

Sent via email to the Village of Cross Plains

To: The Village of Cross Plains Plan Commission

From: The Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited (SWTU)

Date: July 7, 2025

Regarding: Proposed Development on the Plastic Ingenuity Property

The Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited (SWTU) has grave concerns regarding the proposed development of the Plastic Ingenuity Property. That property with its steep, wooded hillsides is a vital groundwater recharge area for the Festge Spring and Black Earth Creek.

The Festge Spring is vitally important to Black Earth Creek. It transforms the creek into an excellent trout stream. If the Spring is compromised or degraded or its capacity diminished, the creek will suffer. A functioning and intact recharge area is extremely important to the health of the Spring and stream.

SWTU deeply appreciates the Village's care of Black Earth Creek over the years. We have assisted in some of those activities. We respectfully request that the Village continue its stewardship in its evaluation and decisions regarding the proposed development of the Plastic Ingenuity property.

Specifically, we ask that the Plan Commission not recommend nor the Village Board approve any development of that site unless and until they have received explicit, professional, expert judgments that the development will not impair the Spring and Black Earth Creek.

Seeking such expertise will probably take some time and funds. We believe the extraordinary value of the Festge Spring and Black Earth Creek as natural resources and the importance of the creek to the residents of the Village justify that effort. The developer should be responsible for funding some or all of the analysis.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and for your care and protection of Black Earth Creek.

Topf Wells, President
SWTU