



March 10, 2026

Dear Neighbors,

I want to bring you up to date on what the [Manresa Association](#) is doing on behalf of area neighbors and neighborhoods. The Manresa Association was formed over 10 years ago to find the best use for the NRG power plant property shortly after the plant was decommissioned. Since then, much has happened, and we continue to focus on protecting our quality of life, aiming to minimize adverse impacts to our neighborhoods.

Over the past year, we met with Manresa Wilds and city officials to help mitigate issues of concern, and the meetings have been productive. The new Manresa Wilds [Concept Plan](#) presented February 19th reflects many positive changes from their earlier proposal, based on feedback from the community and the Manresa Association. Some examples of the revisions include:

- Significantly scaled back active aspects of the park and expanded natural areas
 - *Responding to the request for more of a nature-oriented park*
- Concentrated active amenities in the southern part of the property
 - *Protecting natural habitats and respecting neighbors who are adjacent to the property*
- Minimized lighting
 - *Responding to concerns about light disturbance for nearby residents*
- Reduced the amount of glass façade on the Turbine Building, including focusing the majority of it to the east to match the existing elevation of the current windows.
 - *Minimizing light and reflection for neighbors while offering better protection for birds*
- Removed the indoor water features
 - *Responding to residents who voiced concern and objections over this*
- Increased canopy cover
 - *Offering more of a buffer for area residents*
- Removed boardwalks on the western marsh section of Manresa, adjacent to Village Creek
 - *Leaves the marsh area open in its natural state*

- Scaled back programming and the active play area
 - *Respecting concerns about excessive activity and potential noise on the property*

There is also a very extensive remediation plan for the property. During the power plant's active years, the site was contaminated by the deposition of coal ash. The McChords announced that the cost of remediation and site resiliency is \$410 million, which they are personally funding. The site needs to be remediated to establish a sustainable, long-lasting ecology. For residents who live near Manresa Island, the contamination on the site was of great concern, so remediation is certainly welcome, thanks to the generosity of the McChords.

While there were many good developments with the new concept for Manresa Wilds, there are still several remaining issues that residents are raising. Traffic and parking probably top the list. In conversations with area neighbors, Woodward Avenue is a significant issue. Driving along that road is difficult to navigate now, so additional traffic will certainly exacerbate the problem. Parking on Woodward Avenue, side streets, and in area neighborhoods is also a big concern. Manresa Wilds does not have authority over city streets, so the Manresa Association is meeting with Norwalk officials in an effort to help mitigate these issues and find solutions. There have been many suggestions on how to deal with these challenges, and we'll continue our conversations.

A positive development is that a state grant has been requested and is under review to study connecting the Norwalk River Valley Trail from the Stroffolino Bridge to Manresa Island. If a trail is developed, this would provide another means of non-vehicular access to Manresa Wilds. The grant request is being reviewed by the Community Investment Fund Board, and a response is expected fairly soon.

We will keep you informed as things progress.

Regards,

Jan Schaefer

President, Manresa Association

If you would like to see previous correspondence from the Manresa Association, please go the [Contact Us](#) page on the Manresa Association Website.