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[Original 2015 Petition to Ferguson Township Supervisors \(Closed in 2016\)](#)

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Petition update

Update



Nittany Valley Environmental Coalition

State College, PA

Sep 14, 2016 — The Centre Region Parks & Recreation Authority (Parks Authority) is currently wrestling with the implications of a recent Centre County court ruling in a land use appeal filed by Nittany Valley Water Coalition to stop construction of student housing near Whitehall Road and Blue Course Drive in Ferguson Township. The July 18 ruling by Common Pleas Judge Jonathan Grine reversed and vacated a Nov. 16, 2015 decision by the Ferguson supervisors to approve a Toll Brothers/Penn State development plan.

In his ruling, Grine wrote: “the basis upon which [Ferguson Township] and [Toll Brothers] rest their argument is essentially an attempted end-run around complying with the zoning ordinance applicable to the Rural Agricultural District,” whose intent is defined in Township ordinances as “preserving the quality of soils for crop and pasture use by limiting the conversion of prime cropland to nonagricultural uses.” The Grine ruling has been appealed to Commonwealth Court.

The ruling has also reopened a dormant debate about how to balance water and farmland resource protection interests against housing and park development interests, because the Whitehall Road Regional Park Master Plan, originally adopted in 2010, was predicated in part on the housing developer installing an access road from Whitehall Road to the landlocked park site.

Please read:

<https://steadystatecollege.wordpress.com/2016/09/09/bailiwick-news-september-9-2016/>

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