

Michael Peterson, Lebanon, NH.

Ever since Hurricane Irene wiped out the dog park in Hartford, a substantial number of dog owners have visited Kilowatt Park in Wilder on a regular basis. I drive in from Lebanon at least once a day and often twice. Since we have begun walking the length of the park, both litter and drug dealing there have declined markedly. It is reasonable to say that the dog walkers have greatly increased use of this excellent facility, and I'm sure that people like myself who come in from neighboring communities have been an economic benefit to merchants in the area.

I highly support any proposal to contribute to the maintenance and improvement of this facility and hope that it can retain its natural beauty under the combined management of the town and the hydro company.

I would add that, in addition to the fields, picnic areas and pathways, the atmosphere in Kilo includes significant wildlife, in the form of plant and animal life.

Proposed regulation of water levels is critical both to waterfowl nesting and prevention of bank erosion, while careful maintenance of trees along the power line matters and should be carefully planned and properly undertaken. This has not always been the case and needs particular attention.

I am particularly interested in making certain that the town residents are not burdened with a substantial amount of this cost, given both the stature of the local economy and the benefits to the hydro company of the overall facility. Kilowatt Park is an important regional benefit to the Upper Valley, as is the production of clean hydro power.

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