

LEAVE CANE RUN ALONE—IF IT'S NOT BROKE DON'T FIX IT!

Prevent waste of public funds on over-engineering without clear goals!

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Contact your council-person, mayor's office and EPA to protest. View more text, photos and plans at my website (bluegrasswoodland.com).

Your local government in Lexington, under pressure from the US Environmental Protection Agency, has started spending one million dollars on plans to create a new floodplain along 4415 feet of Cane Run between Citation Boulevard and I-75. This project is part of the Consent Decree with EPA, but it has not been reviewed by all stake-holders or the public. It contains several serious flaws and omissions.

The plan does not have clear prioritized goals, and it offers no clear estimates of benefits for water quality, reduced bank erosion or flooding, habitat improvement, recreation or education. But it would destroy the natural stream corridor and most of the woodland that has recovered here since 1999. It is especially important to avoid the area with large bur oaks, cane, native grasses and a rare rue anemone (*E. biternatum*).

Learn more by reading the plan—and trying to understand it! All concerned citizens are invited to discuss this project and view the site during the week of 30th Sep-4th Oct, Monday to Friday at 5-7 pm. On each day, I will be stationed at the parking lot off McGrathiana Parkway, next to the Legacy Trail. I will provide tours into the canebrake, and a petition opposing this project as currently designed. Please get involved!



A rare remnant of the original woodland, plus restored cane, is in the project's southern path.



Here lies the only remaining patch of running rue anemone (*Enemion*) on Fayette Co. uplands.



Such projects are better placed along smaller streams, as is now being done along Stone Road.

The plan claims that Cane Run “has been degraded due to straightening, stream bank erosion, and downcutting of the stream channel resulting in disconnection from the floodplain.” However, it presents zero evidence. Instead, there is evidence that the stream has cut into limestone sinks (karst) for many millenia, and that soils along it are largely derived from bedrock, not the alluvium of regular flooding.

The plan does not provide any estimate of how much it would improve water quality in Cane Run. Yet the primary objective of the Consent Decree is “to further the objectives of the Clean Water Act.” Why would we spend one million dollars on a project with so much uncertainty and vagueness about desired outcomes? There is some bank erosion along this reach of Cane Run, but not a major problem for water quality.

How did this project get proposed? The engineering community of Lexington developed it during negotiations with the EPA. Rather than adopting a clear focus on water quality, the plan claims additional benefits in habitat restoration, recreation, education and “quality of life perceptions.” But there has been little input from the full range of public interest groups, including those interested in natural history.