

From: [Irene Barnaby](#)
To: [Tabachnick, Alan](#)
Cc: [Luke Palmer](#)
Subject: Harsimus Branch Abandonment
Date: Friday, July 14, 2023 11:50:21 AM

Dear Mr. Tabachnick,

I am a property owner at 206 5th St in Jersey City, NJ. My historic property is adjacent to the Embankment structure, and a 100 year old brick shed in my backyard is actually up against the Embankment wall. The Embankment is a major source of pleasure to me; the forest that's grown up on it supports many birds and other wildlife, and the mature trees cool off the area and are beautiful to look at in all seasons.

I know the City of Jersey City has been working on Redevelopment Plans to preserve this structure for reuse as a historic site and for open space and trail with a possibility for future light rail. But I just learned that your agency may be preparing to remove the Branch from its jurisdiction, opening it up to all the pressures of development here in Jersey City. This could lead to complete eradication of the structure and the longer Branch. I say this not only as a homeowner directly affected but also as a real estate agent familiar with development trends in Jersey City.

My property would be directly and physically impacted by Embankment demolition, and yet I have had no information from the STB that its decision may affect me this way. Please let me and other private property owners that are especially affected by any STB decision know what is happening. Though property owners adjacent to the Embankment are most directly physically affected, others will be physically affected by the need to move tons of dirt and stone from the site through streets lined with fragile historic buildings, and then again when the site is redeveloped.

It is unconscionable for the agency to expose us to this possible outcome of its decision. Please inform the Jersey City public about what is happening at the STB in regard to this abandonment and tell us what we can do to influence the agency's decision.

Best Regards,

Irina "Irene" Barnaby
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Sent from my iPhone