August 26, 2026

Cicero Town Council
Town of Cicero
P.O. Box 650
Cicero, Indiana 46034

Re: Tamarack Pond 4, Proposed Privacy Fence, and Sacred Heart's Bioswale

Dear Members of the Cicero Town Council:

I am writing to share my thoughts on the issues brought up by a Tamarack HOA Board member during the Town Council meeting on August 18.

I love the Town of Cicero. When I moved back to town in 2022, I was grateful for the chance to build a home in Tamarack. Having grown up in Cicero, I am thankful to the members of our Town Council and Planning Commission for making good decisions, facilitating healthy growth, and protecting the small-town feel we know and love.

Tamarack is a great neighborhood in a great town, and I care about our relationship with the Town of Cicero and surrounding neighborhoods.

During the August 18 Town Council meeting, a Tamarack HOA Board member vocalized frustration with the Town over a violation notice sent to the Tamarack HOA for weeds. That Board member suggested the HOA was going to put up a privacy fence between Tamarack and Morse Landing as a solution, then questioned the landscaping near Sacred Heart Catholic Church as a way of defending the tall weeds around Pond 4.

I support our landscaping committee's efforts and understand the frustration. However, I do not feel our neighborhood was represented well at that meeting, and I would like to share some additional perspective.

Support for Tamarack's Pond 4 Restoration Efforts:

Tamarack's landscaping committee has put a lot of thought and planning into solving the erosion problem around Pond 4. These volunteers are working hard to protect an important neighborhood asset, and I support their efforts to find a solution. As I understand it, the HOA intentionally stopped mowing around Pond 4 to allow grass and vegetation to take root and hopefully slow the erosion.

That said, it appears that not everyone around the pond was consulted. The best plan needs to address erosion *while* also considering feedback from neighbors who live on

both sides of the pond. There has been a lot of “trial and error” so far, and we should be open to all options. Perhaps the Town could offer some advice or recommend a contact who may be able to help us keep things looking nice while slowing the erosion.

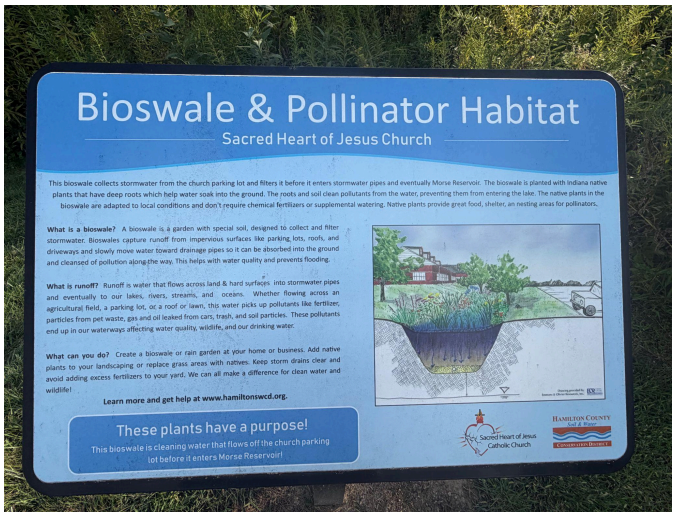
I know it’s not the Town’s job to solve this problem, though I’m sure any professional guidance would be appreciated.

Sacred Heart’s Bioswale:

During the meeting, questions were raised about why wildflowers near Sacred Heart are allowed, while Tamarack received a violation for the weeds around Pond 4.

I visited Sacred Heart after the meeting, and there is a sign in the church parking lot that explains: “This bioswale collects stormwater from the church parking lot and filters it before it enters stormwater pipes and eventually Morse Reservoir.”

This appears to be an intentionally planted habitat that helps to filter stormwater runoff, not simply an unmaintained area. Cicero also uses bioswales at Red Bridge Park for the same purpose.



Sacred Heart’s bioswale helps filter pollution before it reaches Morse Reservoir, and that clean water benefits the whole town, not just the church.

Cicero Code Section 93.07 defines weeds in part as “any plant that is not valued where it is growing.” These plants at Sacred Heart are clearly valued for the public benefit they provide. They should not be viewed as ordinary vegetation, and I don’t think Sacred Heart should get a violation notice for the plants that allow the bioswale to do its job.

Cicero’s Ordinances:

Our neighbors in Morse Landing were not the only ones bothered by the tall weeds. After the council meeting, I went to look at the area myself, and it looked pretty bad. I talked to multiple Tamarack homeowners around the pond, and many of them were *very happy* when Cicero asked the Tamarack HOA to take care of the weeds.

Even though the HOA owns the pond property, people in both neighborhoods have good reason to care how it looks. I do not think Cicero needs to change the definition of "weeds" in Section 93.07 to accommodate this individual issue.

I support the Town using the same rules for everyone, while allowing Tamarack to work toward an erosion solution that works well and looks nice. This erosion problem won't be solved overnight, so I hope Tamarack and our neighbors in Morse Landing can work together toward a friendly resolution.

Concerns About a Privacy Fence Between Tamarack and Morse Landing:

The talk of a privacy fence is what concerned me most. I moved into Tamarack *because* it's in Cicero. We should be good neighbors to Morse Landing. I don't think putting a dividing fence between two neighborhoods is the right response to this violation notice.

In addition, a fence would not fix the weeds. It would change who can see them, but Tamarack residents would have every right to contact the Town if the HOA doesn't maintain the common area to the visual standards required by Cicero (and by Tamarack's own Covenants).

Because a fence affects their view, all neighbors around the pond should be consulted before the HOA decides to build one. This should also be discussed with Tamarack homeowners. Personally, I do not want my HOA dues being spent on this fence.

I know most of this is an HOA matter and is not under Cicero's control. I am sharing my thoughts because it matters to me that Tamarack has good relationships with our neighbors, local churches, and Town leaders. I believe that through friendly communication with the Town and surrounding neighborhoods, we can resolve issues in a neighborly way that embodies the welcoming spirit of the town we choose to live in.

Thank you for handling this issue with respect at the August 18 meeting, and thank you for being patient with Tamarack as we work through a few "new neighborhood" challenges.

I appreciate your time and service to our community.

Sincerely,

Stephen Warner
527 Tamarack Larch Blvd