

When a neighboring apartment development encroached on Beerman Fen, we stepped in immediately to hold them accountable.

As a supporter of our organization, you know that our commitment to the land doesn't end when a property is protected. It requires constant vigilance. Recently, that was put to the test when a 200-unit apartment complex development next to Valle View South (owned by the City of Fairborn with a conservation easement held by B-W Greenway) and Beerman Fen (Owned by Beaver Creek Wetlands Association) encroached onto one of our properties.

During a recent site visit, it was discovered that the contractor brought their heavy equipment onto our access lane at Beerman Fen. This resulted in damage to an area that we restored just two years ago as the result of an earlier encroachment violation.

We moved quickly to address the violation. With the help of Austin Miller and Patrick Higgins, two of BCWA's Trustees, we documented the issues pertaining to the encroachment. I called our legal counsel to ensure we took the proper steps and then called the developer. I informed him of the violations made by his contractor and then emailed him the pictures documenting the damage. We met with the contractor and the developer to show them the damage and are currently working directly with them to rectify the situation.

- **Enforcing Boundaries:** The contractor has remarked the property boundaries
- **Developer-Funded Restoration:** We have gotten a quote for the restoration work and have forwarded that to the developer. The developer is financially responsible for restoring the damage.
- **Rigorous Oversight:** We will directly oversee all restoration work on-site.

This incident highlights why land stewardship is so critical. As residential development expands across our region, the pressure on our protected borders increases. And we are working on ways to ensure this does not happen in the future.

Because of your continued generosity, we will confront these challenges head-on. Thank you for standing with us on the front lines of defense.

If you have any questions, please reach out to me at jmayer@beavercreekwetlands.org.

Jacki Mayer
Executive Director