

As a Clarksburg resident, protecting Ten Mile Creek and its watershed is essential to me. My family relies on this area for recreation, and safeguarding the water quality of Little Seneca Reservoir—our region’s backup drinking water supply—is critical.

Little Seneca Creek, the Reservoir’s largest tributary, flows directly through the Clarksburg Gateway Sector Plan area. The proposed development will affect this water source. To maintain clean drinking water and preserve the Reservoir as a recreational and wildlife resource, the Sector Plan must protect remaining forests, limit development, and rely on existing roads.

## **Declining Stream Health in the Clarksburg SPA**

The Clarksburg Gateway Sector Plan lies within the Clarksburg Special Protection Area, created to protect sensitive water resources. Yet stream conditions have declined since 1998 due to intensive development. Once rated “good” or “excellent,” streams are now rated “good,” “fair,” or “poor”—none remain excellent.

## **Key Goals for the Sector Plan**

- Protect Little Seneca Reservoir by safeguarding Little Seneca Creek and its tributaries.
- Conserve the remaining 285 acres of forest within the 969-acre plan area.
- Avoid new roads through forests, parks, streams, and wetlands.
- Limit development on the 200-acre historic COMSAT site.
- Expand parkland and conservation easements to strengthen stream buffers.

## **Specific Actions to Achieve These Goals**

- Preserve Priority Urban Forest areas, especially on the COMSAT property.
- Restrict development on COMSAT to existing open areas and rely on current road access.
- Do not build the northern extension of Observation Drive across Little Seneca Creek.
- Use existing COMSAT campus roads for north–south connectivity.
- Use West Old Baltimore Road for east–west travel instead of extending Little Seneca Parkway.
- Remove the proposed I-270 Interchange due to its environmental impacts and inconsistency with walkable community goals.
- Require a minimum 200-foot setback from I-270 with at least a 50-foot native tree buffer.

## **Conclusion**

We cannot reduce traffic congestion or protect our environment while allowing unchecked growth. A healthier future requires scaling back new housing expansion, prioritizing environmental preservation, reusing existing buildings for housing, and investing in public transportation.

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If you want an even more condensed version—something suitable for testimony, an email to officials, or a public comment—I can create that too.