

Good morning Supervisors –

For the record, here are my prepared remarks from last night's delayed Citizen's Time. Unfortunately, logistics of presenting visuals to you ate up time, which prevented me from being able to make my closing statement. It is included for your attention here.

I look forward to your next steps to correct these issues.

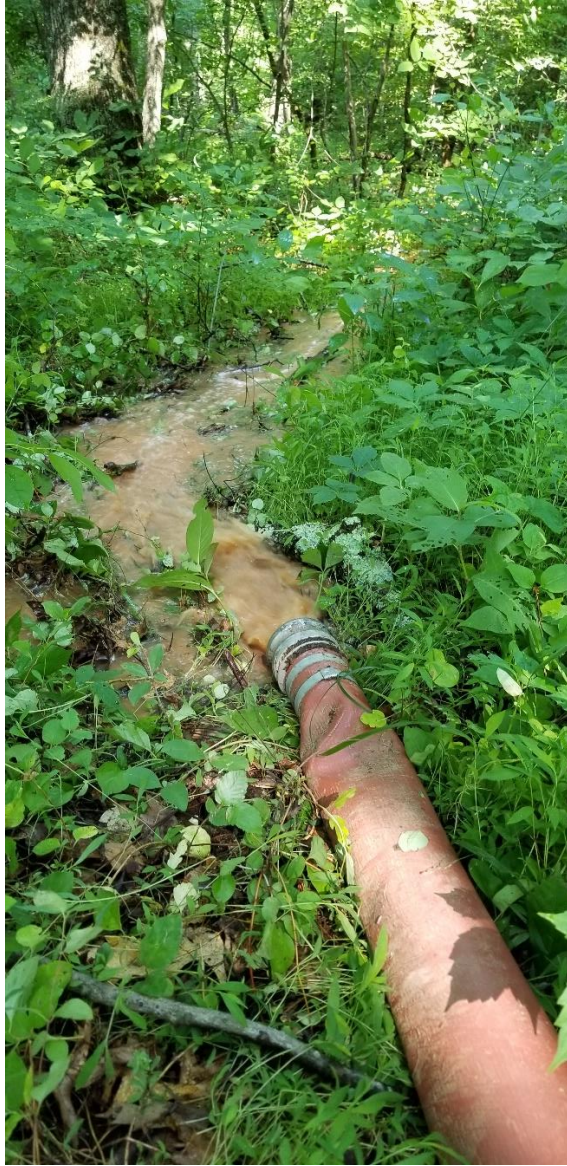
Silver Lake – BOCS meeting 061819

My name is Karen Sheehan. I live in the Gainesville District. I am a lifelong resident of Northern Virginia, with the last 21 years in Prince William County. I have spoken before this Board many times over the years, advocating for the protection of those things here in Prince William which we value for our home and our county.

I am here today because of the devastation being wrought upon our passive-use designated park Silver Lake, and because our county government has broken trust with us - again.

I went to the park on Monday morning after the Tough Mudder two-day event, which the Prince William Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism had enabled at Silver Lake – our “jewel” of a park as one supervisor had called it.

While walking one of the many muddied trails, I found this large fire-hose pumping muddy water, mud, and silt down a forested slope. The muddy sludge was being pumped by the Tough Mudder breakdown crew from one of the Tough Mudder pits dug throughout the park's acreage. The muddy mess flowed through the trees and into this stream at the base of the slope, which then flowed back into Silver Lake. In the now-brown lake, this white duck, along with many other ducks and geese, struggled to escape the floating silt, oil, bug spray, and other gunk filling the lake from the Tough Mudder event activities. Representatives from Parks, Recreation and Tourism, as well as Tough Mudder, glared at me and my husband from the pavilion where they cloistered, while we walked the park and gathered mud-filled pictures of the after-effects of their “inspiring” event. And here is how the park looks today, after their “renovation.”







A promise was made to this county when Silver Lake Park was established by the County Board of Supervisors. The legally binding proffer for the park specifies that this park is designated for passive-use recreation.

I expect and demand that you on this Board today keep that promise made to our citizens, and protect Silver Lake against any further and future damages, such as those brought to the park by Tough Mudder

and our Dept. of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism. The Director of Parks, Recreation and Tourism, Seth Hendler-Voss, is waving his middle finger to your constituents by arguing **for** the Tough Mudder event in Silver Lake, and **against** the protections set up for the park that he is responsible for. He should be booted out of office.

I want to be able to trust my county government. I want you to protect Silver Lake not only for that duck, and for me, and for all the residents of this county; but also for these two, my grandchildren, and for their families in the future.

