



January 31, 2026

Dear Neighbors,

As plans for Manresa Wilds take shape, I wanted to reach out and let you know about Manresa Association and efforts that are underway.

The [Manresa Association](#) is a 501c3 nonprofit representing residential communities surrounding Manresa Island, and it focuses on protecting the quality of life for residents as the future of the island takes shape. The association engages with residents, Manresa Wilds, municipal officials, and other stakeholders to address issues such as traffic, noise, lighting, safety, environmental conditions, and wildlife habitat to help minimize adverse impacts to local neighborhoods.

Our [Board of Directors](#) includes representatives from Bell Island, Harbor Shores, Harbor View, Shorefront Park, Village Creek, and Wilson Point.

Association representatives have had regular meetings with neighbors, representatives from Manresa Wilds, and city officials. We've listened to community concerns and priorities, and we've engaged with various parties to help find possible solutions. The primary concerns of area neighbors regarding the development of Manresa Island have been: traffic, noise, lights, safety, and the environment.

In an early meeting with Manresa Wilds, we presented a list of concerns and discussed possible solutions. We had very productive discussions, and Manresa Wilds has been helpful in trying to find ways to mitigate the issues. We recently received an update regarding progress and plans for the North Forest, the first phase of development. Here are some of the specific things that have been addressed in response to our concerns:

- Trails in the North Forest will be moved away from Harbor View residents' property lines.
- There will be a buffer adjacent to Harbor View properties, and plantings will hide the trail from view.
- The plan for a canopy walk and netting has been eliminated, in an effort to respect the privacy of nearby residents. The trails will be at the ground level.
- The Manresa entrance will be reconfigured to help prevent cars from accidentally driving into Harbor View.

- The city bus stop will be moved from Dock Road to Manresa, with a bus turnaround on the property.
- There will be downward-focused lighting in the parking area of the North Forest to help shield the light from Village Creek.
- Planning is underway for plantings that will help buffer noise and light.

In response to other topics raised about the broader project, Manresa Wilds said they would reduce lighting, use bird-friendly glass, etc. Plans for that bigger phase will be announced at the **Manresa Wilds Engagement Session on Feb. 19 at the Maritime Aquarium**. Reservations are required.

Many of the topics raised by neighbors must be dealt with by the City of Norwalk. We understand that Manresa Wilds met with city officials to discuss concerns such as traffic, Woodward Avenue congestion, sidewalks, and the culvert under Longshore Ave. Manresa Association Board Members have also been meeting with city officials to talk about these issues, and we'll continue to stay involved, advocating for our neighborhoods and working towards solutions.

Please note that **Norwalk Planning and Zoning will hold a public hearing February 4 at 6pm regarding the North Forest Plan**. Here's the agenda that is posted on the city site:

<https://norwalkct.portal.civicclerk.com/event/908/files/agenda/2885>

Here is the Zoom link for that public hearing, which is posted on the city site:

<https://norwalkct-org.zoom.us/j/82955531430>

We will keep you informed as things progress.

Regards,

Jan Schaefer

President, Manresa Association