

From: smcgill@comcast.net
To: [Wheeler, Mayor](#); [Commissioner Ryan Office](#); [Commissioner Hardesty](#); [Commissioner Mapps](#); [Commissioner Rubio](#); [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: Park blocks plan
Date: Friday, June 11, 2021 12:26:43 PM

I am expressing my deep concern about the city's new Park Block master plan. On the surface it appears to be another example of the city meeting the needs of developers over the needs of the less affluent in our city. It increases hardscape in an area with too much already, it takes away the "backyard" of this densely crowded neighborhood area and lessens the activities possible there with the increased hardscape. I also have concerns about replacing deciduous trees with evergreens that provide much less oxygenation to the area and too much shade, creating a dark space in the center of the city.

My additional concern is for the loss of trees. I have always loved the park blocks area just as it was planned and built. It will take many years for the new trees to grow to the current tree size. With this plan there will be at least 25% fewer trees. The current trees have many years of growth and beauty left. The measurement of the park itself will also be reduced.

To me, and many people I have talked to, this plan makes no sense! Why take a large park that is beautiful and serves the community well and make it smaller, leave many fewer trees, and add significantly more hardscape to an area that is better off without it and pay \$50 million dollars to do it? That is not what I foresaw when I voted for the bond issue that will fund this sad downgrading of a beautiful city park. I will look more closely into future measures, since, if it continues, will have created a loss of trust in decisions made by the city.

Sylvia McGill 3550 S Bond Ave. 97235