

I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the proposed development project LOC2023-0130 at Glenmore Landing, which involves the removal of mature trees that are an integral part of our community's urban ecosystem. Given the City's commitment to increasing urban tree cover as part of its climate action strategy, this development seems counterproductive to those important environmental objectives.

As you are aware, the City has set ambitious goals to increase urban tree counts to mitigate the effects of climate change, enhance air quality, and provide green spaces for residents. Trees play a critical role in sequestering carbon, improving biodiversity, and promoting community well-being. The removal of established trees from our public parkland stands in stark contrast to these objectives.

I am particularly concerned about the following issues:

1. **Loss of Mature Trees:** Mature trees provide invaluable ecological services, such as carbon storage, temperature regulation, and stormwater management. Removing these trees will not only eliminate these benefits in the short term but will also take decades to replace with newly planted trees.
2. **Climate Change Mitigation:** As the City works toward reducing its carbon footprint, removing trees that contribute to air quality improvement and carbon sequestration seems counterintuitive. Urban heat islands, exacerbated by the loss of trees, will further amplify the negative impacts of climate change on our community.
3. **Environmental Justice:** Green spaces and trees are particularly vital in underserved neighborhoods, where access to nature and clean air is often limited. Removing trees from public spaces disproportionately affects those who rely on these areas for their physical and mental well-being.
4. **Public Trust and Accountability:** The City's urban tree canopy and climate goals are fundamental to maintaining the health and livability of our city. Proceeding with development plans that result in significant tree loss undermines public trust in these goals and sends a concerning message about the City's commitment to environmental sustainability.

In light of these concerns, I respectfully request that the City reconsider the plans for this development and explore alternatives that preserve existing trees and prioritize green infrastructure. If the development is to proceed, I urge you to ensure that adequate tree replacement and environmental mitigation measures are put in place to offset the loss of mature trees and protect the long-term health of our urban ecosystem.

Please reconsider the redevelopment of Glenmore Landing.

Thank you,