

## Non-material benefits of natural ecosystems

### Natural environments provide for non-material necessities.

These include recreation, tranquility, aesthetics, and inspiration—essential “ecosystem services” in addition to measurable benefits (food, water, biochemical, genetic resources, climate regulation, water purification, pollination, nutrient cycling, primary production etc.). In an article decrying the potential loss of the Woods, the student newspaper, the [Diamondback](#) (June 17, 2021) wrote: “Lucie said she goes there (to the Woods) when she’s stressed; the gurgling sound of the running water and the rustling leaves provide a sense of peace.” Research confirms that spending time in nature boosts [psychological health and well-being](#) and even has an impact on [physical health](#).

### The developers say they will replace the footpath access to the Woods and the Serenity Bridge.

They mention a paved and lighted footpath, presumably like a pedestrian plaza—consistent with their other outdated thinking that aims to “tame” the natural environment.

