

Duke Lake/Ryerson Park

May 16,2016

Dear old friends of Duke lake,

This letter is written from the perspective of Duke Lake and Ryerson Park. Well its been almost 11 years since the old and young came to my waters to wade catching crayfish and fish from my banks. It's been a very long 11 years , I lay in wait to see what is to come of me. Will I be rebuilt ? While I waited,I have seen many who come and go sharing their memories of me. You see the thing is, those that came and fished my waters were old friends so when i was quietly drained in 2005 many of their hearts were broken and sad. I miss the pitter patter of little feet in my shallows and the laughter. I also miss the boats that floated in my waters waiting to catch the big one who always got away. Then one day they started coming . A new generation of my old friends that visited me when I was more. I began to see them doing activities such as, snake hunts,bug hunts and archery. We have a bunch of straight shooters. Then they began to talk about rebuilding or fixing me. They even came with big machines and dug out my dirt and hauled it away. I remember thinking this is it something is gonna happen but my foundation was not stable so I had more waiting to do . You see not all is lost. There will come a day when construction will begin and changes will happen. Don't be sad, I'm excited for that day. Change is always difficult but I want to be revived into a beautiful place that new generations come and play. I am hearing all the exciting ideas that all of you old and new have come up with. I may not be your Duke Lake

again but I will be the Ryerson Park you've dreamed of . So be patient and wait, the best is yet to come. So please take part in all the planning and get ready . I am not lost Just improved.

Your old friend,

Duke Lake

This park is and always will be my old friend. I spent most of my youth at the park. With that said I will always have those memories , now the new generations can and will make all those memories just a little different. The day the lake was drawn down we wrote a letter similar to this but the difference is we were hoping for a lake to be rebuilt. Today almost 11 years later I am excited to see what my old friend becomes. So Keep up the faith that we will one day see that beautiful park that we dreamed of and we make our old friend Duke Lake proud.

An old friend,

Brandy Tuttle