

To our Ward 2 councillors,

I wanted to reach out to you to express my concern around how the city has managed its parkland and would ask that you structure the Parkland Dedication Bylaw to maximize LAND – not cash – but LAND to make sure our city has the dedicated parkland that we are entitled to.

Rather than just complain, I actually have a creative initiative to propose! I would like the city to consider purchasing the Armtex property on George Street, remove any structures that have no historical significance, and install fields/baseball diamonds/trails which would be open to all residents! This area of the Speed River is a gem – already used by many – and could be similar to Royal City Park along Gordon Street.

It would certainly help the issue of being ‘park poor’ and take away all the difficulties – which are many – in trying to redevelop that site. City staff snuck through a rezoning as part of OPA48 on a property that doesn’t meet the criteria for high density. It will be a hard fought battle to redevelop – hence being creative and turning it into a substantial park the city can be proud of solves the problem!

Thank you for your time.

Bonnie Swantek