

COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS SIGNING THE SAVE LEGION PARK PETITION,
PRESENTED TO TOWN COUNCIL IN NOVEMBER, 2022

We the undersigned call on the Chapel Hill Town Council to create a Community Park at the Legion Site that will conserve all of the 36 acre tract with its natural features of woods and streams. Affordable housing is not going to matter if we don't preserve and protect green spaces where we can. This land is the perfect space to KEEP GREEN for ALL of our survival!

Considering the population growth already underway & expanding as years go by, this seems like a golden opportunity to protect one of the few remaining green spaces in this part of town (Legion). Please vote for a green legacy that will last for all time; our grateful ancestors will thank you for it.

I vote and will remember how you voted.

Please do the right thing and create a much needed community park on this site. This was promised years ago, we cannot renege on this promise!

My neighbors, my family and I want the Legion property to be a Community Park for all to use. We need this natural setting to be a refuge- a public space for all to enjoy. We need natural areas in our town for people, the fauna, and the flora to flourish. We also have so many issues with water management and flooding. We need to keep this space natural. Please keep as a public space for all to enjoy. The Legion property as a Community Park would be a huge benefit to our town! Thank you.

In the words of Joni Mitchell, "Don't it always seem to go you don't know what you've got til it's gone? Pave paradise and put up a parking lot."

It would be unconscionable of the Council to sell, or to build on this land, the only land on the east side of town for a park. With the Council's poor decision to allow the eastern side of CH to become rental city, we do not need another detrimental decision to the well being of CH.

I'm a renter who has never missed a town election.

More development on Legion Road will lead to more traffic and congestion. Already the huge housing complex near the intersection of Legion and Ephesus Church Roads threatens to overwhelm the streets. We need more green parks, NOT less due to the incoming masses of people there. Please do not develop the Legion site. Thanks.

I will vote against the 4 council members trying to sell off the Park.

Seriously? We do not need any more development when loads of commercial space is just sitting empty. Please stop destroying Chapel Hill.

Legion Park should remain a park. The long-term and equitable value of this land as an official park is substantial. Building for-profit office space would mean the nearby residents would lose important greenspace that does not require a motor vehicle to access. Town council members should go there on a Saturday and see how many people depend on this park for a wide variety

of activities (hiking, fishing, communing with nature, and many more) that add value to their lives.

You have already ruined Ephesus church road with the Moscow looking apt complex. Don't do anymore corrupt the image of Chapel Hill.

I have been actively helping clear the park of invasives and planting pollinator plants and natives. We need to keep an island of green among all these huge 'cruise ship' apartment complexes that are being shoved in everywhere (remember, Durham is doing the same thing on their side of the line....) we in Colony Woods feel like we are being hemmed in on all sides.

Folks need space to recreate more than ever. I'm disappointed in your support of further development of green space and anti-environmental policy. Vote no to this development or risk losing your seat!

As a mother of two elementary age students in the CHCCS district, I certainly appreciate all the city does to maintain our recreation spaces. Please find a way to preserve the Legion area as a Community Park and help offset the hyper-development of Chapel Hill with green space.

Alas, this region must be saved as it is now comparable to Central Park in NYC with the accompanying number of tall structures surrounding the small oasis of the Legion site!

Chapel Hill cannot continue to stuff people into this "town" without giving residents a place to breath outdoors. Compared with neighboring municipalities, including Cary, Chapel Hill is woefully deficient in open space recreation opportunities. Continuing to cut mature trees and build on every available space makes a mockery of Chapel Hill's climate commitment.

A community Park on the Legion site is essential to Chapel Hill, especially at a time of diminishing green space in our community. Once that is gone, it is gone forever. Such spaces are essential for our spiritual well-being. One can always build UP, but by avoiding building OUT, we can preserve the true gifts of nature.

With all the apartments built, being built and yet to be built, this part of town is beginning to resemble the Bronx projects, and we haven't seen all the traffic yet. Those tenants and existing residents need attractive public space to get away from it all. If too much of this property is turned to apartments and private development, its potential as part of the Chapel Hill brand will be lost. Let's officially combine it with Ephesus park and make it into something special.

Please consider converting the legion property into a much-needed community park with a mix of spaces, such as sports fields and open/natural green space. The rapid development of the surrounding properties with commercial and residential properties makes this an essential element of the local community. The residents of the adjoining neighborhoods need open and green spaces for recreation and play. We also need to offset the massive escalation in building and associated runoff with more green/natural areas. The last thing we need is additional housing and commercial spaces along the potentially overdeveloped blue-hill district. There are plenty of other properties available in Chapel Hill for commercial and residential development. The council should also require developers to continue to allocate a more significant percentage of

apartments in developing properties for affordable housing if the current options are not sufficient for our community instead of repurposing some of the last remaining green space.

Lets strive for the 7 "S's" of Fredrick Law Olmsted, so we can have the 8th... "Serenity." This doesn't have to be one with ball fields or spray pads. Just one where people of all ages can relax.

I feel physically violated. So much for all of the hundreds of hours of community involvement, the work of the Council-appointed Legion Task Force, the community charette (held in April 2017), and subsequent work by the Friends of Legion Park and all of its volunteers to rid the park of invasive species and plant native plants! For shame. The Council must not let the petition of Council members Parker, Stegman, Miller-Foushee, Berry, and Huynh pass. What a way to indicate to Chapel Hill residents that citizen involvement is a waste of time, that the Council acts in bad faith, and that paving paradise always wins. For shame.

Credit to council members Amy Ryan and Adam Searing for not swimming with the sharks who want to sell nine acres of the American Legion property to pay for affordable housing and a “world class” park on the property. Ryan is the council liaison for parks and rec and Searing is a new member and outspoken advocate for recreation. The “sharks” are five council members who petitioned the town to restart planning for a possible park, saying selling some of it will speed up the project. What they mean is the town has no money and no ability to issue bonds for years. That’s why it’s been stalled since 2017 when hundreds participated in early planning efforts after rec bond monies were used to pay for most of it. The makeup of the council and town management are clearly different now. (from June 2022 Community Sports News).

Chapel Hill needs more and better parks and related services. A large number of us who live in Chapel Hill feel and understand this need. As things stand now, our park services are underfunded and inadequate relative to the size and wealth of the community. (The example of Wilson, NC, where I used to live, a poor city, puts what we Chapel Hillians have in park services to shame.) Parks and their services make life better for everyone in the community.

Losing this park would negatively impact this community greatly. There are always people fishing, exercising their dogs, playing and hiking in the park. With the dense development south of Ephesus Rd. residents will need an open space to escape to connect with nature. Please save the park.

Please LISTEN to your constituents.

Chapel Hill continues to lose it's charm, becoming little more than a 'burb. Please help protect the final vestiges of its charm. This park is a quality of life issue.

As a mom and a pediatrician, I ask you to preserve this open space and create a park that keeps our community healthier.

Hundreds of participants and thousands of hours of hard work by the community, Council members, and staff, went in to buying the Legion property, studying it, participating in a community charette, giving hundreds of ideas for the park, assessing the building and the dam, and advocating for the Legion property plus Ephesus Park being a community park, since the

mid 1990's when the elementary school, the town, and the Legion people negotiated to let volunteers build some trails. Finally let's not squander this final opportunity to keep this land open and green as a park for everyone! We need this entire property to be a park!!

No More High Rises or Retail in the Blue Hill District! Have you driven down Ephesus Church? It's scandalous. Have you driven down Legion Road? We need space to breathe fresh air and enjoy green grass and green trees.

I vote in Chapel Hill.

Please do not sell this exceptional parcel of land. It has been nurtured and attended to by countless chapel hill residents for decades, increasingly so as the value of such open spaces in a growing town has become more widely appreciated. Please think of the value it will add to living in chapel hill for future generations.

I served for a number of years on the CH Parks & Rec Commission. I attended the 2017 community charrette. This park is located in a rapidly growing area with significant density. There is not a lot of park space available. CH should not lose the opportunity to make this a truly amazing space for the community. I urge the Council to look forward decades not mere years on the impact this space could have. Protect and make this a community park.

While many concerns weigh on the CH Town Council, this usage of land for a park could be a no brainer as traffic congestion is already a growing problem in this area. Keep the space green. My friends on Jackie Robinson St. and all of this part of town will honor and utilize this property as a public park for decades and decades into the future. Peace.

Northeast Chapel hill has been built up in the blue zone with little regard to open space. The Legion property is the only open space left, and when we campaigned to keep it from being developed and helped get this mayor and council elected, we believed you would keep to your promises at the time to make a park of it. As shown by the event last November, there is a huge need. There are also acts to reduce runoff into Briarcliff and downstream. To pave it over would be a travesty and would ensure we all campaign against you next election.

Why is OUR Town Council even considering less of a park when the approved explosion in high density housing has come with no open area, much less any natural park area? The total Legion Park is still substandard with respect to the tremendous increase in population. This is the only opportunity for a true park within walking/biking distance of the high-rise residents. Much green space has been eliminated. We owe it to the new residents and the children. More affordable housing with a decrease in outdoor public space is a disservice to not only those residents, but impacts the quality of life for all residents of Chapel Hill. Nice if we could try to have some semblance or feel of a "Town within a Park."

This area of town needs a real park. The town needs to engage in environmental Justice by providing the people living in the low-income housing there with a wooded park. The inept Blue Hill debacle has caused downstream stormwater problems. Removing any mature trees or adding significant impervious surface to the Legion property would exacerbate them. It is

unconscionable that the town would sell property to be exploited when the town only recently acquired the property for public purposes. Don't do it!

The legion site should be used as a public green space (park) and NOT for more housing. Our area has been overrun by new ugly high-rise apartments which will cause great traffic congestion. Our neighborhood has gone to great lengths to rid the area of invasive species and plant native plants. Please stop destroying our area of town by taking away green space and adding endless apartments. I have lived here my whole life and am dismayed at overdevelopment in Chapel Hill.

As someone living in modestly priced rental housing my entire adult life and being an advocate for affordable housing and for children & families with special needs, I am also an advocate for green space & parks for safe places for them to play and be nurtured physically, mentally, spiritually in Mother Nature. This is denied too many children and adults who are forced to choose affordable rent that does not provide them with yards or green space. This is the case on Legion Road where already there are several affordable housing developments with no place for the children and residents to play or walk except on sidewalks and pavement. In addition many more apartments have been built in this area in addition to the already existing neighborhoods. It is inconceivable to me--and unconscionable--that members of the town council & town staff would further deprive the people living in this area with a safe place to play and breathe fresh air and recreate among trees and flowers and birds, bunnies, butterflies, and bees, and instead divide up the property & develop it and put even more housing in an already congested area. The Parks & Rec Board voted to have the entire 36 acres for park--NOT some of it. It is on the town website as "land acquired for CONSERVATION"--NOT development! It is also in the Parks & Rec recommendations for 2013-2022 that The Community Center & Park on Estes has been stretched beyond its capacity and is not capable of serving the great need for its gardens and gym--there are also two affordable housing developments who live within a mile of the Community Center. It is also on the town parks & rec website that it recommended that The American Legion property be bought and a Community Park be created to serve the side of town the Estes Drive Community Center serves--and also serve those who live in the Ephesus Road area which has been greatly added to in density in apartment buildings and population since the redoing of Ephesus-Fordham Small Area Plan into the Blue Hill district. By no means SHOULD ANY of the 36 acres of American Legion property be used for anything other than a Community Park! It will serve people and be justice for those who have no place to play that they can afford AND it will be environmental justice and help curb global warming and help with storm water and save birds, bees, trees, and the health of wildlife and humans alike. This area of town needs a real park. It does not need more development of anything other than a true Community Park on all 36 acres. A handful of people should not have the ability to undo what has already been put into place for creating a Community Park for the benefit of everyone--including people who live in the Legion Road area without the economic ability to afford to pay for recreation. Do NOT allow the people there or the land there to be exploited! Respect the people & the environment & do Justice & Mercy and keep the entire 36 acres for a Community Park!

I grew up in Boulder CO in the 1970s. That city pioneered ways to control growth. A greenbelt was created to prevent sprawl. The city also aggressively created and preserved a network of public parks throughout the city. Leaders realized that density would increase due to the

greenbelt, and open spaces would need to be protected. Our town council should follow Boulder's effective policies.

Losing Legion Park to more development would be a tragedy not only for Colony Woods but for all are new neighbors on Legion Rd. and soon to be neighbors on Ephesus Church. It is an invaluable resource for anyone within 7 miles that offers respite from all the massive development happening around us. We should cherish the small habitat that provides shelter for so many. Deer, foxes, opossum, geese, raccoons (to name a few), whose numbers will inevitably be reduced if not eliminated from our area. Having moved from Phoenix in 2008, the abundant wildlife was one of the things that made me fall in love with Chapel Hill. It would break my heart if that were lost.

With a fence, and maybe a splash pad. Look at the parks in Greenville, SC. We don't regret moving here, but their park plan is far superior to any parks here.

Given the ton of increased residents in this specific area of town that will come right away, when all these apts are finished, the need for a park is real, while the need for yet another dense development doesn't exist. In fact, it needs to be curtailed. I'm very familiar with this tract, having been to many events over the last 50 years, having 2 daughters attend the Dance Center, that operated for decades at the back of the tract and played with my dog often, in that section. It's an ideal place for a park, complete with a giant pond, existing parking and buildings that could be repurposed. Please do not let this opportunity to serve the Public Well-being slip away.

This decision should be a no brainer. The area around the Legion Road/Blue Hill area is getting so dense with development. Open space and a place for outdoor recreation will be important.

I am a strong supporter of converting the American Legion land into a community park. The surrounding area has seen explosive growth in the last few years and the increasing number of residents would benefit greatly from this park. Using this land for more housing units would be irresponsible on behalf of the town of Chapel Hill. Not only would it put many Colony Woods residential homes at high risk for flooding but the proposed housing units would unlikely be affordable. The town of CH likes to go on about affordable housing plans. However, I've yet to see a single affordable unit in any of the new apartment complexes built in the last few years. Instead of building affordable units, the town of CH allows developers to come in to raze existing affordable apartments only to then build "luxury apartments." A studio apartment in the new Blue Hill complex starts at \$1397 a month. It should be noted that one of the proposals suggests using the dance studio land to build affordable housing. Anyone who has walked around that area after a recent rain can clearly see that the drainage is not great, making that area prone to flooding. This is a 100-year flood plain, and should clearly not be developed. The town should be ashamed of even proposing this. People who need affordable housing deserve to live in a safe area just as much as anyone else. Yet, we continue to have them grasping at straws just so this town and its leaders can benefit. Existing affordable housing should be protected, current luxury apartments should be made financially accessible, and the Legion land should be used as a community park.

The green space near Legion Hall, the Dance Studio, and Ephesus Road Elementary is a much needed haven for wildlife and nature explorers. I raised my kids there when we lived in Colony Woods. Please preserve this space by creating a Community Park to serve the community for ages.

I am vociferously opposed to using the Legion property for any purpose other than a park, playground, recreation area open to all Chapel Hill residents. I am particularly apposed to selling or leasing any portion of the property for commercial purposes or the building affordable housing. This property was purchased by the city for the sole purpose of creating a park for all residents of Chapel Hill.

Keeping Legion property GREEN is essential and necessary for the absolute best use of the land and for the health of this community!! Tom Earnhardt is an advocate for public parks and was an important voice in acquiring Raleigh's Dorathea Dix as a community park for everyone! Dwayne Patterson, Director of the Division of State Parks "understands the important role that parks and trails play in improving the health and quality of life! We should see the importance of expanding access to parks throughout NC, especially among families and children!" THANK YOU FOR YOUR EFFORT IN MAINTAINING THIS A PARK FOR THE GOOD OF THIS COMMUNITY!

I live very near Legion Road and I support making the entire site a community park. We have ENOUGH housing and business development existing, being built or in the planning process in this Blue Hill district. We need the Legion Road site to be 100% dedicated as recommended by the Legion Task Force and Charette - we need to preserve this property along with the Ephesus park as parkland for all residents. We don't need anything else on that site!

I support the creation of a Community Park on the Legion Site. Green spaces are essential to our well-being.

Developers and UNC need to provide affordable/workforce housing. Sacrificing precious green space and repurposing bond funds meant for parks is unconscionable.

Our community need for a park on this land has grown drastically since this wise planning occurred. Use all the land for that purpose and thereby meet both our park and climate needs.

I enjoy using the property for fishing with my grandchildren and walks 2-3 times per week. I strongly support this petition.

We support the use of this property as a park, especially in light of the increasing development of property along Old Chapel Hill Road, plus the development on Ephesus Road, now and planned.

Please save at least some green space for the future. The massive building in Chapel Hill of these ugly boxed dwellings has done enough damage to Blue Hill and changed our community forever. Please stop!!!!

With all of the apts now being built in this Legion area - there is all the more reason to have this area as a park and green space !

This is precious green space in a town that is seeing incredibly rapid commercial growth. Please preserve this oasis of nature. Now more than ever, people need outdoor spaces for peace and tranquility.

I have been a resident of the Ephesus Road area of Chapel Hill since 1975 and have been waiting since then to have a park nearby.

I have lived in Chapel Hill since 1975., first on Tinkerbelle Road, then on Lark Circle. During this time, Our if family wanted some outdoor walking in a park, we had to travel by car to another location. We now have the opportunity to have a park adjacent to our neighborhood. Do not fail us.

Chapel hill needs more park space and less apartment complexes.

"Blue hill" is not a hill. It is becoming the densest population area in Chapel Hill. Please let us have some breathing space!

We need this green space to keep down the pollution and to preserve clean air and ground water.

I am all for affordable housing but not on open green space. Find an existing paved spot.

We need a park, not more construction, in this area.

In my opinion the town has overdeveloped Blue Hill in recent years allowing massive apartment complexes in a small area. The ongoing investment of community groups in this area speaks to nearby residents desire to maintain this open space permanently.

With the rise in development in Chapel Hill, we need to preserve open space for community use and park land.

What's not to support?! This beautiful land is vital to our community and to the wildlife it maintains. When the old Legion building comes down this would then be the perfect location for Chapel Hill Farmer's Market.

Chapel Hill desperately needs green space - a park for all to enjoy! the over abundance of building, cutting down trees, putting up huge, ugly apartment complexes - is taking all the charm away from our sweet town. We do not need another ugly complex - we do need a PARK!!

Environmental concerns: We need every tree Open space for nearby residents, especially given the new development Flooding issues.

Please, this is only right if we are to be a university town that does truly value social and racial equity, (stop ghettoizing "affordable housing" only in certain areas of town), and that values inclusive community quality of life with a decent park and greenspace. Thank you.

Create a Community Park on the Legion Site! We need a park to balance all of the high density housing units being built nearby.

High density housing must be accompanied by public green space.

We need a permanent home for the Farmers Market and green space for the eastern part of Chapel Hill to accommodate all the apartments being built in the Blue Hill district.

I go on walks through legion park frequently.

This is our last opportunity to have a park on this side of town & so many of us have been expecting the council to support this. Apartments are being built everywhere.

Need breathing space among the mass new development.

This park is needed to support and balance the major increase in housing units in the area.

This land should not be developed! There is already too much high-density apartments and housing in the area. This land should be preserved as open land.

PLEASE use all of the American Legion site as a community park. There is so little remaining open land in the Blue Hill district, and it should be given as park land to all of us taxpayers who live here. Keep Chapel Hill a good place to live!!

We need this park! It provides a home for wildlife and a place of serenity and peace for many.

Blue Hill needs a park. So many new apartments adding so many folks...please! We need a park!

We need a park, not more apartments!

Please preserve this land as a community park.

keep the legion site area a green space for community. We need it!

This is an invaluable resource for our community.

We emphatically want Legion Park to remain undeveloped. Please no limited development in this area. We must keep spaces undeveloped so that our children and other people of all ages can enjoy what nature is still left in this area. It is not at all what Chapel Hill used to be about. Chapel Hill used to be about protecting the environment. Maybe at least protect this small part of Chapel Hill? I certainly hope so.

The addition of so many new apartments demands that park space be preserved for new and old residents alike. Many people have worked on the land in that area to clear invasive and make it walkable and enjoyable. Please save the little bit of green space left in the Blue Hill district. I have lived in Briarcliff since 1987. We need our park!

Every new redevelopment is of very high density. The only open undeveloped areas are RCD swamplands, such as the rainbow fields. It would be nice to have areas not at risk of flooding.

I don't want to lose any of this beautiful green space. We enjoy walking through it to Studio A and Ephesus Elem.

Too much development in the Eastgate/Ram's Plaza/15-501/etc... area lately! Time to slow it down and preserve/invest in much-needed shared community space like the proposed park.

We are tired of torn up roads, construction ongoing all around us making it difficult to get where we need to go. Our neighborhood and volunteer groups have worked tirelessly to clear and improve the Legion Road site and we desperately need green space in the overdeveloped Blue Hill District.

Save this land for community park and keep it for enjoyment of all (people, trees, animals, birds ...) This park is only park in Walking distance for me. I love to spend my time there saving native trees from wisteria. I see how park is more alive than few years ago. Thanks to heart centered volunteers. Nature will remember and thank you for saving this park for all. With light, Don't lose this opportunity to preserve open space.

I live in Colony Lake. I strongly support making a Community Park on the Legion Site. With all the new apartment complexes, complexes currently under construction, and pending construction, this is a critical need for the community. I strongly oppose any of the land being sold for commercial space or for other private uses.

It is crucial that we preserve open spaces in Chapel Hill. As crowded as the city is becoming areas like this are havens for the many of us that crave space to spend time with our families and friends in areas like this.

Please save all of this wonderful undeveloped space. There are so many big apartment buildings being built in this section of town, so many trees being destroyed, so much traffic congestion occurring, that this island of peace will be tremendously important to the quality of life of old and new residents. Save our health! Save our sanity!

Please keep the Legion property a public park for resident families can enjoy!

We've lived in Chapel Hill for 47 years in three different residences on Willow Dr. We've always longed for a big park, not more and more apartments! Commit to developing this all of this land as a park.

We need more park land and not more apartments after the voluminous development of them over the last 2 years.

With the added density of the Berkshire, Elliott, Trilogy, Hartley, Greenfield to the Blue Hill Zone, we need and deserve green space to accommodate all the added people and traffic. PLEASE!!!

Have the courage to seek affordable housing elsewhere and require future builders to provide it, not just pay. Make this space a park.

Wholeheartedly support the park creation at the Legion Road location.

Don't lose this green space. Make it into a park for the people! I've lived in Chapel Hill for 40 years, and not far from the Legion site for 33 of those years.

Please save the last little bit of green-space in this area. We have had our neighborhoods destroyed with construction and high end apartments with no consideration for green space, community space or the environment.

LEAVE SOME GREEN SPACE AMID ALL OF THIS DENSITY!! There are no dog parks and few parks of any kind East of Hwy 54/Fordham Blvd. A huge number of apartments are being or have just been built in the vicinity of this park. Give these new residents a place to walk to and see grass for goodness sake! Slow down the rate of development and stop filling every last green space with residential living.

We have more than enough development, crowding, loss of trees, water run off, etc. in this area of town! Please PRESERVE LEGION PARK as a park!

This is our only remaining chance to create an open-space park in Chapel Hill. Legion Park is open to all, regardless of income. Chopping up this community resource would be deeply regressive.

We need this space for our families!

I grew up in this area and my mother still lives nearby. This space needs to stay green for the good of the community and the planet.

Chapel Hill needs another park! We don't have very many choices for large, open spaces to recreate in our town. A water feature/fountain for children would be an amazing addition.

As a near neighbor, I feel strongly that this property should be a park! Thank you.

We need to have some natural spaces left to enjoy as a community.

With the significant amount of land clearing and high density housing development, it's really important for the health of this community to protect this land and allow people to enjoy the natural beauty.

I fully support the Legion property be maintained in full to conserve ALL of the 36 acre tract and its natural woodland and streams.

To reduce the size of the planned park before implementing any of the original plan would be a betrayal of the trust and patience of Chapel Hill citizens.

Create a Community Park on the Legion Rd Site and do NOT develop the land for more apartments or housing! It should have opportunities for people to play (softball, pickleball, soccer, etc) and recreate (like walking along the trails in nature.) There are few such places left in Chapel Hill ~ please save this land from development!

Land kept as a park and will be needed more than ever.

Please keep this area green and don't build more homes- we need this SPACE (and dance studio).

We have been so disappointed by the massive apartment complexes built on the borders of our neighborhood. It feels suffocating at times. One of the breathing spots has been the Ephesus trails leading to Legion Road Park. Please maintain the park as promised.

Preserve what little green space we have left. Large development is happening all around. More of that should be made affordable housing. Please also explore existing housing options that can be made into affordable housing. Green space cannot be replaced once it's gone.

Need place for folks to gather in that increasingly crowded part of town.

My family goes to the beautiful Legion Site every week - please create a Community Park at the Legion Site to conserve woods and streams!

There has to be balance in our town - not just more and more new condos. Green space is critical to the quality of life for us and our children.

The kids need better park options here, and this is a perfect opportunity. We especially like that the wooded area feels mature -- a feature less and less common these days in residential areas. We value the trees, we value the space, we value the nature, we value the options, and this is our last chance to create such a space for Chapel Hill.

This park should be one place in Chapel Hill that dogs can be OFF leash. Many communities have these. I am not suggesting a small dog park but the whole place should be off leash.

Please, please preserve the Legion Site for a park or other green uses-not more buildings.

Preserving a bit of green space is particularly important for this side of Chapel Hill, which abuts Durham County and does not have the rural buffer of the rest of town. There are many new apartment developments going in near this space, making a shared bit of nature all the more pertinent.

People living in all those nearby high rises need somewhere to get outdoors.

Present and most previous town council members have ruined the town as far as high rise buildings. Save this small parcel of green space before it's too late.

We need this green space more than ever,, people must have somewhere to walk and play.

We have ENOUGH new developments - keep this green space as a community park - ALL OF IT!!

The master plan calls for a park in that quadrant of town. The land was purchased with Parks & Rec money and Cultural Arts money. With the hundreds of new apartments added to that area, a park is needed more than ever for people who don't have access to other outdoor space.

We need a gathering place...someplace green, not concrete! Someplace away from a highway.

The woods are very important as a natural habitat for families to explore.

Stop the green-space slaughter.

We need more parks and green space in Chapel Hill! Also more bike and pedestrian trails!

I encourage Chapel Hill to continue to price current and future residents out of the town by reducing any possible housing expansion and allowing a small group of motivated incumbent home owners to collect unearned economic rents. Making a site near major transportation nodes unavailable for new housing and commercial use will be quite effective in achieving this goal.

Create a Community Park on the Legion site. No more future slums.

Strong agree on the much needed green space!

Orange County is in desperate need of park land!

Create a Community Park on the Legion Site. NO to building housing on Legion site.

Please give us a park!!

With the amount of apartments and commercial building in this area, Please preserve this area for a Park — for All!

Our community would very much benefit from this park. So much land in the vicinity has been developed over the last decade. Let's step up as local citizens and make this Community Park happen. The benefits for young and old and for all of us in between will be so worthwhile and life affirming.

We definitely need a community park on all of this land, especially critical now with the influx of so many more people needing this green space to unwind and recreate. Instead, work on eliminating single family zoning throughout the city so families can erect multi-family dwellings on their properties. Then the city should use its affordable housing money to buy up existing houses in a variety of neighborhoods that they can offer to developers to tear down and build affordable housing more evenly distributed throughout the community.

It is essential to provide open space and recreational opportunities for people of all ages, housing, income, abilities, especially as Chapel Hill builds too much and squeezes its residents too strongly.

I live within walking distance of the proposed Community Park and already value the green space and trails and would welcome having a Community Park in our neighborhood.

The community Park would be good for the environment and the thousands of new residents.

Leave something peaceful to rejoice and exist in, in for wildlife and us. Elbow room for all. Take care to preserve a gently living space in perpetuity. Thank you!

We do not need any more appt development and/or 'cookie cutters' condos in Chapel Hill.

Preserving mature trees on this land is critical in our goals to ameliorate climate change. Access to a natural environment is critical to our mental health. Please keep our community park.

Keep the Legion tract for a green park for all to enjoy. With all the developments being built around Chapel Hill, there won't be many parks available for children, families, walkers for exercise with or without dogs.

Create a Community Park on the Legion Site. NO to building housing on Legion site.

Please give us a park!!

With the amount of apartments and commercial building in this area, Please preserve this area for a Park — for All!

Keep all the Legion property as park. Do not ignore all the community input from prior years calling for this property to be a park.

A park is needed so many trees have been removed to accommodate the housing in the area we need greenspace.

The petition states it quite concisely and nicely.

Chapel Hill does not need any more concrete. We will create the kind of flooding problems we had in Houston from overdevelopment.

Please create a Community Park on the Legion site. It would be of great benefit to the community.

Chapel Hill is building far too many expensive apartments and townhomes! Save the Legion park as was originally planned. We need more outside space and less high rise apartments for the wealthy!

I strongly support this petition. Losing this very limited recreational area in this part of town that is not in a flood plain will be an erroneous choice that can never be recovered.

Please do not build on this site! Enough with the apartments! We need this natural open space park for our mental health.

This neighborhood and the community would suffer a significant loss if the city builds houses and stores in this area.

Please no more apartments!! We need more parks!

The town is adding population rapidly. Residents whether old or recent need open green space. Today's town council members need to represent townspeople and look out for their needs over those of get-rich-quick-and-leave companies, and stick to the plan the town made.

Fully Support a nice city park.

As a resident of Colony Woods that backs up onto the Legion property, I ask that you please keep the entire Legion site as green space. This is our final and only chance to create such a park in Chapel Hill, and we desperately need it with all the many, many new developments in this very small area of Chapel Hill.

Stop selling off public properties! Need to create a Community Park instead.

The Legion property is the most peaceful place in Chapel Hill. We need open space more than still more housing!

Please create a Community Park on the Legion site. It would be of great benefit to the community.

We need parks and nature way more than helping some developer get richer.

PLEASE do not succumb to the pressures and temptations of the commercial developers. We have an excess of high density housing in this area. This site has flooding, wetlands, and swamps. it is not an appropriate location. thank you

Chapel Hill needs its public green space more than ever as developers privatize formerly accessible property. Housing density is growing and will continue to grow, making nearby green space all the more important for residents. Once lost, open parkland can rarely be recovered. Keep the Legion property intact for public use, please!

A park makes the most sense in that area. Please use it for the good of all people.

Do what you know is the right thing to do.

Great location and we all need more parks, more areas to enjoy nature in our community. It is a beautiful space that would be appreciated by all!

Please save this area as a public park.

I agree with this petition. We need this park and others in Chapel Hill to help reduce greenhouse emissions and continue to provide quality of life in our town.

Don't slander this opportunity, please.

We must balance all this new development with more green space.

Please slow down the development and preserve green space for the health of our community!

Do The right thing! Parks and environment vs. concrete! Easy choice.

No more Building!! More Parks! Hi.

City council- Please stop selling off our town.

Please consider the wishes of the community, not many chances to save places for parks. Please let this be one of them.

We don't want the 36 acres to be developed. Create a community park!!!

Keep the property as a park to benefit current and future residents of the city!

Please turn into community park with pickleball courts. Thank you.

Commercial development decreases the quality of life in the neighborhoods.

The development in the Chapel Hill and Durham areas has escalated to the point where residents are going to be facing extreme traffic issues. In addition this is directly opposed to the type of work our community should be engaging in to fight climate change.

When will all of these new developments stop? Invest in creating a park that people can enjoy. It's good for the environment and good for people's mental health.

As mentioned, the low area already is subject to flooding. Removing trees, putting in hardscape (buildings and parking lots) will cause even more run-off and those downstream will suffer more flooding.

We wholeheartedly endorse this petition concerning how the taxes we pay to Chapel Hill should be spent and the public spaces in the town should be managed.

The land taken up by the front development and the “affordable housing” will turn out to be far greater than initial drawings will show. Much of the so-called “affordable housing” will be market rate, as has always been the case. The prime land for a public park will disappear into these other uses.

Affordable homes, community gardening. Also, Chapel Hill Farmers Market.

Please stop the senseless development and destruction of green spaces in Chapel Hill and preserve this park in its entirety.

We need parkland and green space in this part of town much more than we need more apartments or other buildings.

I know this area well. It's seen much growth, including several large apartment complexes. This area sorely needs a park, and the legion site would be perfect.

Please use the Legion Property for a Community Park. This area is losing all our trees and open space to high rise housing. We don't need more housing, we need green space! Please reserve this beautiful land for outdoor activities for the entire town.

Keep Legion land as public park.

Please keep this area as green space! This is a valuable recreational asset for this part of Chapel Hill. Please do not sacrifice this land for housing. It is all we have left in this part of Chapel Hill. Please save the trees and the green space! Please!

This is the only land available to create a park in a rapidly growing area with dense population!

It's vital that the town save one of the last open areas for a park. It will help residents' physical and mental health, plus helping save the planet. Save the trees!

We need the Legion site to be a community park. It is perfect for it.

There will be no further green space available in the future. Green space is critically important to mental health. Please don't give it away to business over the people.

The points made in this petition are cogent and the need to preserve green space in CH is urgent. The Town Council needs to pay attention to this important petition.

In favor of park. Strongly opposed to any further multi occupation housing units. We have enough. Prove that you have greater than 50% occupancy of new units on Fordham, Legion, Ephesus or new build on Mt Moriah. This is now ridiculous. How much tax basis are you looking for Mayor Pam?

Have Legion Park stay a park. Develop it as a park for all in the Blue Hill District to enjoy. There is enough commercial and residential development in Chapel Hill where we need to preserve some park areas for now and future use.

The intention is a start. However, we need to create "Homeownership" instead generations of "Renters". By not providing opportunities for "the PURCHASE of affordable homes", we continue to reinforce generations of citizens with no ability to build sustainable financial futures for themselves or their families and therefore will continue to be an ongoing syphon on town resources, instead of contributing to the town's strength and success.

We walk the Legion property at least 1 to 2 times a day with our dog. It is a beautiful green space in a rapidly growing commercial, residential, and busy area of our town. Please keep the Legion property green!

I own house at 7 Lark Circle Chapel Hill 27517 We already have low rent housing on Legion and this needs to be dispersed to another area.

The Legion field has been in debate for many years with no resolution. There isn't much land with community use potential in town as developers gobble everything up.

My understanding is that this purchase was made with funds designated as open land/park funds. Please leave it all green!

The north east section of Chapel Hill is becoming overly dense with apt. /condo housing. We need more additional open space and park venues. Please do NOT approve this location for additional housing.

we need open space, especially on this side of town. No more apartments!

A park would be so great and we really need one on this side of town.

I want the Legion property to be a Community Park for all to use.

Dedicate the entire parcel to Community Park!

Especially with all the new multi-family housing surrounding the Legion property, a Community Park is desperately needed, certainly not more housing! Please listen to your Community!!

Let's please save Legion Park as a PARK!

Park no apartment.

This Greenspace has been so important to so many people and should not be ruined with development. Stop trying to make the town of Chapel Hill and its charm turn into thousands of apartment buildings. You are forgetting the families who also live here and utilize these spaces.

Save this land as green space for families.

Please take this unique opportunity to create an open space for all. Once it's gone it's gone forever.

Thus is a beautiful site that should be enjoyed by the tax paying community.

Given the high numbers of new housing units and the much denser population that will soon be living here we need to prioritize the preservation of natural space for people to spend time in. It's important for mental health.

I believe a park is the best use of this land.

I used to live in Chapel Hill and would have fully supported an official use of the area mentioned for a community park. There are plenty of other options for hosting development. Having accessible green space for the area is important for everyone. It gives people a chance to enjoy being outdoors and the natural flora and fauna of the area. There is already too much development in our area, please consider preserving this space.

Please keep all the American Legion land site for a park for all to enjoy.

Time to preserve some natural space for future generations.

Please save the tract and create a community park at the Legion Site!

The people of Chapel Hill keep saying we want more / better parks but the town council keeps pushing development into green space that could be parks - see Legion, Greene Tract, Jay Street, Southern Community Park, and Bennett Road land donated for open space.

Please make this beautiful riparian area public and accessible to the community.

Unless it is more affordable housing, I would love to community park for all families in the area to enjoy.

Please create the needed park. We all know we don't need more apartments! We are desperate for more green spaces, as we were promised.

Blue Hill has gone a long way to create high density housing. It is imperative that it be balanced with community open space. A Community Park taking advantage of the entire Legion site is our only opportunity in this area.

A community green space is needed and important. Please leave this small patch of remaining land in the Blue Hill area undeveloped.

This is a no brainer. The Legion property should be 100% dedicated to a community park.

We need community parks and greenways; not more urban sprawl. Please...for the future.

Please , we need more parks in CH!!

This site supports local wildlife and provides accessible walking areas. I use it frequently and it enhances the appeal of the area, especially with all the new apartment complexes. Please protect it from encroaching development and consider adding educational amenities.

We have way too much expensive housing development already. Save our open spaces!

I am in favor of keeping this land as a park through and through.

This green space has been a treasure to me, my family, and the people of all the neighborhoods adjoining it, contributing to our health, well-being, and quality of life. It provides a habitat for wildlife. As the surrounding area becomes ever more built up and congested, preserving the remaining green spaces is vital. Please keep the entire space as a park.

Keep Legion parkland. NO MORE BUILDING!!!

I am in full support of turning the entire Legion property into a park for Chapel Hill. With the increase in rental properties (on Ephesus Church Road) and Wegman's in this area, additional housing and retail is not needed. This side of town lacks public green space. The Legion property is large enough to allow for trails, playgrounds, sports fields, and gathering places without increasing traffic congestion.

Please stop cutting down trees, ruining the environment, and building all these awful apartment buildings on valuable green spaces.

Please make this a park.

Please. The children in this area need a park. Everyone benefits from Greenspan. We do not need more concrete and asphalt.

Keep Legion Park a park!

Parks are critical to our health & well being & a gift to our community. I strongly support reserving this precious land for a well designed, family & senior friendly, community park. Thank you for your efforts!

Yes to the park on the Legion Rd property. I cannot begin to understand why we need more 'luxury' apartments.

Chapel Hill needs more parks and more green spaces. Development is outpacing our earth's ability to support it. We can restore balance by preserving more land for parks and natural spaces!

Great public spaces and parks make for great cities and towns! Please preserve this land for all to enjoy!

This was meant to be green space.

This land is crucial to the communities around it. Without it, my physical and mental health would be severely impacted.

I would like to see all of this public land used as park, as was originally intended. Green space is vital to any community, and in my opinion this local community has done a good job in providing for other uses and needs this space as a balance.

MAY GOD BLESS.

A much needed park with all the new developments especially.

This is priceless land... NO DEVELOPMENT in terms of retail or affordable housing is reasonable. Investment in making it permanent park and greenway is the only acceptable option.

Strongly support to create a Community Park on the Legion Site!!

Petition to support the creation of a community park on the Legion Site.

Stop building more apartments in this area. To build a public park at Legion is most necessary and best way for citizens' mental and physical health.

We need more green space, especially space for equity reasons. Chapel Hill has less green space than any other community in the Triangle. And it is wrong to turn over public land to private developers so they can make a profit at everyone else's expense.

Thank you!!!

Please save Legion Rd park.

Destroying this park for development would be a crime. It's a beautiful spot for walking, fishing, or just sitting and relaxing. The area is already being gentrified to hell, how many luxury apartments do we need?

Help save Legion Community Park.

It would be unconscionable to build on this land -- let's make it an official park today for the future.

Stop the developing, save the park!

I fully support turning all 36 acres on Legion Rd into a community park.

How will I learn of upcoming meetings?

There is a little else I can say that you haven't heard: this area has been over developed, we need more green space, the park is enjoyed by everyone, promises have been made, develop elsewhere.

I'm interested in helping. Marie has my cell number and email.

Thank you for your concern and efforts.

Keep this a park for the local community.

I am a homeowner in Colony Lake. With all the developments planned at Old Durham Road/Pope Road, i do not think more housing is needed in this part of town, unless it's affordable single family homes.

Too much of our land is being taken over by conglomerates , big business. The people are suffocating. We need this land so there's a place where we can breath and rest and explore. A garden.

This is the only safe place for my dog to play please keep our park.

Physicians prescribe outdoor recreation and spending time near trees because it improves health and well-being. Being able to use parks for free is a public health and social justice issue.

This park means a lot to my sister who lives near said park. It would be in the best interest of the community to protect this safe space & the wildlife that lives there.

Parks.

Very curious if there are any more public meetings planned!

Please! I love this park!

Please! Leave this green space for public use! We've run out of open green space on this side of chapel hill except for the cemeteries.

The town is pushing for development, but refuses to help with property damage that is a direct result of overdevelopment.

My family uses this park weekly as a place to be outdoors and exercise our dog. Bringing commercial development to this residential area would be a huge loss to the community.

There have been too many developments built too quickly. We need to pause. A park on this land would be preferred.

We need to move to use or reuse areas that have already been developed and build "up" rather than develop the remaining green space in town.

Keep it a park! Let us enjoy our neighborhood and not add more traffic to it.

Save the park.

Save the whole park.

Keep it a park - need the green space in Chapel Hill!

Preserve green spaces for the community's well-being. Conserve woodlands for diverse flora and fauna.

Parks green space contribute to healthy Community.

Please save the park. My family cherishes this park.

Having green space in this area is more important to me than new construction! The area has already been overtaken by new builds for years now. Stop the madness.

Please preserve the community park! The explosion of development in the area has already overwhelmed the infrastructure in the area. We need green space!!

Save Legion Park!

I strongly support the preservation of open public space in Chapel Hill and the creation of a new much needed park.

We support the creation of the park.

Park instead of more housing.

Please save our green space !

Stop the unrelenting destruction of our green spaces...

Please preserve Legion Park.

It is vitally important that this land be saved and used as park space.

This was supposed to be a park not a money making venture.

What about the deer please don't cut down the trees and build a park thank you.

Please preserve this unique natural space!

To cut all of this timber down to make more housing is a shame. We need green spaces, the animals and birds need green spaces. Please don't destroy this beautiful land. Let's enjoy nature!

Our community needs this space to relax during these uncertain stressful times.

It would be nice to have the Legion Community Park . This is the perfect local.

Please save this park—our community needs green spaces like this.

STOP DEVELOPING CHAPEL HILL!!

Butterfly garden and pond are home to environment, please preserve.

With all the construction in the area, we need to keep Legion park for recreation. Build a community pool!

For goodness sakes this area needs more parks and greenspace - not more commercial development!

Save the park!

Please do not develop the park.

Yes, we need some greenspace! Things have gotten way too built up over here. I don't recognize my town anymore.

As someone who grew up in Chapel Hill and raised their children here, it is Chapel Hill's last chance to finally put the youth of the community before their financial endeavors.

Save the park! Stop the greed!

Save the park!

Save our parks! Keep Chapel Hill green and lush with nature spaces we can all enjoy!

Keep Legion Park a Park! It is the last remaining green space in our area!

Save Legion Park!

Save our Parks!!!

Our last opportunity for a community park in East Chapel Hill, We need our trees.

Please keep Legion Park as a green space for our community!

We desperately need more greenspace and community fields in our town.

Please do the right thing and make this a park.

Please do not develop this green space into yet another tragic eyesore.

Build the park (and spare five or six acres for construction of a velodrome!)

Developing the Legion area into a community park would provide a great deal of community value and would help to balance all of the rapid housing development (and elimination of green spaces) in CH.

We could use something on this side of town other than empty high-rise apartment buildings.

It is vital to preserve our green spaces. They provide valuable health, recreation and quality of life benefits to the community. Please save Legion Park for us and future generations!

Need more tennis courts!

There's lots of higher density housing already, and more being added in this neighborhood. We need spaces like Legion Park.

With the additional apartment buildings that have been built, there is a need for a real, full park on this side of town.

Open space whether landscaped as a park or just preserved as a walking area is never going to come back once it is paved over.

Please save Legion Community Park!

There are very few parks and open spaces in town that are large enough to provide safe distances for my nervous dog to enjoy the outdoors.

I am regular walker in that area.

We don't have enough green space/parks for the population of Chapel Hill. The Hartley Apartments has more green space for DOGS, than for people.

I thought, that it was understood, that Chapel Hill bought the American Legion property to make the area a recreation area.

Legion Park has been the most meaningful place to me in all of Chapel Hill. It can NOT be desecrated like this.

Don't let big brother control us.

Please act to preserve Legion Park as it is. The six people in my household go there regularly. For my grandchildren, the woods have been a very special place.

Save the park!

We need green space! Don't let this valuable asset go to a developer!

Support save the legiond Park and do not build any apartments in that area.

One of the amazing things about our neighborhood is the many kids that play games in the street on a DAILY basis. It is so good for community.

We need parks! Not commercial development!

There has been perpetual construction in this area. We don't need anymore. We definitely don't need more apartment buildings. They've built at least 4 or 5 already- enough.

Let's continue to save nature and recreation.

Please let us have a park.

More public parks in Chapel Hill!

Save legion park for everyone to enjoiy.

Help save Legion community park.

No more construction. Legion Park is the very few remaining oasis in Chapel Hill.

Legion Park is the best part about where we live! Our community does not want to see it destroyed.

Thank you for your attention to this very important project.

I work across the street from the park at the Europa office building. The park is a wonderful place to clear your head and enjoy fresh air — it should be protected for the enjoyment of all.

It would be a terrible loss for this land to be developed. It provides safe passage to school and an opportunity for the local kids to play safely in nature.

As a resident of Chapel Hill for 24 years and student of Ephesus, Phillips, East Chapel Hill and UNC, it's truly disappointing to see the cookie cutter commercialization of Chapel Hill continue.

Just moved here—not a citizen but indeed a property tax contributor. Love the park for running!

Love the park for some offroading. Huge value add to the area. There is already plenty of housing here, please keep the park as it is!

It would be terrible for the environment to build on it. We're already losing too many trees due to development.

I have been going to this park for many years. It would be very sad to lose it.

I love this park! It would be a shame if it got built on.

We need parks! There are almost no more places left to simply gather, exist, and play without having to pay. Parks bring communities together and are absolutely necessary!!