

# Lake access barred after trap found

**An animal trap, set illegally in the Greystone subdivision, was safely removed. The neighborhood association has sent letters warning families about other possible traps.**

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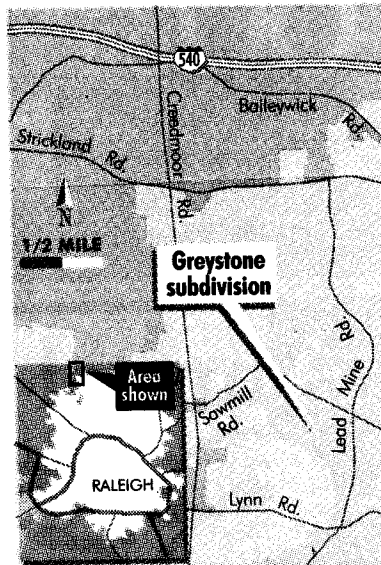
**RALEIGH** — Some bodies of water in the Greystone subdivision off Lead Mine Road were recently declared off-limits to residents after an illegally set steel trap was uncovered.

No one was injured by the underwater, cocked, spring-loaded device — apparently intended to trap some of the many beavers in the area.

The trap was removed earlier this month. Plans are to drain the beaver-created pond in which it was found to see if there are others.

Because it's unknown who set the trap or how many may have been set, the Greystone Association Board of Directors has sent warning letters to the neighborhood's 820 families.

"Our main concern was to let the community know there was a potential that there are more traps," said Paul



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## TRAPS

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Woolverton, president of the homeowners' association.

The one that was found was in a creek feeding into Baker's Lake. Residents have been instructed to keep themselves, children and pets away from that site, Winchester Lake and their streams and creeks.

Though beavers and their dams have existed in these areas since construction on Greystone began, they have become particularly trou-

blesome in the past year.

"Personally, I think it's kind of neat to live around an area where there's a beaver dam and pond," Woolverton said. "But it's a nuisance, because they chew down too many trees."

He said dams created by beavers have also caused water to back up and flood private property.

Board members decided last summer to try to deter the beavers rather than trap and kill them. That meant taking such measures as putting wire fencing around hundreds of trees, protecting drains with caging, tearing up dams and insert-

ing PVC pipe through dams to keep water flowing and to prevent ponds from forming.

Property manager Brian Wessler of Charleston Management estimated the cost of dealing with the beavers thus far at \$5,000. It will probably take another \$1,000 to tear out the dam and to drain the pond where the trap was discovered.

A few homeowners asked the board in May for permission to set traps on common areas of the property, such as the lakes and streams. Permission was denied.

"The problem is, even if you kill

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them, other beavers will come along," said Ellen Kinsinger, vice president of the homeowners' association.

She added that there are many Greystone residents who don't mind the beavers. In fact, they appreciate the surrounding wildlife despite the problems that can come with it.

"For some homeowners to take it upon themselves to kill beavers that belong to all of us is what bothers a lot of homeowners," Kinsinger said.

But there is nothing that keeps homeowners from trapping destructive beavers on their own land.

"Basically what the law [states]

is that landowners who have property that has been damaged or destroyed by beavers may trap beavers or shoot beavers on their property without ... a permit," said Lt. Michael Bogdanowicz, a state wildlife enforcement officer.

"If [traps are] set by some other person that doesn't have the land owners' permission, then they would be illegal," he added.

No one has admitted to setting the trap in Greystone. Work crews will use a backhoe to search for additional traps.

The long-term plan, Wessler said,

is "just to coexist" with the animals.

"The association is well aware [it] could trap and kill the beavers at much less cost," he said.

Coexisting will mean dealing with the effects of beaver dams on half a dozen streams feeding into three lakes on the property. Wessler said it will be a never-ending process.

Bogdanowicz agreed.

"Beavers are pretty hard workers," he said. "If they're around, it's a constant battle."

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