June 30, 2016

Stacy Ritter
President
Greater Fort Lauderdale Convention & Visitors Bureau
101 N.E. 3rd Ave, Suite 100
Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33301

Dear Ms. Ritter,

According to the Live Science Web site that is part of the space industry’s Space.com site, approximately sixty million Americans consider themselves birdwatchers. As president of Broward County’s visitors’ bureau, you’re most likely aware that TripAdvisor rates a visit to Wakodahatchee Wetlands as the #1 thing to do in Delray Beach. Remarkably, Wakodahatchee Wetlands was created by the Palm Beach County Water Utilities Department to naturally purifies highly treated water from the Southern Region Water Reclamation Facility. The park occupies 50 acres of unused utility land that:

• Educates visitors about the importance of water conservation
• Recharges the area’s groundwater resources
• Provides a natural habitat for wildlife.
• Recycles about one million gallons of water daily

Jumping Ahead
A Broward County “jump ahead” might be a municipal pool created with naturally filtered water.

In 2014, Swiss architects Herzog & De Meuron completed a natural swimming pool project in a small swiss town near Basel. Called “Naturbad Riehen, the pool is treated as a natural pond rather than a standard swimming pool. The pool’s edge has an irregular and vegetated boundary, with various methods for visitors to enter the water including a gently sloping gravel beach, staircases and wood docks that allow jumping and diving. The filtration process is modeled after the natural terrestrian water purification with layers of gravel, sand, and soil. Water basins used for filtration are located across the road outside the facility boundary. The system’s ecological cleaning capacity accommodates 2,000 visitors per day.

Dangers of Chlorine
Like the Wakodahatchee Wetlands, a project of this type would be important vehicle for educating the public about the dangers of chlorine.

In 1918, in New York, Wallace A. Manheimer, Ph.D., secretary of the American Association for...
Promoting Hygiene and Public Baths, and editor of the Association’s journal, conducted water purification experiments at the research laboratory of the New York State Department of Health. His study, published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, explains that chlorine is not suitable for water with high concentrations of organic matter. Organic matter in swimming pools originates from bathers in the form of sweat, dander, urine and other organics. Chlorine reacts with organics and produces nitrogen trichloride, aldehydes, halogenated hydrocarbons, chloroform, trihalomethanes and chloramines.

In 1974, scientists discovered that chlorination leads to the formation of a variety of dangerous Disinfection By-Products (DBPs) including organochlorines considered carcinogenic. Well-known organochlorines include DDT, dioxin, polychlorinated by phenyls (PCBs) and chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs). The metabolism and toxicity of organochlorine compounds have been studied extensively.

**Herzog & De Meuron Project Team**

In 2006, the *New York Times Magazine* called them “one of the most admired architecture firms in the world. The Swiss architecture firm is headquartered in Basel, Switzerland. Founders and senior partners Jacques Herzog (born April 19, 1950) and Pierre de Meuron (born May 8, 1950) have been visiting professors at the Harvard University Graduate School of Design since 1994 and professors at ETH Zürich since 1999.

The original plan for a public bath began in 1979, but was not realized until many years later. The project was launched in August 2007 and completed in June 2014. Project information, including the names of team members may be found in an Italian digital architecture and design magazine called *Designboom*, see:


Sincerely,

Mary Jo Fahey