

August 15, 2019 Update on Apple Ridge:

The Borough of Upper Saddle River issued stop work orders for two Toll Brothers projects on July 23, 2019. The affected projects were The Preserve (former Apple Ridge Golf Course) and The Grove (one Lake Street). The primary basis for these actions was the repeated malfunctioning of the storm drainage system on The Preserve project and a concern with recently installed utility trenches on the Grove project. The Township of Mahwah, at the Borough's request, also issued a stop work order for the portion of the former Apple Ridge Golf Course project within Mahwah.

Since the issuance of the stop work order additional soil stabilization measures have been instituted. The Borough has coordinated with multiple regulatory agencies from the county and state and new protocols have been added to reduce the potential for future problems at these sites.

The Borough also contacted representatives from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) to discuss specific concerns associated with discolored water exiting the former Apple Ridge Golf Course property following major rainstorms. While the Borough has been informed there is no health concern, it is a continuing aesthetic issue. The Borough met with multiple county and state representatives on August 2, 2019 who then conducted site inspections on August 2nd and 13th, 2019. Representatives included NJDEP Enforcement, Fish & Wildlife and the USDA State Soil Conservation Engineer. These representatives toured the Apple Ridge property, as well as a number of the downstream ponds within the Borough. A formal report is forthcoming but there were no identified violations.

The Borough and its professionals have determined limited construction activities may resume at the One Lake Street project, effective August 16, 2019. The permitted work will generally consist of the regrading of previously disturbed areas, utility installation and stabilization of the disturbed site prior to the onset of winter. Further restrictions on the permitted work will go into effect on October 15, 2019. At that time, the permitted work will generally be limited to utility installations. This work will involve less site disturbance during the winter months.

The Borough is continuing to monitor the conditions at the former Apple Ridge Golf Course project and will provide similar notice prior to rescinding the stop work order affecting that project.

Representative from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) have again assured the Borough the discolored water which exited this site, at no point during the two-year tenure of this project, ever constituted a health concern for the residents of this community. Despite these assurances, the Mayor and Council of Upper Saddle River continue to conduct voluntary testing of the affected streams within the Borough. Test results of 90 samples have been posted on the Borough's website.

While the NJDEP has indicated that surface water standards are significantly different than drinking water standards, all 88 samples secured are within NJ drinking water standards and the remaining 2 are within federal drinking standards and were taken during heavy storm events. The average results are well below NJ drinking water standards. This testing was again recently performed and the results will be posted.

The Borough remains fully committed to ensuring the health and safety of its residents are protected at all times.