

# Protect Remington Woods: Make Your Voice Heard on Latest Zoning Plan for Bridgeport

<https://zonebridgeport.com/>

The Bridgeport Planning Department has released proposed Zoning Maps that rezone Remington Woods as residential office center (RX2) and industrial use (I) space (from current industrial use). We want Remington Woods zoned as a Park! Make your voice heard!

Send an email to [zoning@bridgeportct.gov](mailto:zoning@bridgeportct.gov) & CC [Dennis.Buckley@bridgeportct.gov](mailto:Dennis.Buckley@bridgeportct.gov)

Sample message:

Subject: Public Hearing Written Comments

My name is (your name), I am a Bridgeport resident. I want Remington Woods to be protected and preserved as a park and open space for the community. This is the commitment that was made in PlanBridgeport. Please revise the proposed zoning maps to zone the entirety of Remington Woods as a Park (P1 Parks and Open Space). Thank you for your attention to this important matter. Sincerely, (your name).

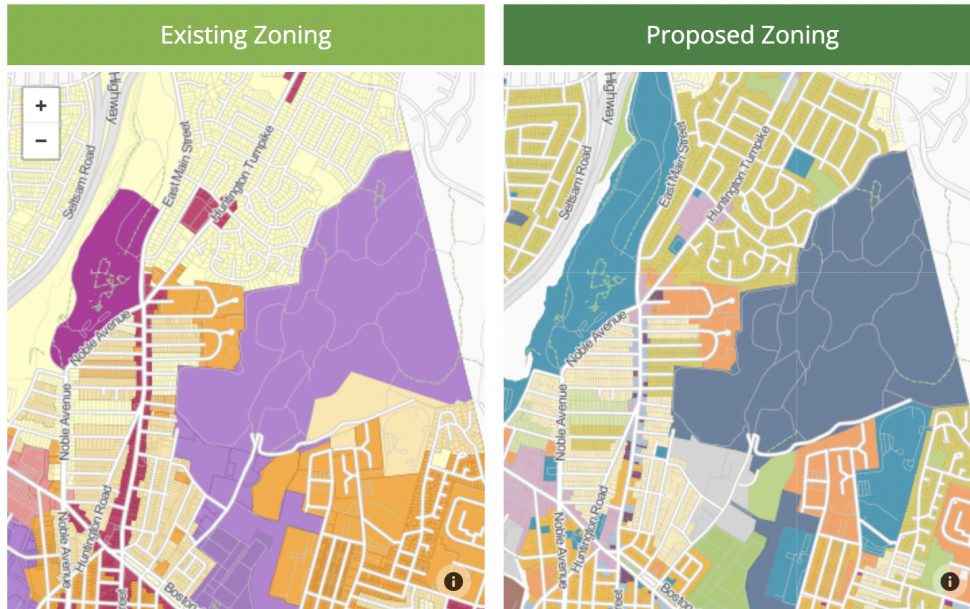
A public hearing is being rescheduled to hear from you in person as well. We will keep you posted on the details.

## **Talking Point #1: Proposed Zoning is inconsistent with PlanBridgeport**

The Bridgeport Government made a commitment to the Bridgeport Community. PlanBridgeport, adopted in 2019, committed to “Work in partnership with the owner of Remington would/Lake success property, together with interested preservation groups such as the trust for public land, to advance the environmental cleanup and reuse of this site in ways that may advance the preservation of and public access to, the urban forest in this area.” ([PlanBridgeport Implementation Plan](#))

The planning office is taking comments on the proposed zoning map (this section of the map shows Remington Woods in purple (existing map) and in blue and gray

(proposed zoning).



### **Talking Point # 2: Bridgeport Community Health | Forests Affect Local Health**

Bridgeport has some of the dirtiest air in the nation, with very high rates of health disparities (like asthma) -- which makes the residents of Bridgeport highly susceptible to health crises like COVID-19. Preserving Remington Woods is important to air quality in Bridgeport.

Bridgeport has air pollution problems and a high rate of asthma. The rates of asthma are higher than in the general population. One study found that Bridgeport had the second highest rate in the state of hospitalizations for asthma ([CT Asthma Burden Report](#)).

A study performed by the Connecticut Department of Public Health found that between 2010 and 2014, people who lived in the areas around Remington Woods had significantly lower rates of emergency room visits and hospitalization for asthma compared to those who live near Bridgeport harbor where there are multiple energy and waste plants located. Living near forests can have a measurably beneficial impact on those who live in unhealthy air communities and/or have asthma already ([Asthma Surveillance GIS](#)).

**Talking Point #3: Remington Woods Cools Bridgeport**

Trees help reduce urban temperatures, On a heating planet, trees can keep local temperatures lower. Avoiding extreme heat is critical to human health and can help reduce the need for air conditioning thereby saving residents utility costs.

**Talking Point #4: Remington Woods Mitigates Flood Risk**

The forest and wetlands can absorb flood waters following increasingly common heavy precipitation events, and can ease drought conditions.

**Talking Point #5: Economic Benefits of Forest and Open Space**

While the development of the Woods has been touted as an economic gain for the area, the only profit will be to the owners. The community will gain no benefit and potentially will pay the cost for over-development. There would need to be infrastructure: roads built, electricity, sewage, water pipes, communication lines, heating, etc. All this would have to be paid for, and maintained by the city of Bridgeport. Numerous tax breaks to entice businesses to CT have failed to provide financial stability, and with the state government in arrears and businesses fleeing, now seems like a bad time to continue on the same path to bankruptcy. The natural beauty of the state is a valuable resource; CT makes billions in tourism and some of that money should flow into Bridgeport.

**Talking Point #6: Climate Benefits of Woods and Wetlands**

Deforestation is related to worsening climate change. Trees capture and sequester carbon. Maintaining forests is an important strategy to avoid the worst impacts of climate change.

**Talking Point #8: Fairfield County lacks forests**

Remington Woods is a 422 acre forest in one of the most densely populated urban centers in the Northeast. Encompassing a 23 acre lake, wetlands, forest and meadows, it is home to at least 70 species of birds, also mammals, fish, amphibians and reptiles. It is a living community of plants and animals. Fairfield County has the least amount of forests in the state. New forests are not being planted, so any forest destroyed is a tragic loss. Saving this forest community would be a great asset to Fairfield county.

## THE ASK:

We are asking the Bridgeport government and the P&Z committee to maintain consistency with PlanBridgeport and zone all of Remington Woods as a Park (P-1 Parks and Open Space).

Send your comments to [Zoning@bridgeportct.gov](mailto:Zoning@bridgeportct.gov).