My sons have played youth and high school hockey at Warinaco for years and a new rink will provide more young children and teens to experience the opportunity to play hockey at an affordable rate and will bring more people to the park. This will also offer opportunities for families to come and skate together. I hope there is a YES vote for this wonderful opportunity for our community.

Sincerely,  
Richard Grawehr

103x

**From:** Mark Griffith <  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 28, 2025 6:07 PM  
**To:** State House Commission [TREAS]  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] YES to Warinanco Park project

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My name is Mark Griffith, and I live in Westfield, NJ.

I write today to respectfully encourage a YES vote on Monday to move forward with the Warinanco Park project.

My son took an interest in hockey over the past year as part of Cranford Hockey Club. We are enjoying the travel program this year but it's clear that other town and county facilities are far superior to the current rink at Warinanco. The fact that practices can't begin at Warinanco until mid-October makes it challenging for parents from many neighboring communities to get kids to practices further afield on weekdays.

Cranford Hockey Club and the other programs that play at Warinanco have made an investment in our children's future and it's time for the state to show its commitment to our youth.

Respectfully,

Mark Griffith

**From:** James Haroldson <  
**Sent:** Monday, September 29, 2025 6:43 AM  
**To:** State House Commission [TREAS]  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Warinanco Park Project

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Hello Commissioners and Team,

I am reaching out today to respectfully encourage a YES vote on Monday to move forward with the Warinanco Park project.

I grew up playing ice hockey in the area and often had to travel far and at early hours to find available ice time. Now with my two young sons playing I know a new rink at Warinanco Park will provide affordable opportunities for many more people from around the state to enjoy this Park.

Please consider a YES vote today

Thank You,

James Haroldson

Westfield, NJ

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** E Hausker <  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 28, 2025 1:04 PM  
**To:** State House Commission [TREAS]  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] attn: Mr. Eric Brophy

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Dear Sir,

I am writing to your office to express my dismay that yet another chunk of beautiful Union County parkland has been slated for destruction.

In this case, 60 mature oak trees in Warinanco Park will be clear-cut to make way for a skating rink - right next to an existing skating rink in this Olmsted- designed urban park. It borders on the immoral to do this to the residents of the area who enjoy access to the park's tranquil beauty for picnics and peace and quiet.

The proposed rink would also be a setback in the battle against global warming and climate change, since the sixty trees absorb carbon dioxide and emit oxygen for us to breathe.

As a mature society facing rising sea levels, warming temperatures, and deforestation, we must insist that trees be preserved at all costs wherever possible. Sporting facilities can be built elsewhere, and I am sure today's young athletes would understand your decision not to go ahead with the skating rink.

Thank you for your consideration

Eric Hausker  
Union County resident

**From:** henniefamily  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 28, 2025 8:59 PM  
**To:** State House Commission [TREAS]  
**Cc:** Christopher Hennie  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Vote YES on the Warinanco Rink Project

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Dear Sir,

My name is Michael Christopher Hennie and I live in Roselle Park, NJ.

I am writing you today to respectfully encourage a YES vote on Monday to move forward with the Warinanco Park project.

My sons Aiden and Asher have played hockey in Warinanco Park for years, and I know a new rink will provide affordable opportunities for many more people from around the state to enjoy this Park. I participated there myself when I was a child.

Hockey is our love and having this rink means so much to our family.

Thank you,

The Hennie Family

**From:** Marilou Ilie <  
**Sent:** Friday, September 26, 2025 6:01 PM  
**To:** State House Commission [TREAS]  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Warinanco park Project

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Hello,

My name is marilou Ilie, and I live in Cranford, NJ

I write today to respectfully encourage a YES vote on Monday to move forward with the Warinanco Park project.

With this project getting into fruition, many families especially kids will benefit from having a place to cater to their needs to play sports that will help with their development and growth as productive people of our society. Thank you very much!

Sincerely,  
Marilou Ilie PT, DPT

108x

**From:** Yanna Jiang  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 28, 2025 10:10 PM  
**To:** State House Commission [TREAS]  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Yes to Warinanco Park New Rink

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Hello,

My name is Yanna Jiang, and I live in Cranford, NJ.

I write today to respectfully encourage a YES vote on Monday to move forward with the Warinanco Park project.

*My* daughter played youth/high school hockey in Warinanco Park last year, and I know a new rink will provide affordable opportunities for many more people from around the state to enjoy this Park.

--  
yours sincerely,

Yanna

109y

**From:** Tracy Johnston  
**Sent:** Friday, September 26, 2025 4:15 PM  
**To:** State House Commission [TREAS]  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Ice rink at Warinanco Park

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Hello,

My name is Tracy Johnston and I live in Elizabeth, NJ.

I write today to respectfully encourage a YES vote on Monday to move forward with the Warinanco Park ice rink project.

My children play youth hockey at Warinanco Park and I know a new rink will provide affordable opportunities for many more people from around the state to enjoy this park and sport.

Thank you,

Tracy Johnston

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** Kelly Kleiner  
**Sent:** Friday, September 26, 2025 4:36 PM  
**To:** State House Commission [TREAS]  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Please Vote Yes for New Ice Rink at Warinanco

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Hello,

My name is Kelly Kleiner, and I live in Cranford, NJ.

I write today to respectfully encourage a YES vote on Monday to move forward with the Warinanco Park project.

My now 6 year old son started hockey at Warinanco when he was 4 and my now 4 year old daughter will be starting Learn to Play at Warinanco in less than a month. It makes us so happy that there are more and more opportunities for kids to play hockey, including little girls and communities that wouldn't have otherwise had access to hockey. A second rink help makes this access possible and I know it will be a fantastic addition to the community.

Please vote yes for our kids!

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Kelly Kleiner & Family

11/14

**From:** Jason LaBarge · 1>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 26, 2025 9:04 PM  
**To:** State House Commission [TREAS]  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Warinanco Ice Rink - great fun for kids

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Hello,

My name is Jason LaBarge and I live in Scotch Plains, NJ.

I write today to respectfully encourage a YES vote on Monday to move forward with the Warinanco Park project.

Our children have played youth hockey in Warinanco Park for years, and I know a new rink will provide affordable opportunities for many more people from around the state to enjoy this Park.

Thank you for your support .

Jason LaBarge

**From:**  
**Sent:** Friday, September 26, 2025 3:56 PM  
**To:** State House Commission [TREAS]  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Warinanco Park Ice Rink - Vote YES!!

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Hello,

My name is Dever Lagola, and I live in Cranford, NJ.

I write today to respectfully encourage a YES vote on Monday to move forward with the Warinanco Park project. Hockey has become such a huge part of my family, my boys love being on the ice and there just aren't enough rinks close by. My boys have played hockey for the Cranford Hockey Club for years and would benefit a TON by having a second sheet of ice. CHC has given those not fortunate to afford the sport an opportunity to play hockey and with expanding to another sheet of ice they will be able to give even more opportunities to families that love the sport as much as we do.

Our children have played youth hockey in Warinanco Park for years, and I know a new rink will provide affordable opportunities for many more people from around the state to enjoy this Park.

Please give these kids a place to play and grow in what they love!!

Thank you,  
Dever Lagola

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** Dever Lagola <  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 28, 2025 8:39 AM  
**To:** State House Commission [TREAS]  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Warinanco Park Ice Rink

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To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Michael Lagola and I live in Cranford, NJ. I am writing today to encourage a YES vote on Monday, September 29, 2025 to move forward with the Warinanco Park ice rink project. My two children are currently playing ice hockey for the Cranford Hockey Club, which utilizes Warinanco Park as their home rink. Playing ice hockey has been such a positive experience for them and I am certain a new rink will continue to provide the same opportunities for many others to be able to enjoy this great sport as well as the park itself. Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,  
Michael Lagola

 **The Shade Tree Department, LLC**

P.O. Box 6089  
West Orange, New Jersey 07052  
973.766.2143  
[TheShadeTreeDepartment@live.com](mailto:TheShadeTreeDepartment@live.com)

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December 20, 2024

Kevin Campbell, Esquire  
Assistant Union County Council  
Administration Building  
Elizabethtown Plaza  
Elizabeth, New Jersey 07207  
[kcampbell@ucnj.org](mailto:kcampbell@ucnj.org)

Re: Green Acres Remediation  
Warinanco Park Skating Ring

Dear Mr. Campbell,

On December 6, 2024, per our agreement, I assessed 87 trees over 6" in diameter within the footprint of the proposed indoor skating rink and divided them into two categories, viable and non-viable trees. See the attached tables. Viable Trees include trees in reasonably good health which are devoid of serious defects. Non-viable Trees include trees which are dead, diseased, decayed, storm-damaged, or otherwise defective.

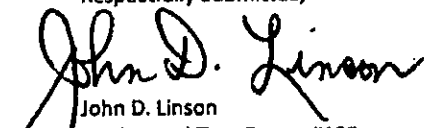
The purpose of making these two determinations is to tally the total cross section areas in square inches of the Viable Trees in order to calculate the number of replacement trees required by Green Acres.

I was assisted in this assessment by Steve Letkowski, who is New Jersey Licensed Tree Expert #589. Dan Bernier, Director of Park Planning and Environmental Services, met with us prior to conducting the survey and confirmed the area of disturbance.

- **Table I** lists 22 Non-Viable Trees
- **Table II** lists 65 Viable Trees which total 38,295 square inches of cross section area
- **Table III** lists the breakdown on Viable Trees by species and Analysis for Replacement by Basal Area
- **Table IV** – Analysis to Replace Viable Trees by Total Diameter Inches
- **Table V** – Analysis to Replace Viable Trees by NJDEP 2023 Tier A MS4 Tree Replacement Requirement Table
- **Table VI** – Comparison of Tree Replacement Calculations

I will be meeting with Dan Bernier to develop specifications and planting locations for the native replacement trees once an agreement is made with Green Acres.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
John D. Linson  
NJ Licensed Tree Expert #198  
ISA Certified Arborist #NJ-0806A  
NJDEP Approved Forester

c.c. Dan Bernier, Director of Union County Park Planning and Environmental Studies  
Ricardo Matias, Union County Engineer

- Attachments:
- Map of Project Area
  - Viable and Non-Viable Tree Photos
  - Guide for Plant Appraisal Table of Cross Section Areas by Diameter
  - NJ Forest Service Basal Area Calculation, February 2018
  - 2023 Tier A MS4 Tree Removal-Tree Replacement Ordinance



115x

**TABLE I**  
**Non-Viable Trees**

	DIAMETER / SPECIES	COMMENTS
1	31" White Oak	Hollow
*2	25" Pin Oak	Outside area, but hollow, dying, and close
3	18" Sweet Gum	Hollow, stress crack
4	20" White Oak	Storm-damaged, declining
5	25" Pin Oak	Extreme dieback
6	26" Pin Oak	Basal cavity
7	34" Pin Oak	Extreme dieback
8	21" Pin Oak	Dieback
9	23" Pin Oak	Dead
10	31" Pin Oak	50% of crown is dead
11	21" Pin Oak	Large trunk cavity 40' up
12	30" Pin Oak	Basal cavity
13	19" White Oak	Bad crotch
14	26" Pin Oak	Low live crown ratio, v-crotch
15	32" White Oak	Extreme die back
16	24" Pin Oak	Missing top, lopsided
17	32" Pin Oak	Large trunk cavity
18	35" Pin Oak	Multiple trunk cavities
19	17" White Oak	Trunk cavity
20	5" Maple	Undersized
21	33" Red Oak	Hollow, basal cavity
22	25" Pin Oak	By road, basal cavity

*\*Close enough to area to be included as a removal.*

116x

**TABLE II**  
**Basal Area of Viable Trees**

	DIAMETER / SPECIES	SQ. INCHES
1	26" White Oak	531
2	26" White Oak	531
3	38" Pin Oak	1134
4	34" White Oak	907
5	28" Black Oak	615
6	26" White Oak	531
7	26" White Oak	531
8	25" White Oak	491
9	23" White Oak	415
10	30" White Oak	707
11	28" White Oak	615
12	24" White Oak	452
13	26" White Oak	531
14	26" White Oak (basketball court)	531
15	16" White Oak	201
16	32" Black Oak	804
17	32" Red Oak	804
18	16" White Oak	201
19	17" White Oak	227
20	21" White Oak	346
21	24" White Oak	452
22	22" White Oak	380
23	20" White Oak	314
24	25" Black Oak	491
25	35" Black Oak	962
26	29" Black Oak	660
27	26" Scarlet Oak	531
28	14" White Oak	154
29	27" Pin Oak	572
30	20" White Oak	314
31	24" White Oak	452
32	25" White Oak	491
<b>Column TOTAL</b>		<b>16,878</b>

	DIAMETER / SPECIES	SQ. INCHES
33	26" White Oak	531
34	38" Red Oak	1134
35	30" Black Oak	707
36	25" Pin Oak	491
37	22" x 25" Pin Oak	380+491=871
38	18" Scarlet Oak	254
39	30" Scarlet Oak	707
40	31" Black Oak	754
41	39" Red Oak	1194
42	39" Pin Oak	1194
43	20" White Oak	314
44	25" Scarlet Oak	491
45	19" White Oak	283
46	24" Scarlet Oak	452
47	25" White Oak	491
48	14" White Oak	154
49	33" Pin Oak	855
50	32" White Oak	804
51	22" White Oak	380
52	28" Sweet Gum	615
53	28" White Oak	615
54	29" White Oak	660
55	36" Red Oak	1017
56	34" Pin Oak	907
57	27" Pin Oak	572
58	32" Pin Oak	804
59	27" Pin Oak	572
60	26" Red Oak	531
61	26" Sweet Gum	531
62	28" Pin Oak	615
63	33" White Oak	855
64	26" Swamp White Oak	531
65	26" Swamp White Oak	531
<b>Column TOTAL</b>		<b>21,417</b>

**Column Totals 16,878 + 21,417 = 38,295 square inches.**

*\*NOTES: - Diameter at breast height is measured at 4.5' above grade.  
- Basal Areas taken from "Guide for Plant Appraisal" (see attached).*

117 x

**TABLE III**

**The Breakdown on Viable Trees by Species**

	33	White Oak
	11	Pin Oak
	5	Red Oak
	7	Black Oak
	5	Scarlet Oak
	2	Sweet Gum
	2	Swamp White Oak
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>65</b>	

---

**Analysis for Replacement by Basal Area**

The total cross section of Viable Trees on-site is 38,295 square inches.

*\*NOTE: A 2" caliper tree has a cross section area of 2.54 square inches  
(see NJ Forest Service Basal Area Calculation attached).*

$$\frac{15,076.77 \text{ trees}}{2.54\sqrt{38,295}}$$

$$15,077 \text{ trees} \times \$450.00 \text{ per tree} = \$6,784,650.00$$

**TABLE IV**  
**Analysis to Replace Viable Trees by Total Diameter Inches**

	DIAMETER / SPECIES
1	26" White Oak
2	26" White Oak
3	38" Pin Oak
4	34" White Oak
5	28" Black Oak
6	26" White Oak
7	26" White Oak
8	25" White Oak
9	23" White Oak
10	30" White Oak
11	28" White Oak
12	24" White Oak
13	26" White Oak
14	26" White Oak (basketball court)
15	16" White Oak
16	32" Black Oak
17	32" Red Oak
18	16" White Oak
19	17" White Oak
20	21" White Oak
21	24" White Oak
22	22" White Oak
23	20" White Oak
24	25" Black Oak
25	35" Black Oak
26	29" Black Oak
27	26" Scarlet Oak
28	14" White Oak
29	27" Pin Oak
30	20" White Oak
31	24" White Oak
32	25" White Oak

	DIAMETER / SPECIES
33	26" White Oak
34	38" Red Oak
35	30" Black Oak
36	25" Pin Oak
37	22" x 25" Pin Oak
38	18" Scarlet Oak
39	30" Scarlet Oak
40	31" Black Oak
41	39" Red Oak
42	39" Pin Oak
43	20" White Oak
44	25" Scarlet Oak
45	19" White Oak
46	24" Scarlet Oak
47	25" White Oak
48	14" White Oak
49	33" Pin Oak
50	32" White Oak
51	22" White Oak
52	28" Sweet Gum
53	28" White Oak
54	29" White Oak
55	36" Red Oak
56	34" Pin Oak
57	27" Pin Oak
58	32" Pin Oak
59	27" Pin Oak
60	26" Red Oak
61	26" Sweet Gum
62	28" Pin Oak
63	33" White Oak
64	26" Swamp White Oak
65	26" Swamp White Oak

1,732 total diameter inches to be replaced by 2" caliper trees = 866 replacement trees.  
 866 replacement trees x \$450.00 per tree = \$389,700.00

119x

**TABLE V**

**Analysis to Replace Viable Trees**

from the NJDEP 2023 Tier A MS4 Tree Replacement Requirements Table

	DIAMETER / SPECIES	MS4
1	26" White Oak	3
2	26" White Oak	3
3	38" Pin Oak	4
4	34" White Oak	4
5	28" Black Oak	3
6	26" White Oak	3
7	26" White Oak	3
8	25" White Oak	3
9	23" White Oak	3
10	30" White Oak	3
11	28" White Oak	3
12	24" White Oak	3
13	26" White Oak	3
14	26" White Oak (basketball court)	3
15	16" White Oak	2
16	32" Black Oak	3
17	32" Red Oak	3
18	16" White Oak	2
19	17" White Oak	2
20	21" White Oak	2
21	24" White Oak	3
22	22" White Oak	2
23	20" White Oak	2
24	25" Black Oak	3
25	35" Black Oak	4
26	29" Black Oak	3
27	26" Scarlet Oak	3
28	14" White Oak	2
29	27" Pin Oak	3
30	20" White Oak	2
31	24" White Oak	3
32	25" White Oak	3
<b>Column TOTAL</b>		<b>91</b>

	DIAMETER / SPECIES	MS4
33	26" White Oak	3
34	38" Red Oak	4
35	30" Black Oak	3
36	25" Pin Oak	3
37	22" x 25" Pin Oak	3
38	18" Scarlet Oak	2
39	30" Scarlet Oak	3
40	31" Black Oak	3
41	39" Red Oak	4
42	39" Pin Oak	4
43	20" White Oak	2
44	25" Scarlet Oak	3
45	19" White Oak	2
46	24" Scarlet Oak	3
47	25" White Oak	3
48	14" White Oak	2
49	33" Pin Oak	4
50	32" White Oak	3
51	22" White Oak	2
52	28" Sweet Gum	3
53	28" White Oak	3
54	29" White Oak	3
55	36" Red Oak	4
56	34" Pin Oak	4
57	27" Pin Oak	3
58	32" Pin Oak	3
59	27" Pin Oak	3
60	26" Red Oak	3
61	26" Sweet Gum	3
62	28" Pin Oak	3
63	33" White Oak	4
64	26" Swamp White Oak	3
65	26" Swamp White Oak	3
<b>Column TOTAL</b>		<b>101</b>

Column Totals 91 + 101 = 192 replacement trees x \$450.00 per tree = \$86,400.00

120x

**TABLE VI**  
**Comparison of Tree Replacement Calculations**

**1.) Basal Area Method:**

38,295 square inches ÷ 2.54 square inches = 15,077 trees

15,077 trees x \$450.00 per tree = \$6,784,650.00

**2.) Diameter Inches Method:**

1,732 total diameter inches ÷ 2" caliper replacement tree = 866 trees

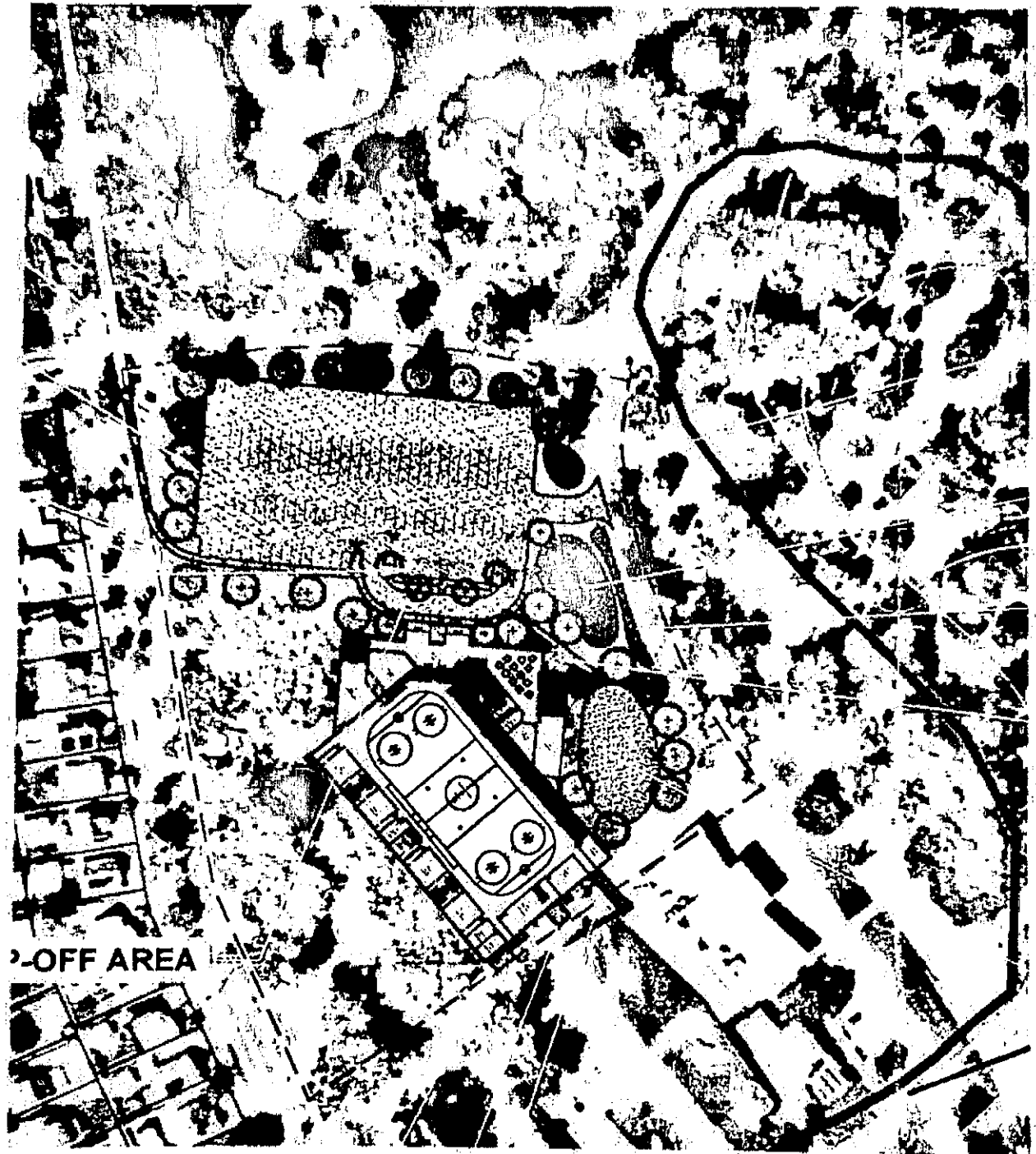
866 trees x \$450.00 per tree = \$389,700.00

**3.) NJDEP 2023 Tier A MS4 Tree Replacement Requirements Table:**

(see Ordinance attachments)

192 replacement trees x \$450.00 per tree = \$86,400.00

Map of Project Area



122x



**Viable Tree**



**Non-Viable Tree**

123x

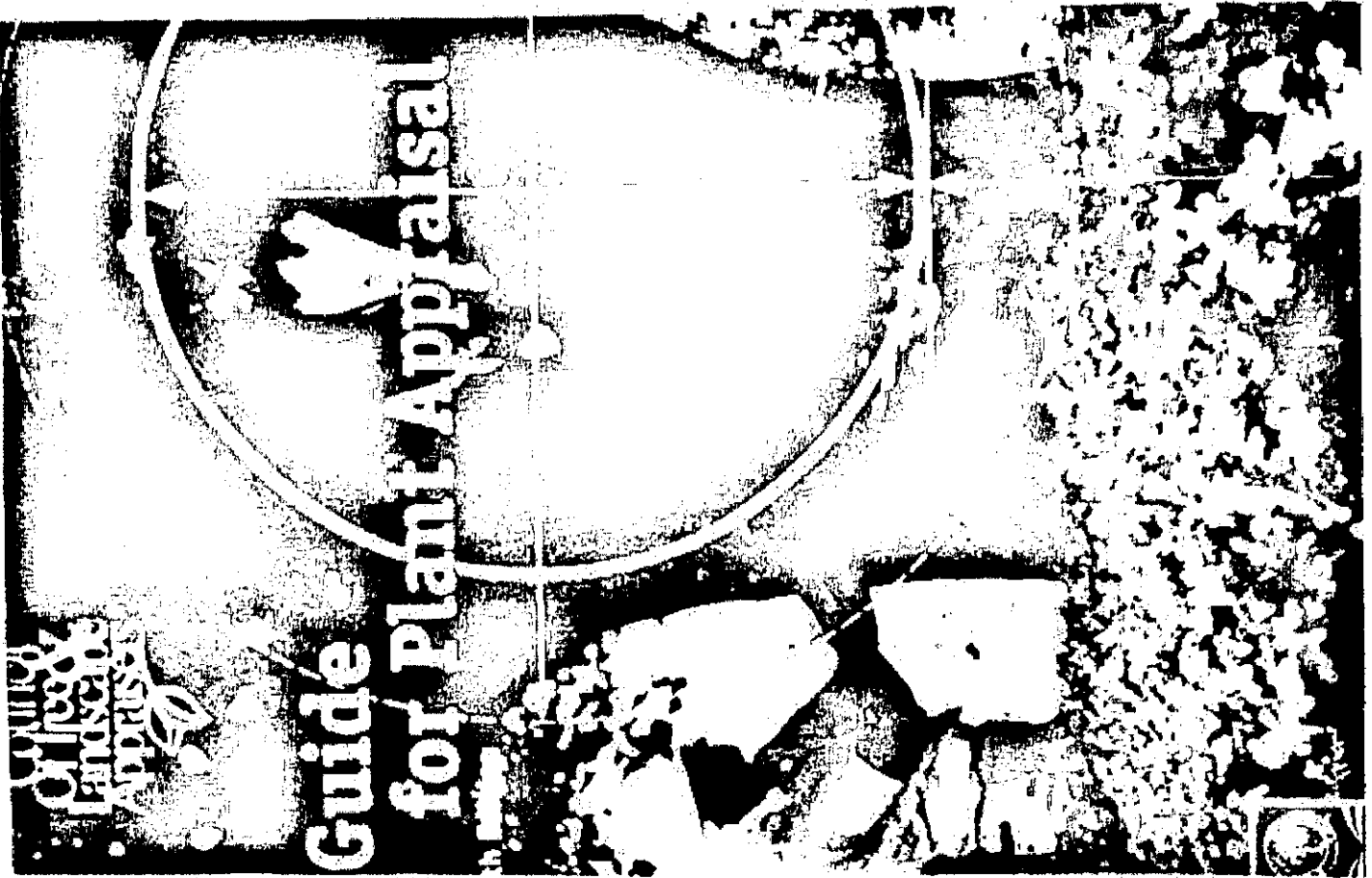


TABLE 4-4. Modified units. Trunk Areas (TA) and Adjusted Trunk Areas (ATA) for kernel in trunk diameter (d) in 4.5 ft (1.4 m).

d in	TA in <sup>2</sup>	d in	TA in <sup>2</sup>	ATA in <sup>2</sup>	d in	TA in <sup>2</sup>	ATA in <sup>2</sup>
1	0.785	31	754	729	61	2821	1894
2	3.142	32	790	765	62	3015	1963
3	7.069	33	826	801	63	3116	1949
4	12.566	34	862	837	64	3215	1976
5	19.635	35	898	874	65	3317	2002
6	28.274	36	934	910	66	3419	2028
7	38.483	37	970	947	67	3520	2053
8	50.262	38	1006	983	68	3620	2078
9	63.611	39	1042	1020	69	3721	2100
10	78.530	40	1078	1056	70	3821	2126
11	95.029	41	1114	1093	71	3921	2148
12	113.108	42	1150	1130	72	4020	2169
13	132.767	43	1186	1167	73	4118	2187
14	154.006	44	1222	1204	74	4216	2207
15	176.825	45	1258	1241	75	4314	2226
16	201.224	46	1294	1278	76	4411	2245
17	227.203	47	1330	1315	77	4508	2263
18	254.762	48	1366	1352	78	4604	2281
19	283.901	49	1402	1389	79	4700	2300
20	314.620	50	1438	1426	80	4796	2317
21	346.929	51	1474	1463	81	4891	2334
22	380.828	52	1510	1500	82	4986	2351
23	416.317	53	1546	1537	83	5080	2367
24	453.406	54	1582	1574	84	5174	2383
25	492.095	55	1618	1611	85	5268	2399
26	532.384	56	1654	1648	86	5361	2414
27	574.273	57	1690	1685	87	5454	2429
28	617.762	58	1726	1722	88	5547	2443
29	662.851	59	1762	1759	89	5639	2457
30	709.540	60	1798	1796	90	5731	2470

TA = 0.785d<sup>2</sup>  
ATA = 0.385d<sup>2</sup> + 0.24d

NJ Forest Service  
Basal Area Calculation  
February 2018



In forests, diameter is measured at 4.5' from the ground, commonly referred to as diameter at breast height (dbh). However, nursery stock diameter is measured in caliper, either 6" from the ground for trees <4.5" caliper or 12" from the ground for trees >4.5" caliper.

To account for taper, caliper can be reduced by 10% to estimate its dbh, so that basal area (BA) can be more accurately calculated.

To determine the basal area replacement required to calculate the number of nursery stock trees needed to replace the BA removed from forests, follow the steps below.

First, caliper is converted to dbh. Use the equation below, which reflects the 10% reduction in caliper to calculate dbh:

$$\text{dbh} = \text{caliper} - (\text{caliper} * 0.10)$$

For example, a 2" caliper tree is equivalent to a 1.8" dbh tree

$$\text{Conversion of caliper to dbh} = 2" \text{ caliper} - (2" \text{ caliper} * 0.10) = 1.8" \text{ dbh}$$

Next, the basal area (in<sup>2</sup>) of the nursery stock tree is calculated. Use the BA equation:

$$\text{Basal Area (BA)} = \pi * (\text{dbh} + 2)^2$$

Where  $\pi = 3.14$

dbh = diameter

For example, a 2" caliper tree is equivalent to 2.54 in<sup>2</sup> in BA

Using the conversion calculation above we know a 2" caliper tree is equivalent to 1.8" dbh

$$\text{Calculation of BA} = \pi * (1.8" \text{ dbh} + 2)^2 = 2.54 \text{ in}^2$$

Then, to determine the number of nursery stock trees needed to replace the BA (in<sup>2</sup>) removed, use the equation below:

$$\text{No. of Replacement Nursery stock trees required} = [\text{BA removed in}^2] + [\text{BA nursery stock in}^2] \text{ (rounded up to the next whole number)}$$

For example, for a 20" dbh tree removed, it would require one hundred twenty-four (124) 2" caliper trees to replace the basal area removed.

$$\text{The BA of a 20" dbh tree} = \pi * (20" \text{ dbh} + 2)^2 = 314 \text{ in}^2$$

$$\text{The BA of a 2" caliper tree} = 2.54 \text{ in}^2 \text{ (calculated above)}$$

$$\text{No. of Replacement Nursery stock trees required} = 314 \text{ in}^2 + 2.54 \text{ in}^2 = 123.6 \text{ trees} = 124 \text{ trees}$$

125x

## **Ordinance # [ ]- Tree Removal-Replacement Ordinance**

*[Trees play a critical, often overlooked, role in the water cycle and in the mitigation of stormwater runoff issues such as soil erosion, pollutant reduction, infiltration, quantity reduction, and thermal effects. This ordinance is intended to ensure that permittees are considering these undervalued assets in their stormwater management efforts.]*

*The 2023 Tier A MS4 permit renewal requires permittees to, at a minimum, adopt and enforce a community-wide ordinance to control tree removal and replacement for all types of properties where the municipality has jurisdiction. This model ordinance, developed by the Department, can be used by each municipality for consideration in reviewing and/or updating their existing tree ordinance, or adopting a new tree ordinance. This model may also be modified by the municipality to meet the needs of their community.]*

### **SECTION I. Purpose:**

An ordinance to establish requirements for tree removal and replacement in [insert name of municipality] to reduce soil erosion and pollutant runoff, promote infiltration of rainwater into the soil, and protect the environment, public health, safety, and welfare.

*[Municipalities that are accredited with the NJ Urban and Community Forestry Program may continue to follow their town's established forestry program requirements provided their accredited program addresses tree removal and replacement.]*

*The details of a municipality's forestry program shall be incorporated by reference or contained within the municipality's adopted ordinance. Please contact the NJ Urban and Community Forestry Program to obtain further information regarding becoming an accredited municipality and the associated requirements.]*

*[Municipalities with an existing tree ordinance may contact the Department at [stormwatermanager@dep.nj.gov](mailto:stormwatermanager@dep.nj.gov) to determine if their ordinance requires modification.]*

### **SECTION II. Definitions:**

For the purpose of this ordinance, the following terms, phrases, words, and their derivations shall have the meanings stated herein unless their use in the text of this ordinance clearly demonstrates a different meaning. When consistent with the context, words used in the present tense include the future, words used in the plural number include the singular number, and words used in the singular number include the plural

number. The use of the word "shall" means the requirement is always mandatory and not merely directory.

A. "Applicant" means any "person", as defined below, who applies for approval to remove trees regulated under this ordinance.

B. "Critical Root Radius (CRR)" – means the zone around the base of a tree where the majority of the root system is found. This zone is calculated by multiplying the diameter at breast height (DBH) of the tree by 1.5 feet. For example: a tree with a 6" DBH would have a CRR =  $6" \times 1.5' = 9'$ .

C. "Diameter at Breast Height (DBH)" means the diameter of the trunk of a mature tree generally measured at a point four and a half feet above ground level from the uphill side of the tree. For species of trees where the main trunk divides below the 4 ½ foot height, the DBH shall be measured at the highest point before any division.

D. "Hazard Tree" means a tree or limbs thereof that meet one or more of the criteria below. Trees that do not meet any of the criteria below and are proposed to be removed solely for development purposes are not hazard trees. [Municipalities may choose to require a Licensed Tree Expert to make all Hazard tree determination]

1. Has an infectious disease or insect infestation;
2. Is dead or dying;
3. Obstructs the view of traffic signs or the free passage of pedestrians or vehicles, where pruning attempts have not been effective;
4. Is causing obvious damage to structures (such as building foundations, sidewalks, etc.); or
5. Is determined to be a threat to public health, safety, and/or welfare by a certified arborist or Licensed Tree Expert (LTE).

E. "Person" means any individual, resident, corporation, utility, company, partnership, firm, or association.

F. "Planting strip" means the part of a street right-of-way between the public right-of-way and the portion of the street reserved for vehicular traffic or between the abutting property line and the curb or traveled portion of the street, exclusive of any sidewalk.

G. "Resident" means an individual who resides on the residential property or contractor hired by the individual who resides on the residential property where a tree(s) regulated by this ordinance is removed or proposed to be removed.

H. "Street Tree" means a tree planted in the sidewalk, planting strip, and/or in the public right-of-way adjacent to (or specified distance from) the portion of the street reserved for vehicular traffic. This also includes trees planted in planting strips within the roadway right-of-way, i.e., islands, medians, pedestrian refuges.

I. "Tree" means a woody perennial plant, typically having a single stem or trunk growing to a considerable height and bearing lateral branches at some distance from the ground.

J. "Tree Caliper" means the diameter of the trunk of a young tree, measured six (6) inches from the soil line. For young trees whose caliper exceeds four (4) inches, the measurement is taken twelve (12) inches above the soil line.

K. "Tree removal" means to kill or to cause irreparable damage that leads to the decline and/or death of a tree. This includes, but is not limited to, excessive pruning, application of substances that are toxic to the tree, over-mulching or improper mulching, and improper grading and/or soil compaction within the critical root radius around the base of the tree that leads to the decline and/or death of a tree. Removal does not include responsible pruning and maintenance of a tree, or the application of treatments intended to manage invasive species.

### **SECTION III. Regulated Activities:**

[Application review and approval can be conducted along with existing business practices and permit application review such as, but not limited to, site plan approvals, building permit approvals, planning board application approval, etc. A separate application process is not required, but the Department has included sample language below for municipalities that prefer to do so.]

#### **A. Optional Application Process:**

1. Any person planning to remove a street tree, as defined as Tree removal, with DBH of 2.5" or more or any non-street tree with DBH of 6" or more on their property shall submit a Tree Removal Application to **[Municipal Officials]**. No tree shall be removed until municipal officials have reviewed and approved the removal. **[For larger scale clearing projects, municipalities may choose to require a tree survey be submitted as part of the application to determine number, sizes, and exemptions of trees for the assessment of fees]**

[The municipality may choose to impose application fees. If so, the following language may be used, with revisions as deemed appropriate.]

[Optional for municipalities: Applicants will be subject to an application fee as per the Table below.]

### **B. Tree Replacement Requirements**

1. Any person who removes one or more street tree(s) with a DBH of 2.5" or more, unless exempt under Section IV, shall be subject to the requirements of the Tree Replacement Requirements Table below.
2. Any person, who removes one or more tree(s), as defined as Tree removal, with a DBH of 6" or more per acre, unless otherwise detailed under Section IV, shall be subject to the requirements of the Tree Replacement Requirements Table.

The species type and diversity of replacement trees shall be in accordance with Appendix A (insert municipality provided tree list as Appendix A of this ordinance). [The municipality shall provide a list of approved trees that are acceptable to be planted as replacement trees, or at a minimum develop a list of trees that shall not be used as replacement trees. This list will be included as "Appendix A". It is permissible for a municipality to include a procedure for approval of a tree not on the approved list. The list shall also contain approved planting times/seasons and proper planting standard procedures or a reference to available literature containing this information.]

Replacement tree(s) shall:

1. Be replaced in kind with a tree that has an equal or greater DBH than tree removed or meet the Tree Replacement Criteria in the table below;
2. Be planted within twelve (12) months of the date of removal of the original tree(s) or at an alternative date specified by the municipality;
3. Be monitored by the applicant for a period of two (2) years to ensure their survival and shall be replaced as needed within twelve (12) months; and
4. Shall not be planted in temporary containers or pots, as these do not count towards tree replacement requirements.

**Tree Replacement Requirements Table:**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Tree Removed (DBH)</b>	<b>Tree Replacement Criteria (See Appendix A)</b>	<b>Application Fee</b> <i>[Municipality may choose to include]</i>
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			<i>and determine appropriate fees.]</i>
1	DBH of 2.5" (for street trees) or 6" (for non-street trees) to 12.99"	Replant 1 tree with a minimum tree caliper of 1.5" for each tree removed	<i>TBD by town</i>
2	DBH of 13" to 22.99"	Replant 2 trees with minimum tree calipers of 1.5" for each tree removed	<i>TBD by town</i>
3	DBH of 23" to 32.99"	Replant 3 trees with minimum tree calipers of 1.5" for each tree removed	<i>TBD by town</i>
4	DBH of 33" or greater	Replant 4 trees with minimum tree calipers of 1.5" for each tree removed	<i>TBD by town</i>

**C. Replacement Alternatives:**

1. If the municipality determines that some or all required replacement trees cannot be planted on the property where the tree removal activity occurred, then the applicant shall do one of the following:
  - a. Plant replacement trees in a separate area(s) approved by the municipality.
  - b. Pay a fee of (amount to be set by municipality) per tree removed. This fee shall be placed into a fund dedicated to tree planting and continued maintenance of the trees.

**SECTION IV. Exemptions:**

All persons shall comply with the tree replacement standard outlined above, except in the cases detailed below. Proper justification shall be provided, in writing, to the municipality by all persons claiming an exemption [the municipality shall define what "proper justification" is such as photos or statements from NJ licensed tree expert as per NJ Statue 45:15C-11 or arborist.]:

- A. Residents who remove less than four (4) trees per acre that fall into category 1, 2, or 3 of the Tree Replacement Requirements Table within a five-year period. [The number of trees removed is a rolling count across a five-year period. For example, if 3 trees from category 1 are removed in July 2023, the 'count' resets to zero in July 2028. However, if 1 tree from category 1 is removed in July 2023 and another in July of 2025 the first tree will come off the count in July 2028 and the second in July 2030.]
- B. Tree farms in active operation, nurseries, fruit orchards, and garden centers;

- C. Properties used for the practice of silviculture under an approved forest stewardship or woodland management plan that is active and on file with the municipality;
- D. Any trees removed as part of a municipal or state decommissioning plan. This exemption only includes trees planted as part of the construction and predetermined to be removed in the decommissioning plan.
- E. Any trees removed pursuant to a New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) or U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) approved environmental clean-up, or NJDEP approved habitat enhancement plan;
- F. Approved game management practices, as recommended by the State of New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Fish, Game and Wildlife;
- G. Hazard trees may be removed with no fee or replacement requirement.

**SECTION V. Enforcement:**

This ordinance shall be enforced by the [Police Department and/or other Municipal Officials of insert name of municipality] during the course of ordinary enforcement duties.

**SECTION VI. Violations and Penalties:**

Any person(s) who is found to be in violation of the provisions of this ordinance shall be subject to a fine of \$ [amount per tree to be established by municipality but shall not be less than the amount of the required replacement tree(s) and cost of planting] [Municipalities may require the planting of additional trees in lieu of a fine].

**SECTION VII. Severability:**

Each section, subsection, sentence, clause, and phrase of this Ordinance is declared to be an independent section, subsection, sentence, clause, and phrase, and finding or holding of any such portion of this Ordinance to be unconstitutional, void, or ineffective for any cause or reason shall not affect any other portion of this Ordinance.

**SECTION VIII. Effective Date:**

This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its adoption and any publication as may be required by law.

Adoption Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Approved By: \_\_\_\_\_

## Appendix A

### Approved list of Replacement tree Species and Planting Standards for (Insert Municipality Name)

[The municipality shall provide a list of approved trees that are acceptable to be planted as replacement trees, or at a minimum develop a list of trees that shall not be used as replacement trees. The list shall include approved planting times/seasons and proper planting standard procedures or a reference to available literature containing this information.]

Tree Species	Planting Season	Planting Procedure (soil type, watering, pruning, staking, wrapping, exposure, depth, mulching, etc)

**From:** Mario Lopresti <  
**Sent:** Friday, September 26, 2025 10:22 PM  
**To:** State House Commission [TREAS]  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Please vote YES

This message came from an **EXTERNAL** address. **DO NOT** click on links or attachments unless you know the sender and the content is safe.  
**New Jersey State Government Employees Should Forward Messages That May Be Cyber Security Risks To PhishReport@cyber.nj.gov.**

Hello,

My name is Mario LoPresti and I live in Berkeley Heights, NJ.

I write today to respectfully encourage a YES vote on Monday to move forward with the Warinanco Park project.

Our children have played youth hockey in Warinanco Park for years, and I know a new rink will provide affordable opportunities for many more people from around the state to enjoy this Park.

Thank you

Mario LoPresti

133x

**From:** Kathryn Malone <  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 28, 2025 9:15 PM  
**To:** State House Commission [TREAS]  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Vote YES on Warinanco Park

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**New Jersey State Government Employees Should Forward Messages That May Be Cyber Security Risks To PhishReport@cyber.nj.gov.**

Hello,

My name is Kathryn Malone, and I live in Cranford, NJ.

I write today to respectfully encourage a YES vote on Monday to move forward with the Warinanco Park project.

My son has played hockey in Warinanco Park for three years and plans to continue for many more. I know a new rink will provide affordable opportunities for many more people from around the state to enjoy this Park.

Sincerely,

Kathryn Malone

**From:** Rachael Mandel < >  
**Sent:** Friday, September 26, 2025 6:31 PM  
**To:** State House Commission [TREAS]  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Vote YES on Warinanco Park

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**New Jersey State Government Employees Should Forward Messages That May Be Cyber Security Risks To PhishReport@cyber.nj.gov.**

Hello,

My name is Rachael Mandel, and I live in Cranford, NJ.

I write today to respectfully ask you to vote YES on Monday to move forward with the Warinanco Park project.

My children have played hockey for 8 years. Hockey can be an expensive sport, and having more ice available at an affordable price helps families like mine to be able to afford it. Whenever we are at the rink, we see families from all over the state enjoying a variety of opportunities like hockey, figure skating, and family open skates. It's truly an asset to the community, and I encourage you to expand access by voting YES on Monday.

Thank you for your time and support.

Rachael Mandel

135x

**From:** [Daphnie Manzione](#)  
**To:** [State House Commission \[TREAS\]](#); [SenSmith@nileg.org](mailto:SenSmith@nileg.org); [DEP Commissioner \[DEP\]](#); [AswCarter@nileg.org](mailto:AswCarter@nileg.org); [James Kennedy](#); [AsmAtkins@nileg.org](mailto:AsmAtkins@nileg.org); [AswMunoz@nileg.org](mailto:AswMunoz@nileg.org); [SenCryan@nileg.org](mailto:SenCryan@nileg.org)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Urgent -Protect the Oak Trees of Warinanco Park ---PLEASE  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 9, 2025 10:26:14 PM

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**New Jersey State Government Employees Should Forward Messages That May Be Cyber Security Risks To** [PhishReport@cyber.nj.gov](mailto:PhishReport@cyber.nj.gov).

Dear Members of NJ State House Commission:

I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the proposed project for a new indoor ice-skating rink in Justin's Grove, where a cluster of 60 to 70 mature oak trees, some over 100 years old, currently stand. These trees are not just part of our local landscape; they are a testament to the vision of the renowned Olmstead Brothers, who designed this park to honor and enhance its natural features nearly a century ago.

Our forefathers recognized oak trees as the "monarchs of the forest," providing us with clean air and an essential habitat for diverse wildlife. Scientific research supports the incredible role trees play in our ecosystem, as they communicate with one another and contribute to the community around them. The wisdom of preserving these majestic trees far outweighs the fleeting benefit of an indoor facility that caters to a limited number of people.

I urge you to reconsider the location of this project. Investing in our natural heritage, rather than replacing it with yet another building, is crucial for the well-being of our community and the environment. We face a choice: to prioritize economic desires or to safeguard the irreplaceable natural treasures that enrich our lives.

Let us honor God's creation by making decisions that support the continued health and beauty of our parks. I implore you to put forth the effort to explore alternative sites for this endeavor that do not threaten our cherished green spaces.

Thank you for considering the significant implications of this project. I hope for your support in preserving our natural environment for generations to come.

I leave you with this ...why can't they simply build a new rink where the old one stands now?

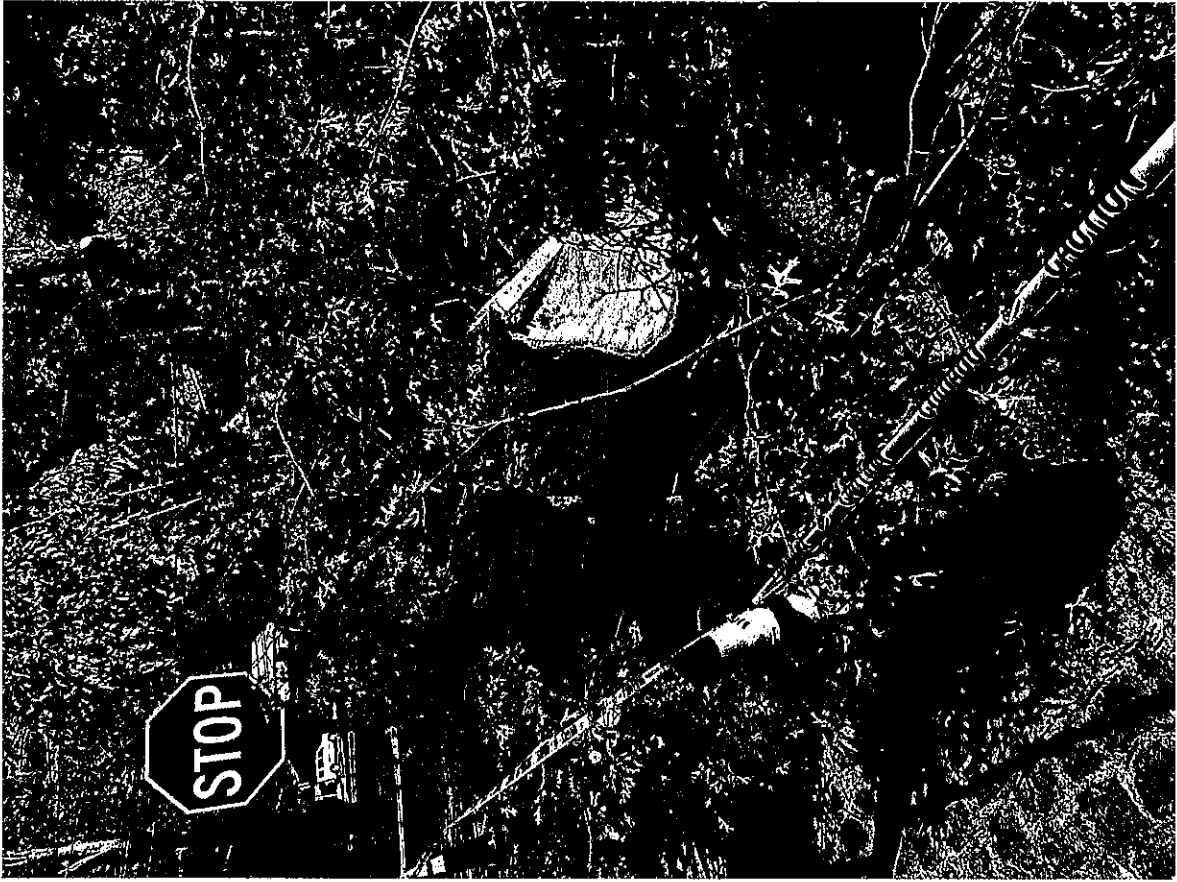
136x

Sincerely,

Daphnie Manzione, BSW



137x



138x

**From:** dave mcdonald  
**Sent:** Friday, September 26, 2025 4:20 PM  
**To:** State House Commission [TREAS]  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Warinanco Park Ice Rink Vote

This message came from an **EXTERNAL** address ( [REDACTED] ). **DO NOT** click on links or attachments unless you know the sender and the content is safe.  
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Hello,

My name is David McDonald and I live in Cranford, NJ.

I write today to respectfully encourage a YES vote on Monday to move forward with the Warinanco Park project.

Our son has played youth hockey in Warinanco Park for years, and I know a new rink will provide affordable opportunities for many more people from around the state to enjoy this Park.

Please advocate for this project to move forward as it will benefit countless youth and teach them the importance of fair play and the value of hard work and practice achieving success.

Thank you

**From:** Mariel Uy S.  
**Sent:** Friday, September 26, 2025 4:05 PM  
**To:** State House Commission [TREAS]  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Warinanco Ice rink

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[PhishReport@cyber.nj.gov](mailto:PhishReport@cyber.nj.gov).

Hello,

My name is Mariel Mendoza and I live in Union, NJ.

I write today to respectfully encourage a YES vote on Monday to move forward with the Warinanco Park project.

My children have played youth ice hockey in Warinanco Park for a few years now, and I know a new rink will provide affordable opportunities for many more people from around the state to enjoy this Park. We wish to continue coming to this ice rink especially my children.

Thank you!

Sincerely,

Mariel Mendoza

**From:** David Munsky  
**Sent:** Friday, September 26, 2025 4:10 PM  
**To:** State House Commission [TREAS]  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Vote YES on the Warinanco Park ice rink

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Hello,

I'm writing to respectfully urge a **YES vote on Monday** in support of moving forward with the Warinanco Park project.

Both of my daughters, ages 10 and 8, currently play youth hockey at Warinanco Park. As many families know, the cost of participating in ice hockey at for-profit rinks can be prohibitively high. Warinanco provides an accessible and affordable alternative, making it possible for more children to enjoy this incredible sport.

A new rink would expand those opportunities even further—offering year-round access to hockey and ice skating for residents across the state. We fully support Union County's efforts and believe this project will serve as a valuable community asset for generations to come.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

David Munsky

From: Jessica Muroff  
Sent: Friday, September 26, 2025 3:57 PM  
To: State House Commission [TREAS]  
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Warinanco Park Project Vote

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Hello,

My name is Jessica Muroff and I live in Cranford, NJ.

I write today to respectfully encourage a YES vote on Monday to move forward with the Warinanco Park project.

I grew up skating and watching my cousins play hockey growing up in Warinanco. My husband grew up skating with family for over 10 years and also played at Warinanco in High School for Westfield. Now my 7 year old son is part of the Cranford Hockey Club and we would love to continue our family traditions here. A new rink will provide wonderful opportunities for more families like ours to enjoy over the years.

We hope that you count our vote in this matter.

Thank you,

Jessica



**JESSICA MUROFF**  
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS,  
BUSINESS OPERATIONS  
☎ 609-258-3537 | 3700 | FAX |  
☎ 908-591-4106  
GoPrincetonTigers.com  
*Education Through Athletics*

142x

**From:** Chris Murphy <  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 28, 2025 10:04 AM  
**To:** State House Commission [TREAS]  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Yes to Warinanco Park

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My name is Chris Murphy and I live in Summit, NJ.

I write today to encourage a YES vote on Monday to move forward with the Warinanco Park project.

Our family has been enjoying Warinanco Park for the last fifteen years, with our children participating in a variety of sports, particularly ice hockey. The addition of a second rink to the park is a wonderful opportunity to increase the range of recreational activities available to our community while also drawing visitors from across the state to come and enjoy all the park has to offer.

Sincerely,  
Christopher Murphy

**From:** Hadyn Murphy  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 28, 2025 12:09 PM  
**To:** State House Commission [TREAS]  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Vote YES to Warinanco

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My name is Hadyn Murphy, I am 18 and live in Summit, NJ.

I write today to encourage a YES vote on Monday to move forward with the Warinanco Park project.

I've been playing hockey since 6th grade, and it's been the best thing for me socially, mentally and physically. I've played many other sports, and the access to fields around here is amazing. But when we play hockey, even locally, we constantly have to drive way out because there's such a limited number of rinks. So many kids miss out on this sport just because they don't have the ice time or a way to get to those far off rinks. Having another rink right here at Warinanco would give the children in our area a real shot to get on the ice, find their thing, and make those friends that genuinely feel like family.

Please vote YES!  
Thank you,  
Hadyn Murphy

**From:** Kendal Murphy <  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 27, 2025 1:07 PM  
**To:** State House Commission [TREAS]  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Vote YES for Warinanco

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To whomever this may concern,

My name is Kendal Murphy, and I live in Summit, NJ.

I write today to respectfully encourage a YES vote on Monday to move forward with the Warinanco Park project.

I started playing ice hockey in high school as an inexperienced player and now continue to enjoy the sport at college. In our area, it is really tough for teens to begin a new sport without years of experience. Having an opportunity to start playing hockey as a walk-on for my high school team helped me make new friends, kept me healthy and engaged, and now I have a sport I love to play in college. If Warinanco had more ice available, it would be a huge asset to our area! It would give more kids the chance to find their passion, stay involved in the community, and maybe even find that one thing that truly changes the course of their lives.

Please vote YES.

Thank you,  
Kendal Murphy

**From:** rebecca m  
**Sent:** Friday, September 26, 2025 5:35 PM  
**To:** State House Commission [TREAS]  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Vote YES to Warinanco

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Hello,  
My name is Rebecca Murphy, and I live in Summit, NJ.

I write today to respectfully encourage a YES vote on Monday to move forward with the Warinanco Park project.

We are incredibly fortunate to have Warinanco Park in our community. As a family that has enjoyed the current rink at Warinanco for years for club and high school ice hockey, I know firsthand what a dedicated rink means to our community. The availability of ice rinks in our area is limited, and approving a new facility in Union County is an effective way to make hockey and ice skating accessible and affordable for more children who love these sports.

Please vote YES to ensure Union County continues to provide affordable recreational access to people throughout the state.

With gratitude,  
Rebecca Murphy

**From:** Meg Najarian <  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 27, 2025 12:01 PM  
**To:** State House Commission (TREAS)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Vote Yes on Warinanco Park project

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Hello,

My name is Meg Najarian and I live in Westfield NJ.

I write today to respectfully encourage a YES vote on Monday to move forward with the Warinanco Park project.

My son and daughter have played youth hockey in Warinanco Park for years, and I know a new rink will provide affordable opportunities for many more people from around the state to enjoy this Park. Please vote YES!

Best,

Meg Najarian

Sent from my iPhone

---

**From:** Alec Nisbet <  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 27, 2025 12:34 PM  
**To:** State House Commission [TREAS]  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Warinanco Ice Rink

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Hello, my name is Alec Nisbet and live with my wife and three sons in Westfield, NJ. I am writing to ask that you support the expansion of the Warinanco Park ice rink and vote YES to advance the project on Monday, Sept 29 2025.

Ice hockey has been a huge part of my boys' lives and over many seasons they have not only had an enormous amount of fun but they have also built strong friendships and learned the value of teamwork, discipline and overcoming challenges. As you may be aware, youth hockey is rapidly increasing in popularity and an expanded facility in Warinanco Park will provide boys and girls all over Union County and beyond more opportunity to learn and enjoy the game.

I respectfully ask that you move this important project forward.

Alec Nisbet

**From:** Sasha Nisbet  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 27, 2025 8:50 AM  
**To:** State House Commission [TREAS]  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Ice rink at Warinanco Park

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Hello,

My name is Sasha Nisbet and I have lived in Westfield, NJ for 15 years.

I write today to respectfully encourage a YES vote on Monday to move forward with the Warinanco Park project.

Two of my three children play ice hockey and we are so grateful when the cold season starts and we can count on the outdoor rink at Warinanco Park. There are so many kids interested in hockey and it is such a great sport for kids to learn teamwork and hard work. I know a new rink will provide affordable opportunities for many more people from around the state to enjoy this Park.

Best,  
Sasha Nisbet

**From:** Ljp49 <  
**Sent:** Friday, September 26, 2025 11:17 PM  
**To:** State House Commission [TREAS]  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Vote Yes for Warinanco Park Project

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PhishReport@cyber.nj.gov.

Hello,

My name is Lucas Paine, and I live in Cranford, NJ.

I write today to respectfully encourage a YES vote on Monday to move forward with the Warinanco Park project.

One of our daughters started playing for the Cranford Hockey Club five (5) years ago. It was the best thing to ever happen to her. She found herself on the ice. She learned leadership, teamwork and drive. Our older daughter was a lifelong swimmer. She saw her sister and was a little jealous of what she had found. When Cranford High School started their own girls program you could see her desire. For two years she kept swimming watching the girls hockey players developing from afar, but mostly having so much fun. Finally she looked to us and said, "I can swim for the rest of my lives, but I only have one chance to play High School hockey. And then our second hockey player was Born.

Warinanco is our home ice for Club and High School hockey. We have played and skated there for years in Warinanco Park for years, and I know a new rink will provide affordable opportunities for many more people from around the state to enjoy this Park. It will save the club from traveling so far in the early and later portion of season to find ice.

Women's hockey is one of the fastest growing sports in the country.

Please help support our girls and their teams. Please approve the new rink at Warinanco.

Lucas Paine

**From:** Anthony Paolillo  
**Sent:** Friday, September 26, 2025 4:11 PM  
**To:** State House Commission [TREAS]  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Warinaco Park Rink Project

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Dear Council Members,

My name is Anthony Paolillo, and I have been a resident of Cranford for over 12 years. I'm writing to respectfully urge a **YES** vote on Monday to advance the Warinanco Park project.

As a parent of twin boys who play ice hockey, I've seen firsthand the challenges families face without a dedicated home rink. After years of commuting to distant facilities for practice and playing "home" games far from home, we were thrilled to join the Cranford Hockey Club with the hope that an all-season local rink would finally become a reality.

Unfortunately, the current setup forces us to wait for colder weather or travel extensively. Neither of which is sustainable. Other towns and counties have invested in modern facilities that not only serve their residents but also attract families from neighboring areas. For four years, we played in Woodbridge simply because Cranford lacked a standard rink.

This project represents more than just convenience; it's an opportunity to build community, expand access to affordable recreation, and give our kids a place to grow and thrive. A new rink at Warinanco Park would be a game-changer for Cranford and for families across Union County, and beyond.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I hope you'll vote YES and help bring this long-awaited vision to life.

Sincerely,

Anthony and Christina Paolillo  
Cranford, NJ

**From:** Christina Paolillo  
**Sent:** Friday, September 26, 2025 4:44 PM  
**To:** State House Commission [TREAS]  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Warinanco rink

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Hello,

My name is Christina Paolillo, and I live in Cranford, NJ.

I write today to respectfully encourage a YES vote on Monday to move forward with the Warinanco Park project.

My twin boys have played youth hockey in Warinanco Park for a few years now. Without the new rink, we are traveling further for practices and games. Many families have had to join different teams outside of our town in order to skate locally. Many kids are starting to play ice hockey and the project would be very beneficial for our county as well as provide affordable opportunities for many more people from around the state to enjoy this Park.

Thank you,

Christina

Sent from my iPhone

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**From:** Chris Payette <  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 28, 2025 8:47 AM  
**To:** State House Commission [TREAS]  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Warinanco Park Project

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Hello,

My name is Chris Payette, and I live in Berkeley Heights, NJ.

I write today to respectfully encourage a YES vote on Monday to move forward with the Warinanco Park project.

As a longtime high school hockey coach (11 years with the Morristown Beard Varsity girls program) and youth hockey coach (5 years with the Cranford hockey club), I know a new rink will provide great opportunities for local youth from around the state to enjoy this Park. Cranford hockey club, who would be a major user of the new facility, does great outreach work getting less fortunate families involved in the sport of hockey.

-Chris, father of Cranford hockey club players Luke (11) and Chloe (9)

**From:** Danny Perriello <  
**Sent:** Friday, September 26, 2025 9:28 PM  
**To:** State House Commission [TREAS]  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Monday Vote: New Rink at Warinanco Park

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Hello,

My name is Danny Perriello of Cranford, NJ.

I write today to respectfully support and urge a YES vote on Monday's state house commission vote regarding the new ice rink in Warinanco Park.

I am volunteer Coach and Board Member at Cranford Hockey Club as well as lifelong resident of Union County. I grew up in Union, NJ and not only had the opportunity to learn how to skate at the existing Warinanco rink but had the opportunity to play hockey there as well as a youth. A new rink is sorely needed in our community as ice time is becoming increasingly scarce and expensive not just for our hockey club but for various other local programs including high schools and other youth organizations. Frequently we have children practicing early before school or late into the night just because of ice time availability which can impact other aspects of their lives.

A new county rink will provide opportunities for many more kids and adults to play at reasonable times for students and affordable prices, especially with the Cranford Hockey Club's scholarship program, which is dedicated to making sure there are no financial barriers to playing in our county park.

My son now gets to skate, practice and play at the same spot I did growing up and approving a new rink will allow many more New Jersey families the same opportunity while still preserving Warinanco Park.

Thank You and Warm Regards,

Danny Perriello

**From:** Jennifer Rocha-Soares < >  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 27, 2025 10:27 AM  
**To:** State House Commission [TREAS]  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Warinanco Park Project

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Hello,

My name is Jennifer Soares, and I live in Mountainside, NJ.

I write today to respectfully encourage a YES vote on Monday to move forward with the Warinanco Park project.

My son has played youth/high school hockey in Warinanco Park for years. A new rink would provide affordable opportunities for many more people from around the state to enjoy this Park. So many children thrive academically when they play sports. Ice hockey and this particular rink have played a vital role in my child's educational and athletic career. It's a staple in our ice hockey community.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Kindest regards,  
Jennifer Soares

**From:** Valentina Rozanova < >  
**Sent:** Friday, September 26, 2025 4:41 PM  
**To:** State House Commission [TREAS]  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Union County Warinanco Ice Rink

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Hello,

My name is Valentina Rozanova and I live in Clark, NJ.

I write today to respectfully encourage a YES vote on Monday to move forward with the Warinanco Park project.

My children have played youth hockey in Warinanco Park, done recreational skating, and attended learn to skate programs. Clark also holds their annual township skate night at this facility.

I know a new rink will provide affordable opportunities for many more people from around the state to enjoy this park.

I was disappointed with the development approved at Oak Ridge Park, which initially was supposed to have an ice rink and more facilities for families in the area. But the project was stripped down to a track field.

I hope more comes from this project.

Thanks  
Valentina Rozanova

**From:** Kelly Sacchetti <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 26, 2025 9:40 PM  
**To:** State House Commission [TREAS]  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Warinanco rink project

>

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**New Jersey State Government Employees Should Forward Messages That May Be Cyber Security Risks To PhishReport@cyber.nj.gov.**

Hello

My name is Kelly Sacchetti and I am from State House Commission

I sent you an email regarding the Warinanco rink project. I am sorry to hear that you were not able to forward with the information.

My team and I were pleased at Warinanco rink project. We were able to provide you with the information you requested. We are sorry that we were not able to provide you with the information you requested. We are sorry that we were not able to provide you with the information you requested. We are sorry that we were not able to provide you with the information you requested.

Thank you

Kelly Sacchetti

157x

**From:** Rick Sacchetti (rsacchet) <  
**Sent:** Friday, September 26, 2025 4:51 PM  
**To:** State House Commission [TREAS]  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Vote YES for the Warinanco Park Ice Rink Project

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Hello,

My name is Rick Sacchetti of Scotch Plains, NJ.

I write today to respectfully support and urge a YES vote on Monday's state house commission vote regarding the new ice rink in Warinanco Park.

I am the Coaching Director of the Cranford Hockey Club, a non-profit volunteer run and volunteer coached youth sports organization in Union County. We have approximately 300 families in our club who will benefit greatly from this visionary project, with children ranging from ages 6-18 playing travel or beginner ice hockey, or in our learn-to-play program. Our group of volunteers also works tirelessly to promote the sport to new players, and a new rink will help us expand our programs to benefit even more people.

The new county ice rink is sorely needed as ice time is scarce and expensive, not just for our youth club, but also for local boys' and girls' high school programs who routinely practice at 5:45am before school, or have games until 11pm on weeknights. A new county rink will provide opportunities for many more kids and adults to play at reasonable times for students and affordable prices, especially with the Cranford Hockey Club's scholarship program, which is dedicated to making sure there are no financial barriers to playing in our county park.

Personally, I have 4 sons who all participate in the sport from youth through the high school level. I am hopeful that a new rink will allow more families to experience the joy of the sport that we have.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Rick Sacchetti  
Scotch Plains, NJ

**From:** Dale S  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 27, 2025 10:32 AM  
**To:** State House Commission [TREAS]  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Warinanco Ice Rink

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Hello,

My name is Dale Schwebel, and I live in Cranford, NJ.

I write today to respectfully encourage a YES vote on Monday to move forward with the Warinanco Park project.

My son has played ice hockey at Warinanco for the past six years, since he was five. The addition of a new rink (in conjunction with the support of Cranford Hockey Club), will provide an opportunity for more children to participate in the sport. More importantly, an ice rink is a recreational space for children who increasingly are faced with dangerous situations, whether it's riding their bikes on the street or being online. It's imperative in these current times to provide all children with safe spaces where they can learn to grow and thrive.

On another note, in the past few years I have traveled throughout the northeast and seen the impact that ice hockey rinks have made in other similar communities. Simply put, the economic development around these rinks is substantial. Please look at Utica NY as a successful case study for the impact an ice rink complex can have on the local economy. East Brunswick understands this impact and is under construction with a similar complex. Ice hockey is a sport that requires extensive travel, resulting in team meals and shopping in close proximity to the ice rinks. Local small businesses will no doubt reap these benefits.

Thank you for your consideration.

Dale Schwebel

**From:** Matthew Schwebel <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 26, 2025 4:03 PM  
**To:** State House Commission [TREAS]  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Warinanco Park - new rink

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Hello,

My name is Matthew Schwebel and I've been living in Cranford, NJ the for the last 16+ years.

I write today to respectfully encourage a YES vote on Monday to move forward with the Warinanco Park project.

My kids (now middle-school aged) have enjoyed Warinanco park, from learning to play hockey, to school skate nights, to open skating with friends, to cheering for the Cranford High School Hockey team. I feel this new project will only make everything about Warinanco Park better, and I know a new rink will also provide affordable opportunities for many more people from around the state to enjoy Warinanco Park.

Thank you,

Matthew Schwebel

**From:** Jared Shechtman  
**Sent:** Friday, September 26, 2025 4:02 PM  
**To:** State House Commission [TREAS]  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Ice rink Vote

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Hello,

My name is Jared Shechtman, and I live in Cranford, NJ.

I write today to respectfully encourage a YES vote on Monday to move forward with the Warinanco Park project.

My son has played youth hockey in Warinanco Park for years, and I know a new rink will provide affordable opportunities for many more people from around the state to enjoy this Park.

Youth hockey has meant the world to him as it's helping him build the confidence that he takes to his off ice challenges with anxiety and learning disabilities.

We have a severe shortage of ice sheets as hockey and other such sports have continued to grow. Please do vote yes for this critical program.

Sincerely,  
Jared Shechtman

161x

**From:** Jonathan Sinnott  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 27, 2025 9:35 AM  
**To:** State House Commission [TREAS]  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Warinanco Park project.

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Hello,

My name is Jonathan Sinnott, and I live in Scotch Plains, NJ. I am writing today to urge all to move forward with the construction of a new indoor hockey rink at Warinaco Park.

I grew up in Elizabeth and have skated at Warinaco since I was a kid, and now my children utilize then park and rink for youth Hockey and recreational skating. A new indoor rink would provide a great number of opportunities for youth and high school athletes to improve their skills and performance year round.

Furthermore, I believe a fully indoor facility, paired with the existing , would quantify the opportunity for new young athletes from all over Union County and surrounding areas to explore a new sport and activity. Hockey and Ice Skating are often not accessible to many because they're simply not as many rinks, and locations can be out of reach for many residents.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best regards,

Jonathan Sinnott  
Business Agent  
Steamfitters Local Union 475

**From:** carolee smith  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 27, 2025 8:51 AM  
**To:** State House Commission [TREAS]  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Support for Warinanco Park Ice Rink

This message came from an **EXTERNAL** address [REDACTED] **DO NOT** click on links or attachments unless you know the sender and the content is safe.

**New Jersey State Government Employees Should Forward Messages That May Be Cyber Security Risks To PhishReport@cyber.nj.gov.**

Hello,

My name is Carolee Smith and I live in Bayonne, NJ.

I write today to respectfully encourage a YES vote on Monday to move forward with the Warinanco Park project.

My son has played hockey both youth and high school levels in Warinanco Park for a span of 9 years, and also works as a referee. I strongly believe a new rink will provide affordable opportunities for many more people from around the state to enjoy this park for years to come.

Please vote YES on Monday!

Sincerely,

Carolee Smith

**From:** Quinn Solomon < >  
**Sent:** Friday, September 26, 2025 5:06 PM  
**To:** State House Commission [TREAS]  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] VOTE YES This Monday for New Rink at Warinanco Park

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My name is Quinn Solomon, and I live in Short Hills, NJ.

I write today to respectfully encourage a **YES vote on Monday** to move forward with the Warinanco Park project.

Our son Finn has played youth hockey in Warinanco Park for years, and I have seen firsthand how special this community is. A new rink would not only provide more affordable opportunities for families across the state, but it would also expand access to a place that fosters teamwork, friendships, and pride.

This isn't just about building a rink—it's about strengthening community, creating memories, and opening doors for many more people to experience all that Warinanco Park has to offer.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Quinn Solomon

--  
Quinn G. Solomon

164x

**From:** Jennifer Strahan <  
**Sent:** Friday, September 26, 2025 4:18 PM  
**To:** State House Commission [TREAS]  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] New ice rink at Warinanco Park

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Good Afternoon,

My name is Jennifer Strahan, and I live in Cranford, NJ.

I write today to respectfully encourage a YES vote on Monday to move forward with the Warinanco Park project.

My son has been playing hockey for a year now, and we know how valuable ice time is. As a former statistician I recorded for the Cranford High School team in the early 2000's I have such fond memories at Warinanco Ice Rink then and now. I love seeing the kids on the ice, the siblings out in the park before games and the affordable option for all in and around Union County and the state to enjoy. My family encourages you to vote YES on Monday, for more opportunities for all to enjoy the additional ice rink year-round from around the state.

Thank you for your time,

Jennifer Strahan

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**From:** Heather Tanella <  
**Sent:** Friday, September 26, 2025 10:15 PM  
**To:** State House Commission [TREAS]

Hello,

My name is Heather Tanella, and I live in Westfield, NJ.

I write today to respectfully encourage a YES vote on Monday to move forward with the Warinanco Park project.

I have three young boys and our children have played youth/high school hockey in Warinanco Park for years, and I know a new rink will provide affordable opportunities for many more people from around the state to enjoy this Park.

Best,

Heather Tanella I

**From:** Lauren Talbot Sr.  
**Sent:** Friday, September 26, 2025 4:10 PM  
**To:** State House Commission [TREAS]  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Warinanco Park

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PhishReport@cyber.nj.gov.

Hello,

My name is Lauren Talbot, and I live in Scotch Plains, NJ.

I write today to respectfully encourage a YES vote on Monday to move forward with the Warinanco Park project.

*I am from Union and grew up going to open skates at Warinanco. Now my son has played youth hockey for the last four years (starting with learn to play) and my daughter did learn to play last year and will be playing her first year of youth hockey starting mid-October with most of her practices being held at Warinanco. My children, along with countless others, have many more years of hockey ahead of them and I know a new rink will provide affordable opportunities for many more people from around the state to enjoy this Park.*

Thank you for taking the time to read my message and I really hope that you will vote YES.

Warm regards,

Lauren Talbot

**From:** Shayne Temple <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 26, 2025 3:56 PM  
**To:** State House Commission [TREAS]  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Vote YES for the Warinanco Park Rink

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**New Jersey State Government Employees Should Forward Messages That May Be Cyber Security Risks To PhishReport@cyber.nj.gov.**

Good afternoon!

My name is Shayne Temple, and I live and work in Cranford Township (Union County).

I write today to respectfully encourage a YES vote on Monday to move forward with the Warinanco Park project.

I have two children that currently play youth ice hockey for the Cranford Hockey Club. I firmly believe that youth hockey has helped mold my children into the amazing middle schoolers they are today, and I know a new rink will provide affordable opportunities for my children, and many more people from around the state, to enjoy this sport (and others) in this park.

I appreciate your vote for this integral project here in Union County. Ice hockey is a growing sport nationwide, and we need to provide opportunities for everyone that wants to play!!

Respectfully,

Shayne Temple

168x

**From:** Angelica Valenza < >  
**Sent:** Friday, September 20, 2020 8:04 PM  
**To:** State House Commission [TREAS]  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Warinanco Park Project

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Hello,

My name is Angelica Valenza, and I live in Cranford, NJ.

I write today to respectfully encourage a YES vote on Monday to move forward with the Warinanco Park project.

Our children have played youth hockey in Warinanco Park for years, and I know a new rink will provide affordable opportunities for many more people from around the state to enjoy this Park. Supporting this build will provide the children in the area with additional places for activity

Thank you for your consideration

Angelica & Mike Valenza

Sent from my iPhone

169x

**From:** Van duzer, Adam <  
**Sent:** Friday, September 26, 2025 4:29 PM  
**To:** State House Commission [TREAS]  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Warinanco Park Ice Rink Project

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Hello,

My name is Adam Van Duzer, and I reside in the lovely town of Cranford, NJ. I am writing to you today to respectfully encourage a YES vote on Monday to move forward with the Warinanco Park project.

Our children have been playing youth and high school hockey in Warinanco Park for many years, and I have seen firsthand the positive impact it has had on their lives. A new rink would provide affordable opportunities for even more people from around the state to enjoy this wonderful park. I believe this project will greatly benefit our community by encouraging physical activity, fostering a sense of camaraderie, and creating lasting memories for families.

Thank you for considering my request. I hope you will support this important project and help bring these opportunities to our community.

*Sincerely,*



**ADAM VAN DUZER**

ORC | AP | Investigations

**The Home Depot- Northern Division**

732-567-8637

[adam\\_van\\_duzer@homedepot.com](mailto:adam_van_duzer@homedepot.com)

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170x

**From:** jaclyn van duzer <jvduzer@nj.gov>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 27, 2025 6:15 PM  
**To:** State House Commission [TREAS]  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Please Vote YES for the New Ice Rink at Warinanco

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**New Jersey State Government Employees Should Forward Messages That May Be Cyber Security Risks To PhishReport@cyber.nj.gov.**

Dear Members of the State House Commission,

I am writing to respectfully urge you to vote **YES** on the proposal for a new ice rink at Warinanco Park.

As a parent of two hockey players, I cannot overstate how important this facility is to families like mine. Hockey has been a meaningful part of my children's lives—it keeps them active, engaged, and focused on something positive. Sports like hockey give kids an outlet, keep them safe, and help them stay on the right path.

In our area, there simply aren't enough rinks to support the number of children and families who want to play hockey and skate. Ice time is limited, and the facilities we do have are outdated. When we travel to other states for tournaments, I see firsthand the state-of-the-art facilities their communities provide. Unfortunately, what we have here is inadequate and, quite frankly, embarrassing compared to those standards.

Our kids deserve better. A modern rink would not only support hockey, but also figure skating, public skating, and community programming that benefits people of all ages.

This is an investment in the health, safety, and future of our children and our community. Please vote YES to support the new ice rink at Warinanco.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Jackie Van Duzer

**From:** Marisa Wilhelm <1  
**Sent:** Friday, September 26, 2025 5:53 PM  
**To:** State House Commission [TREAS]  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Warinanco Hockey Rink

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Hello,

My name is Marisa Wilhelm, and I live in Cranford, NJ. I write today to respectfully encourage a YES vote on Monday to move forward with the Warinanco Park project.

My son has been playing hockey at Warinanco since 2018. Hockey gives him so much as far as physical exercise, social connection and lessons in perseverance and teamwork. As parents we have to juggle work schedules to be able to drive to Newark, Bridgewater, and Dunelin for practice when the rink at Warinanco is not available. There is such a need for ice time for hockey as well as figure skating and community events such as family hockey. When my daughter wanted to learn figure skating we had to go to Woodbridge because there were no programs closer. An additional rink at Warinanco would provide opportunities for not only hockey players but also figure skaters and families an affordable option to get out and stay active.

Marisa Wilhelm

**From:** Sean Wilhelm < >  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 27, 2025 3:27 PM  
**To:** State House Commission [TREAS]  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] New Ice Rink at Warinanco

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Hello,

My name is Sean Wilhelm and I live in Cranford , NJ.

I write today to respectfully encourage a YES vote on Monday to move forward with the Warinanco Park project.

We are excited about the possibility to have a year round rink at Warinanco. My son learned to ice skate at Warinanco and has played hockey for the last six years with a club whose home rink is Warinanco.

The hockey community has been great for our son. His club runs scholarship funds for kids to play the game and runs Learn to Play and try hockey for free sessions. In addition to learning the game, Hockey has given him opportunities to volunteer as well

In our area the addl ice would provide hockey teams more options - we currently drive to Dunellen, Newark, and Bridgewater for practices until The Westfield rink and Warinanco open.

Our daughter also participated in figure skating but we had to travel to Woodbridge and Orange for figure skating programs.

A new, indoor rink will provide more opportunities for people to enjoy the park

Thanks for your consideration

Sean Wilhelm

-

**From:** Monika Zareba < >  
**Sent:** Friday, September 26, 2025 5:27 PM  
**To:** State House Commission [TREAS]  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Support for a New Ice Rink at Warinanco Park

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To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Monika Zareba, and I'm a resident of Cranford, NJ. I'm writing today to respectfully encourage a **YES** vote on Monday to move forward with the Warinanco Park Ice Rink project.

My son has been playing hockey since he was six years old. He's now 13, and for the past seven years, our club—Cranford Hockey Club—has not had a home rink. We've had to travel 30 to 40 minutes twice a week just for practices. As a single, working parent, this has required significant logistical coordination and personal sacrifices.

It's likely that by the time a new rink is built, my son will be finishing high school or entering college. Still, I wanted to voice our support—not just for him, but for the younger generation who will truly benefit from having a local, state-of-the-art facility. This project has the potential to make a meaningful difference for families in our community by providing access, stability, and opportunity.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Monika Zareba

Cranford, NJ