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Recipient: Town of Chapel

Letter: Greetings,

The Parks and Recreation Department recently shared that they are looking to convert previously dedicated open space. They stated they want to reforest much of it and we (local neighborhood residents) believe it will become swampy forest areas - similar to the adjacent lots on Cleland.

We would like to have additional discussion and experts weigh in on this decision, as we believe it will impact localized flooding, the safety of residents (especially those who walk and run), aesthetics, and it is completely counter to the original intent of the space. It was dedicated to being "preserved open space for the citizens of Chapel Hill" years ago.

We've captured over 140+ signatures from Chapel Hill residents who live on or near the area identified who are against this change.

Please stop the plans to reduce mowing and reforest.

Signatures

Name	Location	Date
Paul Pritchard	Bentonville, AR	2018-11-25
Sherry Stockton	Chapel Hill, NC	2018-11-26
Jamie Dilweg	Chapel Hill, NC	2018-11-28
Monica Jenkins	Durham, NC	2018-11-29
Margaret Powell	Chapel Hill, NC	2018-11-29
Pam Bailey	Chapel Hill, NC	2018-11-29
Michael Drummond	Chapel Hill, NC	2018-11-29
Rebecca Mela	Chapel Hill, NC	2018-11-29
Julie Jennings	chapel hill, NC	2018-11-29
Julie Dickson	Chapel Hill, NC	2018-11-29
Sally Lewis	Chapel Hill, NC	2018-11-29
Sharon Fields	Raleigh, NC	2018-11-29
Caroline Kolk	Chapel Hill, NC	2018-11-29
Julia Vozella	Durham, NC	2018-11-29
Kathleen Coombs	Chapel Hill, NC	2018-11-29
James Florie	Chapel Hill, NC	2018-11-29
Carey Coombs	Chapel Hill, NC	2018-11-29
michael villanova	Schenectady, US	2018-11-29
Brian Goldberg	Jackson, US	2018-11-30
Madeline Fink	Bentonville, US	2018-11-30

Name	Location	Date
B D	Portsmouth, US	2018-11-30
Kay Richardson	Chapel Hill, NC	2018-11-30
sharon Gruninger	Chapel hill, NC	2018-11-30
Audrey Lewis	Lumberton, US	2018-11-30
Karina Aguilar	Chapel Hill, NC	2018-11-30
Nina Wallace	Chapel Hill, NC	2018-11-30
William Wallace	La Habra, CA	2018-11-30
Mary Irwin	Durham, NC	2018-11-30
Lois Annab	Chapel Hill, NC	2018-11-30
David Cowan	Chapel Hill, NC	2018-11-30
Ada Boone Hoerl	Sacramento, CA	2018-11-30
Debbie Cowan	Chapel Hill, NC	2018-11-30
Wendy Pecci	Burlington, US	2018-11-30
Margaret Chesson	Chapel Hill, NC	2018-11-30
Phyllis Collier- Bosarge	Mobile, AL	2018-11-30
Caroline Jones	Chapel Hill, NC	2018-11-30
Katherine Pritchard	Chapel Hill, NC	2018-11-30
Ryan Burgess	Renton, US	2018-11-30
Naomi Vilcapoma	US	2018-12-01
Anthony Dilweg	Chapel Hill, NC	2018-12-01
Shawnya Tarter	La Grange, US	2018-12-01
Nicholas Strope	Wheeling, US	2018-12-01

Name	Location	Date
Rhonda Anderson	US	2018-12-01
Evora Ritchie	Atlanta, US	2018-12-01
Jacob McPheron	Somerset, US	2018-12-01
Meghan Bushnell	Chapel hill, NC	2018-12-01
Robby Oakes	Chapel Hill, NC	2018-12-01
Clint Myers	Chapel Hill, NC	2018-12-01
Angela Myers	Chapel Hill, NC	2018-12-01
Vanessa Woodward	Goldston, NC	2018-12-01
Fred Fall	Cherry Hill, NJ	2018-12-01
Richard Catalano	Brick, US	2018-12-01
Elizabeth Knight	33 Oakwood Drive Chapel Hill, NC	2018-12-01
Tabitha Spencer	Chapel Hill, NC	2018-12-01
Glenn Parks	Chapel Hill, NC	2018-12-01
Trevor Zinkand	Essex, US	2018-12-01
Julie Keane	Chapel Hill, NC	2018-12-01
Jim Rogalski	Chapel Hill, NC	2018-12-01
Hugh Mungus	England, US	2018-12-01
Jonathan Boyne	Honolulu, HI	2018-12-01
Whitney Martin	Chapel Hill, NC	2018-12-01
Ayden Isaacs	Stevenson, US	2018-12-01
Ellie Stockton	Fremont, NC	2018-12-02
luz cerda	gainesville, US	2018-12-02

Name	Location	Date
Freddy Rodriguez	Norco, US	2018-12-02
Jill Hawkins	Chapel Hill, NC	2018-12-02
kathy gunn	Chapel Hill, NC	2018-12-02
Nick Stinger	Malvern, US	2018-12-02
Xafsa Shute	Scarborough, US	2018-12-02
Flavio Miche	Forest Grove, US	2018-12-02
skarlet davis	Dothan, US	2018-12-02
Tommy Berman	Los Angles, US	2018-12-02
Glenn Briceno	Long Branch, US	2018-12-02
Robert Sieck	Clover, US	2018-12-02
Art Dom	Apache Junction, US	2018-12-02
Maia Chevalier	Fort Mill, US	2018-12-02
Grada Arble	Chapel Hill, NC	2018-12-02
Barbara Crohn	Chapel Hill, NC	2018-12-02
william Richardson	Chapel Hill, NC	2018-12-02
barb thomas	Chapel Hill, NC	2018-12-02
Pam Fabian	Chapel Hill, NC	2018-12-02
Wayne Litaker	Chapel Hill, NC	2018-12-02
Joan Montana	Chapel Hill, NC	2018-12-02
Betty White	Chapel Hill, NC	2018-12-02
Mary Guckes	Chapel Hill, NC	2018-12-02
Andy Richardson	Chapel Hill, NC	2018-12-02

Name	Location	Date
David Briley	Chapel Hill, NC	2018-12-02
Hollie Taylor Novak	Chapel Hill, NC	2018-12-02
Glenn Tortorici	Chapel Hill, NC	2018-12-02
Catherine Kuhn	Chapel Hill, NC	2018-12-02
Anne Fishel	Chapel Hill, NC	2018-12-02
mike sheppa	Chapel Hill, NC	2018-12-02
Jane Holroyd	Chapel Hill, NC	2018-12-02
Sandra Gtubbs	Chapel Hill, NC	2018-12-02
Jenny Stephens	Chapel Hill, NC	2018-12-02
Vanessa Castellano	Chape Hill, NC	2018-12-03
Carla Sevilla	Chapel Hill, NC	2018-12-03
Colie Taico	Carrboro, NC	2018-12-03
HAREN THAKOR	Chapel Hill, NC	2018-12-03
Ann Winter-Vann	Chapel Hill, NC	2018-12-03
Suzanne & Steve Chaney	Chapel Hill, NC	2018-12-03
Ann Smith	Chapel Hill, NC	2018-12-03
Robert Richareson	Chapel Hill, NC	2018-12-03
Alexa Caraveo	Tolleson, US	2018-12-03
Barbara Thakor	Chapel Hill, NC	2018-12-03
Virginia Dirschl	Chapel Hill, NC	2018-12-03
Lucy Falk	Chapel Hill, NC	2018-12-03
Zach Bishoo	Durham, NC	2018-12-03

Name	Location	Date
Jeffrey Eischen	Chapel Hill, NC	2018-12-03
Bella Carksin	Santa Barbara, US	2018-12-03
Jonathan Drutz Drutz	Chapel Hill, NC	2018-12-03
Alicja Palka	Lyons, US	2018-12-03
Gian f Orlandi	Chapel Hill, NC	2018-12-03
Angela Bordbar	Chapel Hill, NC	2018-12-03
Stephen Tell	Raleigh, NC	2018-12-03
Celeste Cuesy	whittier, US	2018-12-03
Syed Ali	Saint Paul, US	2018-12-03
Sandy Hale	Chapel Hill, NC	2018-12-03
Matthew Tormollen	Chapel Hill, NC	2018-12-03
Katrina Schwartz	chapel hill, NC	2018-12-03
Gregory Drutz	Chapel Hill, NC	2018-12-03
Virginia Saam	Chapel Hill, NC	2018-12-03
Niko Schutte	Chapel Hill, NC	2018-12-03
Cesare Orlandi	Chapel Hill, NC	2018-12-03
Anne Hager-Blunk	Chapel Hill, NC	2018-12-03
Cary McDonald	Chapel Hill, NC	2018-12-03
Danielle Bishop	Carrboro, NC	2018-12-03
Barbara Pedersen	Chapel Hill, NC	2018-12-03
Brett Bushnell	Chapel hill, NC	2018-12-03
Elizabeth Malcolm	Chapel Hill, NC	2018-12-03

Name	Location	Date
David Drutz	Chapel Hill, NC	2018-12-03
Susan Manring	Chapel Hill, NC	2018-12-03
Grey Moody	Chapel Hill, NC	2018-12-03
RICHARD GONZALEZ	Sylva, NC	2018-12-03
Charles Van Winkle	Chapel Hill, NC	2018-12-03
Joel Bush	Chapel Hill, NC	2018-12-03
Kristin Webb	Chapel Hill, NC	2018-12-03
Hunter Spencer	US	2018-12-03
John Vavalle	Chapel Hill, NC	2018-12-03
Anne Boone	Chapel Hill, NC	2018-12-03
David Levin	Chapel Hill, NC	2018-12-03
Jeff Rhodes	Chapel Hill, NC	2018-12-03
Penny Farnell	Chapel Hill, NC	2018-12-04
Margaret Holmes	Chapel Hill, NC	2018-12-04
Margery Gates	Chapel Hill, NC	2018-12-04
Laura Pritchard	Chapel Hill, NC	2018-12-04
Andrew N	Lancaster, US	2018-12-04
Emery Sharpe	Charlotte, US	2018-12-04
John Walker	US	2018-12-04
MARGARET JOHNSON	CHAPEL HILL, NC	2018-12-04
Leslie Branden-Muller	Chapel Hill, NC	2018-12-04
Andre Novak	Chapel Hill, NC	2018-12-04

Name	Location	Date
Juliet Kaplan	Chapel Hill, NC	2018-12-04
Melvin Manuel	Chapel Hill, NC	2018-12-04
Del Snow	Chapel Hill, NC	2018-12-04
Philip Pavlik	Chapel Hill, NC	2018-12-04
Lee Harris	Farmville, NC	2018-12-05
Molly McConnell	Chapel Hill, NC	2018-12-05
Joan Preyer	Chapel Hill, NC	2018-12-05
Susan Whitney Simm	Chapel Hill, NC	2018-12-05
John Martin	Chapel Hill, NC	2018-12-05
Bob Epting	Chapel Hill, NC	2018-12-05

Comments

Name	Location	Date	Comment
Paul Pritchard	Chapel Hill, NC	2018-11-26	I believe the town is simply looking to cut costs without considering alternative corrections/improvements to prevent further flooding and other issues.
Pam Bailey	Chapel Hill, NC	2018-11-29	The open spaces are an aesthetic asset to our neighborhood, but they need to be properly maintained. Cutting the grass is more regularly is all that it would take. In contrast, the existing natural areas must be cleaned out in order to control storm water. Fallen trees and other debris block the streams that would allow water to flow into larger creeks nearby. This is a more expensive endeavor. Reforesting would increase this problem and cause more flooding in an already flood-prone area.
Jamie Dilweg	Chapel Hill, NC	2018-11-29	There are many reasons the town should maintain this open space: intent of the original owners, pedestrian safety, drainage issues, debris and flooding worsening. It has been a vibrant and well-used space over the decades and is a rare gem of true open space free to be enjoyed by all of our town residents.
Glenn Parks	Chapel hill, NC	2018-12-01	The votes were nearly even and the P&R Commission meeting changed times and place during the two months on the agenda. Some neighbors would like more information and options.
Hollie Taylor Novak	Chapel Hill, NC	2018-12-02	Hollie Taylor Novak
Catherine Kuhn	Chapel Hill, NC	2018-12-02	We need more discussion about water/storm water drainage and maintenance of this space. It gets lots of use when it's maintained properly.
Robert Richareson	Chapel Hill, NC	2018-12-03	There is so little open, accessible field space in Chapel Hill. To give this up makes no sense. These fields see a tremendous amount of flag football/soccer/baseball/general running around when they aren't being used to grow really tall grass.
Anne Boone	Chapel Hill, US	2018-12-03	These fields should be kept open as they have been for many decades. Reasons include recreation, aesthetics, history, intent of original owners, and safety.
Jeff Rhodes	Chapel Hill, NC	2018-12-03	Save our fields!

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Please stop the plans to reduce mowing and reforest.

Oakwood / Cleland / Rogerson / Oaks Neighborhood Residents Concerns with Proposed Parks and Recreation Plan to Reforest Open Spaces

1. Communication to the Residents of the surrounding areas of the Cleland Open Space Areas was minimal in August 2018. Information did not reach the majority of homeowners and residents until later in October 2018. Once information on this project reached more of the residents, there has been an overwhelming response to keep the Open Space as it is. (The Petition has 165 signatures as of 12/5)
2. We believe minimal resident input was used to determine options on how to move forward. There was a deadline to return comments by 9/14/2018, which a majority of us weren't even informed about. At the Park and Rec meeting we were told the results were:
 - 14 were for reforestation
 - 6 In between
 - 11 were against reforestation

We believe a compromise document was written by Parks & Rec using this 31person input, before the public meeting. This document was circulated to a smaller group. Many residents never saw this info until November. Once informed, approximately 20+ Residents immediately wrote in on 11/11 right before the meeting on 11/13. Parks and Rec stressed at the meeting it was not a vote, but they used these numbers to move forward with the project and to write the compromise.

3. A significant majority of the residents feel very strongly about saving the Open Space as it was originally intended. To manage the beautiful unstructured open fields back to a usable state so that the many families can continue to enjoy this space as we had up until just a few years ago.
 4. Please request copies of the letters written to the Parks and Rec committee by the 3 Families (Bells, Lloyds and Kolks) originally involved in the sale/dedication of the Open Space. This space was dedicated with very distinct guidelines that the town keep it as an area of residents to have as usable Open Space.
 5. Please do not use the clear-cutting of other areas in Chapel Hill as a rationale for converting our Open Space to create tree canopy lost in other parts of town.
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