

Members of the Columbus City Council
90 West Broad Street
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Councilmembers:

I am a proud resident of Harrison West. I write you today to request your support in preserving the green space on the Northwest corner of Third Avenue and Perry Street.

Harrison West is a thriving community tucked between Neil Avenue and the Olentangy River, south of the University District. You may know us for our great restaurants, like Katalina's, for our beautiful mature trees, or for our annual outdoor summer jazz series. Our outdoor resources are treasures that we love to share with our families and neighbors. We consider ourselves stewards of these precious green spaces, in recognition of the tremendous benefits they provide for our small community and for the surrounding Columbus community.

Recently, Battelle announced that they are considering selling the roughly 20-acre parcel bounded by Third Avenue, Perry Street, Fifth Avenue, and the Olentangy River. The parcel currently consists of a large parking lot, warehouses, a daycare center, a critical strip of the Olentangy Trail, and an open green space. The green space makes up roughly 2.5 acre, and is open to the public. Day in and day out, we and our neighbors (from close and far) walk our dogs in that green space. We picnic on that green space. We teach our children the importance of nature through that green space.

The importance of urban parks and accessible green space cannot be understated. The City Parks Alliance said it best:

"Parks support public health, the economy, the environment, education, and community cohesion. They are also critical to workforce development... Parks make our cities sustainable, livable and vibrant."

Our city has seen tremendous growth in residential, retail, and mixed-use development in recent years. City leadership has been diligent about tempering the development boom by establishing, maintaining, and revitalizing outdoor spaces like the Scioto Greenways, the Olentangy trail, and the Columbus Commons.

I call on you now to carry forward your commitment to green space. Help us keep Harrison West sustainable, livable, and vibrant by working to dedicate as a Columbus City Park the full 2.5 acres of green space on the Northwest corner of Third Avenue and Perry Street.

Sincerely,

A resident of the Harrison West community in
Columbus, Ohio