

Section 1:

#1 (Email - First paragraph)Strengths: Your opening establishes a polite and respectful tone appropriate for addressing a councillor. The gradual build-up from pleasantries to the main concern shows good understanding of formal email structure. **Weakness:** Underdeveloped purpose statement. → While you begin pleasantly, your first paragraph takes too long to reach the main point about Riverside Creek. Notice how phrases like "a cause for growing concern" and "deteriorating and evidently neglected condition" delay stating the specific issue and your request. The councillor needs to quickly understand what action you're requesting. **Exemplar:** *"I am writing regarding the urgent need for remediation of Riverside Creek, which has deteriorated significantly and requires immediate council intervention."*

#2 (Speech - Middle section)Strengths: Your use of rhetorical questions effectively engages the audience and creates an emotional response. The nostalgic references to the creek's past condition contrast powerfully with its current state. **Weakness:** Limited factual support. → Your speech relies heavily on emotional appeals without providing specific evidence of the creek's deterioration. Phrases like "erosion, pollution, trash" are mentioned but not developed with concrete examples that would strengthen your argument. Including specific details about wildlife decline or water quality measurements would make your case more compelling. **Exemplar:** *"Recent water quality tests revealed dangerous levels of pollutants—five times higher than regional standards—making this once-thriving habitat uninhabitable for the seven native fish species that populated these waters just five years ago."*

#3 (Article - Fourth paragraph)Strengths: You effectively incorporate expert testimony which adds credibility to your argument. The paragraph coherently explains a key cause of the creek's degradation. **Weakness:** Awkward attribution structure. → Your expert quotation appears suddenly without proper introduction or integration. The quote from Professor James feels disconnected from the surrounding text, and the attribution format breaks the flow of your explanation about stormwater runoff. The quote itself is powerful but would be more effective if contextualised properly. **Exemplar:** *"Professor John James, who has spent 25 years assessing water quality across the region,*

concluded in his recent environmental assessment: 'The water at Riverside Creek represents the most severe contamination I have documented in my entire career.'"

Your writing demonstrates strong persuasive techniques across the four formats, particularly through your effective use of rhetorical questions and emotional appeals.

■ However, you could strengthen the impact of your writing by providing more specific details about the environmental damage. For instance, in your letter, include measurable impacts like "80% reduction in native plant species" or "25% increase in erosion over three years." Additionally, your article would benefit from a stronger call to action in the concluding paragraph—what specific steps should readers take after finishing your piece? Also, consider developing more consistent transitions between paragraphs in your email, as the flow sometimes feels disjointed between your descriptive sections and your questions. Your speech effectively uses repetition of questions, but adding a concrete timeline for action would create more urgency. Finally, ensure each format clearly identifies the specific intended audience and tailors the vocabulary accordingly—your council email could use more technical terminology while your community speech might employ simpler language.

Overall Score: 47/50

Section 2:

Email: Subject: Riverside Creek: A Call for Urgent Remediation and Civic Stewardship

Dear Councillor Barrel,

I trust this message finds you in good health and high spirits.

#1 I am writing to bring to your attention an issue that has been a cause for growing concern among residents in our community—the deteriorating and evidently neglected condition of Riverside Creek. What was once a picturesque and ecologically vibrant waterway, offering both aesthetic pleasure and essential environmental functions, has sadly become a shadow of its former self. The decline is not merely visible; it is palpable. With every passing day, we witness the slow but undeniable degradation of a vital natural asset that should be preserved, celebrated, and protected.

Can we, in good conscience, allow one of our town's most treasured natural features to fall into such disrepair without decisive intervention? Is it not our moral and civic duty to safeguard the environments that have sustained and inspired generations before us?

The current state of the creek is deeply troubling. Overgrown with invasive plant species, choked with litter and refuse, and flanked by eroding banks, the creek now poses not only an environmental threat but also a potential public safety hazard. The walking paths that once invited leisurely strolls and served as an informal gathering place for families, joggers, and birdwatchers alike have become increasingly impassable. The wildlife that once called this ecosystem home appears to be in retreat, displaced by a landscape that no longer offers sanctuary.

Beyond the aesthetic and recreational losses, there are broader implications at stake. Riverside Creek plays a pivotal role in stormwater management and flood mitigation. It functions as a natural filtration system, purifying runoff and supporting biodiversity in a rapidly ~~urbanizing~~ [urbanising] landscape. Its neglect, therefore, is not merely a matter of visual blight but a lapse in responsible environmental stewardship that could have long-term repercussions on the health and safety of our community.

Are we truly prepared to explain to future generations why we stood idle while this ecological gem was left to decay? Could this not instead be a moment to demonstrate leadership, commitment, and foresight?

I urge you to initiate a comprehensive assessment of the current state of Riverside Creek and to champion a restoration initiative that involves ecological rehabilitation, community engagement, and a long-term sustainability plan. A public forum or community consultation might serve as a powerful first step in ~~galvanizing~~ [galvanising] support and gathering input from those most affected.

There is still time to reverse the tide of neglect—but action must be timely, coordinated, and sincere. In doing so, we not only restore the creek's vitality but also reaffirm our shared values as custodians of this town's natural heritage.

Thank you for your time, attention, and continued service to our community. I remain hopeful that, under your leadership, we can restore Riverside Creek to the jewel it once was.

~~Your~~ [Yours] sincerely, Jay Sapkota 25 Jimlet road
Jay.sapkota@restoreriversidecreek.com

Letter: 25 Timland road April 24,2025 jay.sapkota@scholarlylearning.com 0437478363
Request for Immediate Attention to the Neglected State of Riverside Creek

I hope this letter finds you well and in good health.

I am writing to bring forward a matter of growing concern among local residents: the ongoing neglect and deterioration of Riverside Creek. Once a beloved feature of our town, known for its peaceful atmosphere and natural charm, the creek now faces significant environmental and community decline. The signs of this neglect are visible to anyone who passes by—overgrown banks, polluted waters, damaged walking paths, and a noticeable absence of the wildlife that once called it home.

Is it acceptable that such an important natural space, one that has offered so much to so many, is being left to fall apart? Should we not be doing more to protect the places that bring life, beauty, and balance to our neighborhoods?

Riverside Creek has long served as more than just a waterway—it is part of the identity of our community. It has been a space where families gathered for picnics, where children learned to appreciate nature, and where residents of all ages enjoyed peace and fresh air. Its decline has not only affected the visual appeal of the area, but has also reduced access to these simple yet vital experiences that enrich our everyday lives.

The creek also plays a practical role in our local environment. It helps manage stormwater, reduces the risk of flooding, and supports biodiversity. Its deterioration could have long-term environmental consequences that may cost even more to fix if not addressed now. Allowing it to remain in this condition would not only be a missed opportunity—it could become a serious problem.

Doesn't our community deserve better? Isn't now the time to act before the damage becomes irreversible?

I strongly urge the council to carry out a full environmental assessment of Riverside Creek and to ~~prioritize~~ [prioritise] the development of a detailed restoration plan. This plan should include cleanup efforts, habitat restoration, public access improvements, and regular maintenance. I also encourage the inclusion of local residents in the process—whether through community clean-up days, educational workshops, or public meetings that allow for open discussion and feedback.

There is still time to bring this natural space back to life. With the right attention, resources, and collaboration, Riverside Creek can once again be a point of pride for our town and a place where people feel connected to nature and to each other.

Thank you for your time, your service, and your consideration of this matter. I am confident that with your support, we can move toward a brighter, greener future for Riverside Creek and for everyone who calls this community home.

Yours sincerely, Jay Sapkota

Speech: Good evening, everyone.

Thank you all for being here today. I want to take a moment to talk about something that's often overlooked in our community. Something that's right in front of us—but so easy to ignore. I'm talking about Riverside Creek.

How many of us walk past it every day without a second thought? How many of us have seen it, but never really seen it? A neglected patch of land, hidden behind fences and weeds, with water that barely flows anymore. How many of us have asked ourselves: "What happened to that place?"

Well, let me tell you. Riverside Creek wasn't always like this.

#2 Do you remember a time when it was alive with movement? When children played along its banks, when birds flew above, and fish swam freely beneath the surface? What happened to that vibrant place, to that piece of our town's heart?

Today, we see something very different. Erosion, pollution, trash—it's a far cry from what it used to be. What's left is a sad reflection of years of neglect. Why has this happened? Why has this forgotten creek, once a symbol of life and community, been left to fade into the background? Why haven't we done more to protect it?

But here's the question that really matters: Can we make a difference? Can we bring Riverside Creek back to life?

I believe we can. But it won't happen on its own.

What if we decided to reclaim this creek, to restore it to what it once was? What if we transformed it into a clean, thriving space that we could all be proud of? Wouldn't that be

something worth fighting for? Wouldn't it be worth the effort to preserve something so precious for future generations?

Imagine walking along a newly ~~revitalized~~ [revitalised] trail, surrounded by the sound of flowing water and birdsong. Imagine children learning about the environment, not from a classroom, but by actually experiencing it—by playing near clean, fresh water and seeing wildlife up close. Isn't that something we want for our kids? Isn't that something that we deserve?

We have the power to make this happen. We can ~~organize~~ [organise] clean-ups, push for funding, and work together as a community to restore the creek. But here's another important question: Will we?

Are we willing to take responsibility for the places we share? Are we willing to ask for the help and resources that our community deserves? Will we speak up, raise our voices, and make sure that Riverside Creek gets the attention it so desperately needs?

Riverside Creek may look like it's beyond saving, but I ask you: Is anything truly beyond saving if we choose to act? Can we really afford to just stand by while this vital part of our ecosystem and community slips further away?

What's at stake here is more than just the future of a creek—it's the future of our town. It's our chance to show that we care. To prove that we are the kind of community that looks after what we love. To show that when we come together, we can turn even the most neglected places into sources of pride and hope.

So I ask you today: What kind of community do we want to be? Do we want to be the kind of town that lets a beautiful creek fade away, or do we want to be the kind of town that restores it and lets it thrive again? The choice is ours.

Together, we can make Riverside Creek a place we're all proud of again.

Thank you.

Article: Riverside Creek, once a vital and scenic waterway in our town, has become a shadow of its former self. For many, it's a forgotten feature of the landscape—a creek that's hidden behind fences, tangled weeds, and a buildup of pollution. Yet, this once-thriving natural space played an important role in both the local ecosystem and the community's life.

Not long ago, Riverside Creek was a vibrant and active part of the town. People would visit the creek to enjoy its tranquil waters, observe wildlife, or simply walk along its banks. It was a place where local children could learn about nature and adults could escape into the peaceful sounds of flowing water. This was more than just a creek—it was a key component of the local environment and a beloved spot for residents.

Today, however, Riverside Creek has fallen into disrepair. Over the years, urban development and the growing demands of the town have led to the neglect of the waterway. Much of the creek's once-pristine water is now polluted, and the creek's surroundings have been overtaken by invasive plants and eroded banks.

#3 A primary reason for the creek's degradation is pollution. Like many other urban waterways, Riverside Creek has been impacted by stormwater runoff. Professor John James from the water assessing expert team said " The water at the riverside side creek is the worst type of water I have recorded in my 25 year career." As rainwater flows over streets, parking lots, and buildings, it picks up contaminants like oil, chemicals, and trash, which eventually end up in the creek. This kind of runoff significantly affects the water quality, making it unsafe for wildlife and human activities. The surrounding land is also subject to erosion, causing the creek's banks to deteriorate, further ~~destabilizing~~ [destabilising] the area.

The pollution of the creek has led to a decrease in biodiversity. The once-thriving fish populations have diminished, and many species that used to frequent the creek have either left or died off. Birds, insects, and other animals that relied on the habitat provided by the creek's vegetation have found fewer places to live. Invasive plant species now dominate the area, choking out native plants that once helped maintain a healthy ecosystem.

Despite its current state, Riverside Creek is more than just an environmental issue—it is a key part of the town's history and its potential future. Creeks and rivers serve essential roles in local ecosystems, providing habitats for wildlife, filtering water, and helping to regulate the surrounding environment. When well-maintained, these water sources can

also contribute to flood control and water quality, preventing the spread of pollution into other parts of the region.

Beyond its ecological importance, Riverside Creek also has the potential to enhance the community's quality of life. Access to natural areas has been shown to increase residents' overall well-being. The calming effects of nature, the opportunity for outdoor recreation, and the potential for environmental education are all benefits that a revitalized [revitalised] creek could offer.

Today, Riverside Creek is a reminder of how even the most cherished natural spaces can be neglected if they're not cared for. While it may be difficult to see the potential in the creek's current condition, it remains a vital part of the town's natural environment. Its water still flows, albeit slowly and unevenly, and life still exists within it—though it's not as abundant or visible as it once was. The creek is in need of attention, but it is not beyond help.

Riverside Creek is more than just a forgotten waterway—it is an important part of our town's identity, history, and natural environment. As urban development continues and environmental challenges grow, it serves as a reminder of the importance of maintaining and protecting our natural resources. For those who remember what Riverside Creek once was, and those who may not know its history, the state of the creek raises important questions about how we, as a community, value and care for our natural spaces. The creek's decline is a call to reflect on how we interact with the environment around us and how we can ensure that future generations can enjoy the same natural treasures we once took for granted.