

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Glenview Residents Fight the Killing of Beavers in the Glen

APRIL 9, 2021, GLENVIEW, ILLINOIS: The Concord at the Glen Homeowner's Association Board has decided to trap and kill the beavers living in the development's retention ponds using underwater traps during the week of April 12, 2021. The HOA's property management company, Cagan Management, sent out a misleading notice on April 4, stating that the beavers that have moved into the retention ponds would be trapped and "removed from the grounds." What was not mentioned is that the traps are set underwater, so once a beaver swims into the trap it is stuck there and left to drown. They are removed from the grounds, but they are dead. What's worse is that the beavers' kits have recently been born. If their parents are trapped, they will die of starvation alone in the den.

The beavers are living in the retention ponds located along Lehigh at the edge of the Glen. It is not necessary to trap the beavers in order to remove them from the retention ponds. There are many humane options for deterring beavers from destructive tree chewing, such as planting conifers and evergreens around the ponds, which the beavers do not care for. Other remediation efforts include attaching wire mesh to a tree trunk's base to prevent them from chewing and destroying their dens. If their food source disappears, they will relocate. The beavers are not a threat to the neighborhood's yards as they stick to an area within 100 feet of the water.

In response, Glenview residents have created a public Facebook group, Glenview Residents Against Drowning Beavers in Underwater Traps!, to try to postpone the planned trapping and killing until more humane remediation efforts have been tried. Solutions are being discussed, including providing the Concord at the Glen with free or low-cost replacement trees. Northbrook landscape designer Jackie Barrett of Earthartist Designs is eager to network with area garden centers to acquire donated conifers and evergreens to replant around the retention ponds. "I was very upset when I learned about this HOA's plans to inhumanely trap and kill these beautiful beavers," Barrett said. She continued, "As a community, we need to share the word and pressure the Concord at the Glen to consider other options."

Mrs. Bunty Clements, who was a longtime president of the Canadian group the Association for the Protection of Fur-Bearing Animals, once wrote: "A beaver trapped in an under-water set can take up to twenty minutes to drown. All this time it fights the trap, sometimes breaking its teeth in a desperate effort to escape. Besides, no authority in the world recommends drowning as a method of euthanasia; and aquatic animals do not often drown instantly." There is some debate about whether underwater traps actually drown

the beavers or whether they hold their breath long enough to die from carbon dioxide narcosis. Either way, it is clearly not a humane way to tackle this problem.

Only a couple of hundred years ago, as many as 400 million beavers populated this country. Native American Indians referred to them as “little Indians”, spiritual creatures to be treated with reverence and respect. Then came the trappers, who called the beaver “living gold” and trapped them to the brink of extinction for their luxurious pelts. But today, beavers have found respite all over the state of Illinois, a switch from when they were wiped out by hunters by the early 1900s—and a sign that water quality and habitat possibilities have long been on the upswing. Unfortunately, per Illinois law, beavers that are trapped cannot be relocated.

What’s worse is that trapping and killing the beavers will only be a temporary fix. Once a site becomes suitable for beavers, it is likely that a new family will move in within a year after the previous beaver population is killed. If a development has a beaver habitat, it will have beavers. Which means the Concord at the Glen will likely have to pay a trapper to come back every year and trap and kill another family of beavers.

If the beavers relocate, they will find another suitable habitat and may do damage to that new area. But the new area may be large enough to absorb the damage more effectively. In any event, beavers have as much right to live on the Glen or anywhere else in Glenview as we do. Humans need to try to get along with the wild animals that choose to live in their neighborhoods. “This is a perfect opportunity for Glenview residents to take their kids for a walk and show them a beaver family out in nature,” says Glenview resident Rachel Schick Siegel. “It builds on the lessons we teach our kids when we take them to the Grove or to River Trails Nature Center to visit the animals.”

If you think the Concord at the Glen should try humane deterrents before immediately killing these poor beavers, please contact Kathleen Markland, HOA Manager at Cagan Management Group, at (847) 324-8942 and HOA board members Mark Cotton, Howard Herman, Dio Vega, Pamela Ruos, and Patrick Evans.

For more information about the beavers at risk on the Glen, please visit Facebook group Glenview Residents Against Drowning Beavers in Underwater Traps! or call Kara Busiel at (847) 651-0506.