

SIGN THE PETITION

PETITION AGAINST CITY VARIANCE FOR LITTLE RIVER AND ALEWIFE BROOK

We Cambridge, Belmont and Arlington citizens wish to express our environmental concerns for safety, health and climate adaptation needs in regards to the Upper Alewife Basin of the Mystic River watershed, focused on Little River, based on Horsley and Witten Technical Analysis report of 2006 and the water quality testing results of the Mystic River Watershed Association over 15 years

<http://friendsofalewifereservation.org/2012-02-29-Horsley-and-Witten-Technical-Analysis-of-Upper-Alewife-Brook-Basin.pdf>, and the City of Cambridge recently in 2015. Seven Variances given by EPA and DEP since 1998 have hardly improved the levels of river length bacteria, and ammonia and nitrogen counts which fail all scientific water quality standards (Clean Water Act):

<https://www.epa.gov/laws-regulations/summary-clean-water-act> from 1972.

At present, over one thousand units have been built adjacent and close proximity to the Alewife MBTA, and another 2 thousand are planned for the quadrangle across from Fresh Pond Reservation. City zoning allows construction on top of the former city dump, which exuded gases and other ground contaminants in 2014 according to professional environmental review. Also, new developments' storm water discharges will flow into Little River. Strict federal MS4 regulations will apply and require more enforcement than previously enacted.

We call on the city and MWRA to meet the 1987 federal court order without delay to move rapidly towards an 85 percent improvement, and comply with federal NPDES regulations (<https://www.epa.gov/npdes>), and to refrain from further permitting of developers until a regional storm water plan exists to upgrade and sustain good water quality of Little River. This regional effort must include plans with the town of Belmont in order for the River to attain Grade 'B' standards of the EPA. During this period of city and town expected environmental improvement, we request that "Little River" in name be changed to "Menotomy River", its original historical name when Algonquin Indians inhabited the land before the settler period.

Friends of Alewife Reservation