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1404 Goodale Blvd, Suite 100
Columbus, OH 43212

FLOW
Friends of the Lower Olentangy Watershed

August 11th 2024

Mr. Greg Fedner
Section Manager
City of Columbus, Division of Sewerage and Drains
1250 Fairwod Ave
Columbus OH 43206
Gfedner@columbus.gov

Dear Mr. Fedner

Re: Worthington-Kilbourne Type 3 Variance Request

This project site is in the subwatershed of an unnamed tributary to Fisher Run, a tributary to the Olentangy Watershed and is of concern to the Friends of the Lower Olentangy Watershed.. FLOW is requesting more information about this project before submitting final comments:

1.The footprint impact for the permanent Terrace is shown but how will the equipment needed to build the terrace access this stream corridor protection zone area and what will the temporary and permanent construction impacts be? For example, the entire area is steep slopes and forested. How many trees will need to be removed? What mitigation for tree cutting will be offered? It appears that 11,901 sq ft of impacts will be necessary. What is the difference between the proposed mitigation area of 13,810 sq ft and the Proposed SCPZ Easements?

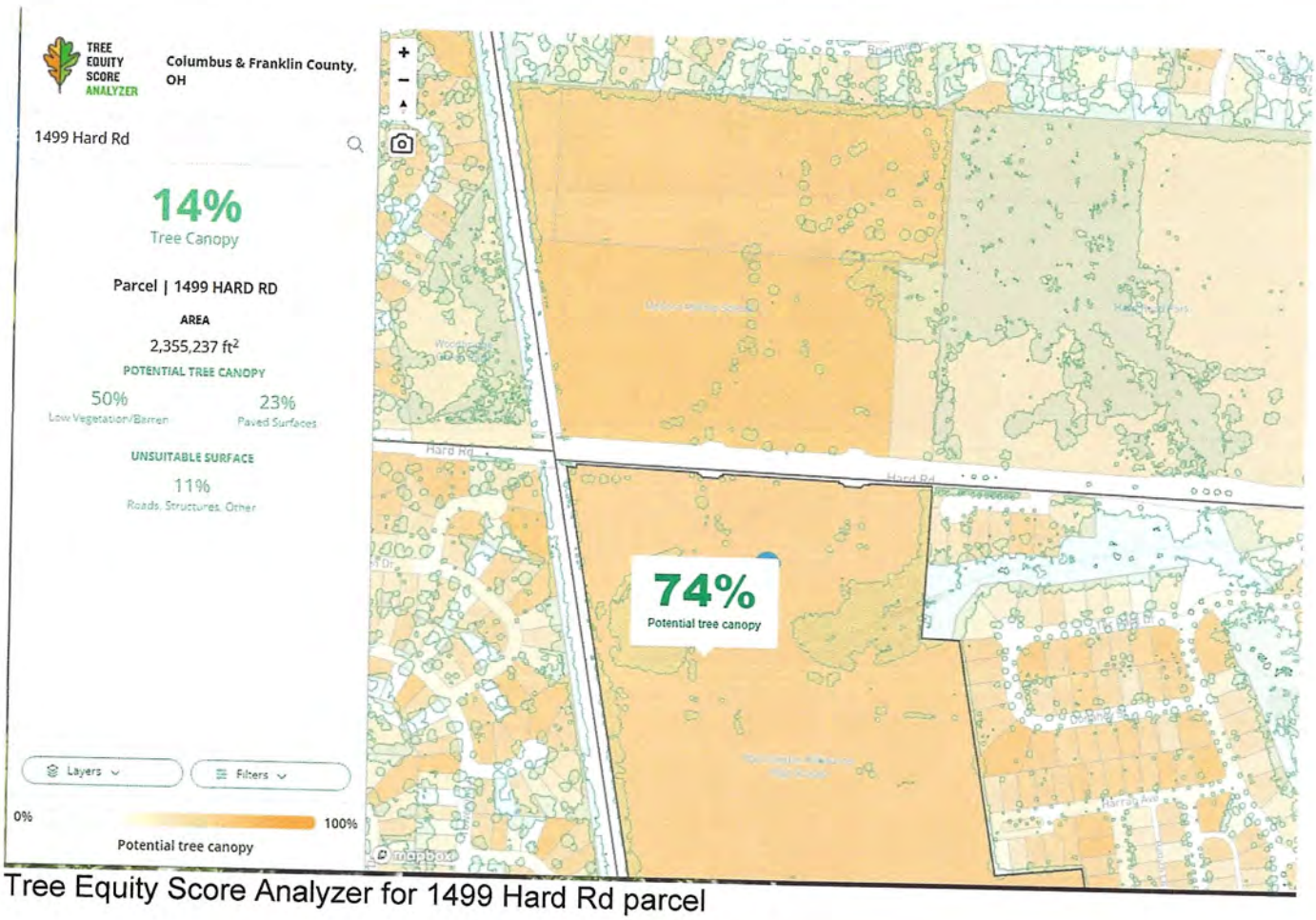
2. Per Figure L.2.4- Are 19 B&B trees adequate to replace the public tree canopy that will be removed per the new Tree Mitigation Policy? Why is turf grass seed mix being used? FLOW requests that native seed mix be applied. How many trees will be cut and what is their Diameter at Breast Height (DBH)?

2. No justification is provided for the need for this terrace and the impacts to the stream corridor. How old is this school and if it is so critical why didn't they build it in the first place? FLOW is not sympathetic to the conditions of the site, since Worthington Schools obviously knew that they were building over the tributary ravine. The claim that "The unique circumstances such that strict adherence to the manual will deprive the applicant of reasonable use of the land or result in a substantial hardship" seems an overreach.

3. FLOW is also concerned about the proposed addition of the band room and the weight room as shown on Figure C1.0. The Band Room addition is particularly concerning since it is on the north ravine slope and appears to be wooded. How will the stormwater for these additional areas be handled?

4. The Tree Canopy in the Fisher Run watershed as a result of the 3 schools with high impervious surface percentages and low tree canopy (14% Thomas Worthington, 10% McCord Middle School and Granby Elementary School is a cumulative problem for the watershed.

5. Is there any stormwater detention or retention by these schools to Fisher Run? Of particular concern are the parking spaces on the north slope of the ravine near the proposed HS Band addition.



Tree Equity Score Analyzer for 1499 Hard Rd parcel

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Thomas Worthington High School over unnamed Trib to Fisher Run

6. According to our calculations, a Drainage Area of 0.7square miles would be 150 ft, not 130 ft. Can you please verify?

7. What is the function of the retaining wall along the south slope of the ravine?

8. The site does not seem to be in compliance with the 1 tree for every 10 parking spaces and the northwestern parking lot tree islands are vacant of trees.

9. FLOW is unclear on the footprint difference between the preferred and minimal impact design proposed projects. Can you please clarify?

Sincerely

Laura Fay

Laura Fay
FLOW Science Committee Chair