



## Friends of Crystal Spring

### For Immediate Release

The Friends of Crystal Spring do not endorse Mayor Mike Pantelides' plan to negotiate with Affirmative Hillspoint, LLC and the Crystal Spring developers to relocate the continuing care facility to the "north" end of the Crystal Spring property. Based on information that has been publicly released so far, this plan, though touted as having "reduced the scope" of the project, appears to be little different from the 2013 design and in some ways increases the environmental impacts. The new design creates a false trade-off between wetlands and forest by concentrating more development inside the contiguous forest on the northern end in order to avoid certain wetlands and the intermittent stream. This design is faulty for several reasons:

- The Forest Stand and Wetland Delineation (FSD) created by the developer is severely deficient, identifying less than half of the actual wetlands on the property. We believe the direct impacts to jurisdictional wetlands are highly underestimated as a result.
- The new plan is touted as avoiding "sensitive areas" and yet moves additional development into the primary block of contiguous forest on the northeastern section of the property, an area that has very high value for wildlife habitat, water quality, and ecological function.
- The only reduction in scope is the elimination of 40 apartments; all other facilities and units appear to be included in the new plans.
- There are jurisdictional wetlands in the contiguous forest area where the developer now proposes to concentrate the development.
- The remaining forest will be even more fragmented under this new design.

Crystal Spring Farm is home to 82 acres of contiguous forest, 222 species of birds, and many other kinds of wildlife. The proposed development would cut down at least 49 acres, including many of Annapolis' largest specimen trees. The birds and wildlife would lose their habitat, and increased traffic and school overcrowding would ruin the quality of life in Annapolis. **As each of these points illustrates, Crystal Spring Farm is the wrong place for large-scale development in Annapolis, which has three other economic opportunity zones.**

To learn more, go to [www.savecrystalspring.org](http://www.savecrystalspring.org)

The Friends of Crystal Spring is an Annapolis-based community group dedicated to saving Crystal Spring Farm and Forest from large-scale development.

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