

7/8/15

Gentlemen,

Allow me to introduce myself. My wife and I purchased the home at the below address May 20. We have even paid dues - in the mail to rrlraia.

I have recently moved from Chicago IL to the north Baltimore County.. As a jogger of 60 + years, I was delighted to discover the Robert E. Lee Park and jogging trails, just off Falls Road; however, I have rarely seen trails in such disrepair. What starts off quite nice heading south from Falls Road to the large bridge, turns into a morass of mud south of there. It is obvious the county has not spent any money in years doing essential repairs.

The mud can be both sticky and / or slippery and can result in injury to those who use the trail. As a retired general surgeon, one who headed the trauma unit of my hospital in suburban Chicago for many years, preventable injury is the goal of all of us.

As I am sure you are aware, both the State of Illinois and Chicago are deeply in debt. Illinois has avlow income tax, the city has no income tax and yet both manage to keep the Lake Front Trail in Chicago and the Illinois Prairie Path as well as all the park trails in very good condition, while Maryland which has some of the highest tiered state and county income taxes in the US, can't manage this rather simple task. Doesn't the State and County realize such paths are tourist attractions and bring in revenue?

Can't your organization put some heat on what appears to be a very poorly run and inefficient county park department?

--

Peter W. Broido, M.D.
6710 Newstead Lane
Baltimore, M.D. 21209

READERS RESPOND

Lake Roland Park deserves aid

Several weeks ago, The Baltimore Sun published an article about a reclamation project for brown trout to the cost of \$600,000 in the Jones Falls (“Jones Falls restoration project seeks to restore trout habitat, reduce runoff,” <http://www.baltimoresun.com/features/green/blog/bs-md-jones-falls-restoration-20160513-story.html> May 25). Languishing directly across Falls Road is the Lake Roland Park and the woeful red trail.

Baltimore City owns the park and leases it to Baltimore County. A group of concerned citizens has done a yeoman’s job reclaiming the park, which I dare say is used by many more people than trout will ever use Jones Falls. The trails in the park are in horrible shape. Railroad ties remain across the trail while areas of the path are a quagmire of mud and have remained wet all spring. The park is maintained by a volunteer group, using volunteer funds and volunteer labor.

Last year, it took the entire summer to put down trap rock and gravel on a stretch just north of the trestle bridge — a length of trail considerably less than 100 yards. So far this year, aside from repairing a 20-foot section of significant erosion with trap rock and cutting down dead trees which have fallen across the main trail, little has been done — and a great deal needs to be done: from removing the railroad ties, filling in low spots and developing good drainage, cutting down dead trees, which have the potential to fall on the trails, and finally a professional resurfacing of the red trail as well as several of the other trails as well.

If Maryland has funds to take care of trout, aren’t there funds to take care of this park and trails, which are used by many people? The park, formerly known as Robert E. Lee Park, could well be an extraordinary resource for all of Baltimore and Baltimore County.

Peter W. Broido, M.D., Baltimore

ED

T

Ou

WO

T

popu
brok

the t

Ne
there
barri
spee
right

As

Sen.

to th

yes, t

that

elect

barri

Bu

pare

want

more

bette

half-

acce

pres

Th

with

Iraq

case

Peter W. Broido, M.D.
6710 Newstead Lane
Baltimore, MD 21209
March 24, 2016

Lake Roland Nature Council
1000 Lakeside Drive
Baltimore, MD 21210

Gentlemen,

Yesterday I had a telephone conversation with Jeffrey Budnitz and learned that your organization is responsible for maintenance of the trails in Roland Park – formerly Robert E lee Park. As a recent transplant from Chicago, where running paths are well maintained, I was shocked to see the deplorable condition of the Red Trail, south of the large bridge.

Chicago and Cook County are in dire financial straits and yet the government has realized that maintaining parks and trails brings lots of dollars into the City and County. In essence money is not being diverted from more needy and humanitarian purposes; the returns on the dollar are a huge asset for Chicago.

Baltimore County is a rich county with very high taxes. I believe the County has really pulled a fast one and abrogated its responsibility by giving the job to volunteers and I believe your organization should insist the county maintain and improve the park trails as that will enhance county revenues; nevertheless, I am contributing \$100.00 to your organization in the hopes that you can in fact get what appears to me to be a major undertaking: removal of railroad ties, resurfacing the trail and improving drainage to get rid of the mud every time it rains.

I would also add that your organization has taken on huge liabilities as the maintenance of the paths is now your responsibility and not the county's. While I am sure you have some insurance, should a person be injured or worse paralyzed because of the poor condition of the path, your organization and you as individuals could be subjected to a multimillion dollar suit and your individual personal assets could well be at risk. Chicago has an organization Friends of the Park which oversees the parks but is not responsible for their maintenance – it is a watchdog group and effectively keeps a cattle prod on the Park officials. I think this is a much better model to follow as it removes all liability from your organization and has enough clout to get the job done.

Sincerely,


Peter W. Broido, M.D



**LAKE ROLAND
NATURE COUNCIL**

1000 Lakeside Drive
Baltimore, MD 21210
www.lakeroland.org

March 28, 2016

**Peter W. Broido, M.D.
6710 Newstead Lane
Baltimore, Maryland 21209**

Dear Peter,

The Lake Roland Nature Council cannot thank you enough for the generous donation of \$100.00. This donation will go a long way in making programs and projects the council has planned for the park a reality.

To that end, we understand your concerns outlined in your letter, but as an organization, we have an extremely successful partnership with Baltimore County as it relates to this particular park. To that end, we are the 46th nature and recreation council in Baltimore County, the very public private partnership model that makes Baltimore County so successful as it relates to the 210 park and recreation assets that Baltimore County manages.

Lake Roland was the 210th asset added to the inventory when Baltimore county leased the park from Baltimore City and reopened the park under new management in October of 2011. The very act of leasing the park was a byproduct of the efforts taken by concerned citizens that comprise several of our current board members of our nature council.

I regret that you were not in the area to witness firsthand the deplorable condition the park had declined into under Baltimore City's management and the significant progress that has been made with the park in just a few years under Baltimore County's leadership. Unlike Chicago, Baltimore County has exhibited exemplary fiscal stewardship as reflected in it's bond rating and fiscal balance sheet. As it relates to liability as you outlined, we have address those matters as well regarding our board and volunteers.



**LAKE ROLAND
NATURE COUNCIL**

1000 Lakeside Drive
Baltimore, MD 21210
www.lakeroland.org

As it relates to the “cattle prod” approach you outlined in your letter, I have always found long term success is a byproduct of people wanting to do something versus being “shocked” into it.

If you have a chance, feel free to e-mail me and I can give you a tour of the park and the projects we have planned for this year including removing the railroad ties from the red trail. We have a standing monthly trails outing so feel free to join us as well.

In addition, the nature council has standing monthly meetings and standing committee meetings that might be in areas of interest to you, so consider joining the nature council as a member.

Thank you again and best regards,

**Jeffrey Budnitz
Treasurer**

**Federal ID#45-1462130
501c3 (Status Approved)**

From: Peter Broido <peterbroido@gmail.com>

Date: June 22, 2016 at 11:39:12 AM EDT

To: lakerol-rp@baltimorecountymd.gov

Subject: the trails in Robert E. Lee Park

Hi Shannon,

Last year I moved from Chicago to Baltimore County and live almost across Falls Road from the the entrance to the Red Trail. I am a jogger and find the condition of the Red Trail and the Yellow Trail deplorable. I understand and have spoken to and contributed to the Roland Park volunteer group which has been tasked with management of the trails.

Last summer this group did a magnificent job resurfacing a 50 yard area north of the trestle bridge. The job took all summer. Assuming the trail is 2 miles long and the group resurfaces 50 yards per year it will take 70.4 years for them to accomplish this task.

Currently there is a tree down across the trail at the north end - it has been down for more than a week. The heavy rain of Tues and [Tues night](#) has washed out some of the trap rock that was put in place this winter to fix the erosion very close to the north end of the trail. If this was to be a permanent fix, it was poorly engineered.

Currently in the two mile stretch of the red trail, there are approximately 126 railroad ties and 6 significant mud / quagmire areas and 3 less so. The six take more than a week to dry.

Since the county has decided to spend significant amounts of money on Jones Falls to improve the environment for trout, perhaps it can do so for people. Please note that people are both voters and tax payers.

Respectfully,

--

Peter W. Broido, M.D.

[6710 Newstead Lane](#)

[Baltimore, M.D. 21209](#)

tel 443.808-0405

cell [630.440.2101](tel:630.440.2101)

From: Peter Broido [mailto:peterbroido@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, August 17, 2017 12:30 PM
To: County Council District 2 <council2@baltimorecountymd.gov>
Subject: Roland Park

Dear Ms. Almond,

I am writing to you because I believe the Lake Roland Nature Council had done and currently is doing a poor job of managing the park. I believe the management of the trails should be done by the County as the scope of the work now needed is of a greater magnitude than a group of well intentioned volunteers can accomplish. The entire red trail needs to be resurfaced.

I lived in Illinois until 2015 when my wife and I decided to move to the Baltimore Washington area as we have children and grandchildren in both Arlington VA and Baltimore MD.

I was particularly attracted to Baltimore County because of its lovely parks and move here in spite of taxes being significantly lower in Virginia. Since moving here I have watched the trails of Lake Roland Park deteriorate. In the spring of 2016 it was announced that Jones Falls was going to be improved to allow trout to be reestablished. I sent a letter to the Baltimore Sun, pointing out that trout don't vote, people do, and a lot more people use the trails than trout will ever use Jones Falls.

This letter aroused the ire of Jeffrey Budnitz who is both the treasurer of the Lake Roland Nature Council as well as their chief enforcer. Mr. Budnitz called me and asked if I was willing to meet with him. He explained the history of the park, who actually owned the land, the work his group had done to improve the park and the work they were going to do that year, 2016. I pointed out that the small railroad tie bridge at the north end of the red trail had deteriorated to the point that it was dangerous. Mr. Budnitz assured me that was a priority as was the entire path and significant work including repair of the bridge would take place in 2016.

Needless to say, aside from clearing the trails of trees that have periodically blocked the trails, no work was done in 2016 and minimal work has been done to improve the trails until this last month, when the two small bridges at the north end of the Red Trail have been replaced. This is much more than the year since Mr. Budnitz told me that work was to be done to repair the trails.

The biggest issue that I see today is the amount of mud on the trails. I am enclosing a number of photos taken August 11, 2017, several days after a rain. When I first arrived in Baltimore, it seemed to me that the trails drained better than they do today and now the mud remains constant. If you look closely at photo 090927, you will see the "Rube Goldberg" bridge, the only work done until the two bridges previously mentioned were replaced. This bridge is a very poor excuse at fixing a problem. It does not address the issue of grading the trail to improve drainage so that there will be no mud! I would appreciate your comments and ask you if you think this is an acceptable condition and further what your plans or the County's plans are to rectify a deplorable situation? Each of these photos is of a different place on the red trail.

Should you wish, I would be happy to walk the red trail with you.

Sincerely,

--

Peter W. Broido, M.D.
6710 Newstead Lane
Baltimore, M.D. 21209
tel 443.808-0405 cell 630.440.2101

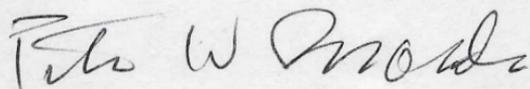
Peter W. Broido, M.D., Eileen H Broido
6710 Newstead La
Baltimore, MD 211209

January 8, 2018

RRLRAIA
P. O. Box 204
Riderwood, MD 21139

Gentlemen:

Your initial handling of the Hollins / Weinberg property was less than stellar. It was so bad that I have serious doubts about your ability. It is with considerable reservation that I am enclosing my dues for this year in the hopes that you understand the necessity to preserve park land and understand that no project should go forward until the underlying infrastructure, sewer and water issues have been remedied.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter W. Broido". The signature is written in a cursive, somewhat stylized script.

-----Original Message-----

From: Esther Epstein [mailto:estherwasser@me.com]

Sent: Saturday, August 25, 2018 9:13 AM

To: Candice Wortham <cwortham@baltimorecountymd.gov>

Cc: besmith01@verizon.net; markdbehrens@aol.com; Peter and Eileen Broido <peterbroido@gmail.com>; Caroline McClure <caroline@scoutrock.com>; chooper@wpmlc.com; bka216@gmail.com; dr.colleen.quinn@gmail.com; watersworks@gmail.com; Jane Isaacson <Jane@rubinicreative.com>; scstupelo@gmail.com; How <hepstein88@aol.com>; pfradkin@gmail.com; Jen And Michael Ruane <jen.ruane@icloud.com>
Subject: Re: Lake Rolandk

Dear Candice,

Thank you for your efforts. The reason for showing you these pictures was to underline the fact that there is little work being done on the trail.

What the thrust of all this is that the gravel and rocks sitting on the shoulder of Falls for a year is an eyesore for the community.

THE ROAD SHOULD NOT BE A DUMPING GROUND AND IT IS NOT APPROPRIATE OR SAFE TO HAVE WEEDS, GRAVEL, ROCKS AND NUMEROUS ORANGE TRASH CANS lining a heavily trafficked and dangerous curve of Falls Road.

It may have been convenient for someone to place it there but it should have been stored somewhere in the park. A public road is not a storage facility.

It is not fair to subject the nearby communities to this. The decision to dump the gravel and rocks and place at least 6 or 7 orange trash cans there, then to leave the mess there for over a year is wrong and my fellow residents are upset about this. Please address this ASAP before the rains and snow come and cause an even worse eyesore.

Esther Epstein

HOA Board Member of Rockland Ridge

Peter W. Broido, M.D.

6710 Newstead La

Baltimore MD 21209

Feb 28, 2019

Gentlemen:

Enclosed are my dues. I regret to say that you do not represent Rockland Ridge and seem not to value our opinions. As you are unfortunately the only game in town, I am stuck using you.

You have not represented our opinions re Blue Stem because of course it is not in your backyard. Were it placed say where Graul Market is, the howl and cry would be deafening.

You have done nothing, zero zilch about improving the trails in Roland Park.

I would also point out that we, Rockland Ridge got the gravel and barriers removed from the north trail head of the Red Trail at Falls Road. Those rocks, pebbles etc have languished there approaching three years.

In short I am incredibly disappointed in how you represent us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Peter W. Broido". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Peter W. Broido, MD

MARYLAND VOICES

YOUR TURN

County must fix Lake Roland's muddy, hazardous Red Trail

I moved to Baltimore six years ago and discovered Lake Roland. As a jogger, I found the old railroad ties a bit of a hindrance and the trails in need of repair. An article was published in *The Sun* about how Jones Falls was undergoing a refurbishment to better allow fish to live in it. I wrote a letter to the editor, which was published, about how fish were being treated better than people. Subsequently I received a phone call from the head of the Lake Roland Nature Council, who explained the history of the park.

The park is actually owned by Baltimore City. It was purchased at a time the city thought it might need another reservoir, which never proved to be the case. At one time train tracks ran through the park, and they have morphed into the Red Trail, the main path through the Park. After the tracks were pulled, the park became a dumping ground for bodies, cars, tires etc. Concerned citizens banded together, petitioned Baltimore County to lease the park and pledged to maintain it. The Nature Council was born.

In my years here, I have watched the Red Trail deteriorate at a time when its usage has increased. On the weekends, the park is packed. Drive by yourself, and see cars parked from the entrance along Falls Road all the way to the intersection of Falls and Old Court roads. We seem to be experiencing more very heavy rains, and the Red Trail cannot handle that. It has turned in places to a morass of mud.

I have complained to Baltimore County Councilman Izzy Patoka and to Baltimore County Executive John A. Olszewski Jr. at a County breakfast several months ago and have also reached out to the Nature Council. In addition to the mud, there is a deep dangerous hole which needs attention.

The condition of this path, in my opinion, requires more than



After heavy rain, Lake Roland's Red Trail becomes a mud pit. **PETER W BROIDO/COURTESY**

a group of volunteers patching it up. I believe it requires an engineer to study the drainage, recommend a solution and then the county to follow through, take ownership of the problem, make the necessary repairs and continue to maintain the park and its trails.

Peter W Broido, Baltimore County

Lake Roland Park trail continues to be neglected

Following a budget release by Baltimore County in which \$45 million was to be spent on parks and recreation, I queried county officials to find out how much was to go to the restoration of the Red Trail in Lake Roland Park. This beautiful trail has significantly deteriorated under the management of the Lake Roland Nature Council which is an ad hoc group of amateurs. To be fair to them, they have put in place a small bridge, replaced a large culvert and removed trees that have fallen and blocked the trail. If I could grade them, I would give them a C+ as they have failed to maintain the integrity of the trail and not remedied large sections of mud nor corrected erosion which is becoming dangerous.

My inquiry elicited an unsigned email which stated that the council had been unable to work on the trail. “For servicing,” the email stated, “the trail is accessed from the Falls Road parking area. On weekends when the trail volunteers typically work, visitors often park in front of and block the access gate for servicing the trail. As such, trail work on the Red Trail by the Lake Roland Nature Council has been put on hold pending the State addressing this issue. The State is working on addressing and controlling parking at the Falls Road entrance.”

This is simply a misstatement, as the council, prior to COVID, had placed bollards in front of this entrance and dumped a pile of pebbles. These were present for approximately two years, long enough for weeds to grow in the pebble patch.

More than a year ago, I sent a letter to The Baltimore Sun that described a dangerous hole that had developed (“Lake Roland hazard: muddy trails. Baltimore County must act,” July 30, 2021). The next day, in response to my letter, two cones were placed in front and behind the hole and the hole, it remains unrepaired. Further degradation due to extremely heavy rains has eroded the culvert, initially completely covered by trail and now more than 50% uncovered.

Baltimore County needs to get involved. The trail is both dangerous and poorly maintained. It needs a professional engineering study and then a resurfacing in places as well as improved drainage so that mud pockets are eliminated.

— Peter W. Broido, Baltimore

READERS RESPOND

Park volunteers need help, not criticism

Why does letter writer Peter W. Broido have to grade the volunteers working on Lake Roland Park (“Lake Roland Park trail continues to be neglected,” Sept. 16)? It’s sufficient to say that these people, giving of their own time, do what they can with the resources they have. Why doesn’t he come out and join in?

— *G.R. Hersperger, Baltimore*

The photo shows the improved condition of the Red Trail after the Lake Roland Nature Council placed 850,000 pounds of restorative trail materials on the trail until maintenance access was interrupted.

