



Division of Parks and Recreation
NC Department of Natural and Cultural Resources

Governor Roy Cooper

Secretary D. Reid Wilson

January 25, 2021

Mr. Rick Trone
Department of Environmental Quality
Division of Water Resources
1617 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1617

Dear Mr. Trone:

The Division of Parks and Recreation, within the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (Department) appreciates this opportunity to present the following comments related to the proposed fence around Raleigh-Durham Airport Authority (RDU) Property. Due to the project's proximity to William B. Umstead State Park, the Department would like to express the following concerns related to the proposed project:

- The fence, as planned, would cut off one of the park's most popular hiking trails, the Reedy Creek Trail, which would permanently degrade the visitor experience;
- By creating a permanent eyesore along the park border and marring the look and "feel" of the park, the proposed fence would greatly harm a fundamental purpose of the park, namely, to provide public access to a natural setting for people to enjoy nature and improve their physical and mental health;
- Because the fence would cross several streams, it would damage stream buffers, wetlands, and water quality downstream in William B. Umstead State Park;
- The proposed fence would block movement of wildlife, effectively trapping animals between airport fences;
- The proposed fence may constitute an adverse effect to the park's status on the Natural Register of Historic Places, which could trigger review and requirements under federal or state law;

- Disturbed ground during fence construction will offer an introduction site for invasive exotic plant species. Continued maintenance along the fence will create a permanent invasive species establishment zone that will introduce invasive species into the park.
- Any new corridor created by the fence will facilitate access to areas not intended as a public entrance into the park. Arrangements should be made to prevent unwanted access, particularly from off road vehicles.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Fullwood". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail on the "d".

John Fullwood

cc: Reid Wilson, Secretary, DNCR
Sheila Holman, Assistant Secretary, DEQ
Paul Wojoski, Permitting Branch Supervisor, DWR