

# **Friends of Graeme Hall Inc.**

[www.graemehallnationalpark.org](http://www.graemehallnationalpark.org)

# 3 Warners Terrace

Christ Church

Barbados

December 23, 2007

## **Press Statement – Water Park application turned down**

The recent statement by the Prime Minister that the application for the construction of a water park on public lands at Graeme Hall had not been approved is welcomed by Friends of Graeme Hall Inc. (FOGH).

The application was not supported by any of the Governments regulatory agencies, environmentalists, the Graeme Hall Nature Sanctuary, residents of the surrounding neighborhoods and many members of the wider Barbadian community.

Now that this controversial matter has been laid to rest, FOGH urges those with the responsibility and authority within Government and its agencies to join with them, and start the process of implementing the recommendations of various government and private studies. These studies advocate, among other things, the preservation and protection of the upland agricultural buffer at Graeme Hall.

We are encouraged by the recent statement of The Prime Minister in Parliament that “In the Graeme Hall area we are now under commitment to so manage it to treat it as a Natural Heritage Conservation Area and do whatever is necessary to conserve and enhance the environmental quality and the visual integrity of the sites that are of ecological significance and also to ensure that if any new development take place it is compatible with the natural heritage and the landscape qualities of those areas.”

The Friends of Graeme Hall, Inc. ([www.graemehallnationalpark.org](http://www.graemehallnationalpark.org)) is an incorporated, non-profit Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) whose broad aims and objectives for the Graeme Hall area are to:

- Preserve the last green open space between Bridgetown and the Airport.
- Preserve valuable agricultural land currently used for research by The Ministry of Agriculture and The Central Agronomic Research Station.
- Provide an educational, leisure and recreation park for citizens and visitors.
- Provide an environmental buffer and prevent damage to the sensitive habitat and ecosystem of our Natural Heritage Conservation Area and Ramsar (Convention on Wetlands) site.

.....