

Dear Cathy Downer and City Officials

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposal to sell Hugh Guthrie Park to a developer for the creation of low-cost, high-density housing. While I understand and appreciate the need for affordable housing in our city, I believe that sacrificing our valuable park land is not the solution.

Hugh Guthrie Park serves as a vital green space for our community, providing numerous benefits to residents of all ages. It offers a place for recreation, relaxation, and connection with nature. The park is not only an environmental asset but also a crucial component of our community's well-being. Studies have repeatedly shown the positive impacts of green spaces on physical and mental health, as well as on community cohesion.

Furthermore, the loss of Hugh Guthrie Park would set a dangerous precedent for the future of our city's parks. Once a park is gone, it is gone forever. We must prioritize the preservation of these natural spaces for current and future generations.

While I acknowledge the need for affordable housing, I urge you to consider alternative solutions that do not involve the destruction of our parks. There are numerous underutilized or vacant lots within the city that could be repurposed for housing development. Additionally, exploring options such as mixed-use developments or incentivizing the construction of affordable units in existing buildings could provide viable alternatives.

I strongly believe that the preservation of Hugh Guthrie Park is in the best interest of our community. I urge you to reconsider this proposal and explore alternative solutions that do not sacrifice our valuable green spaces.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely, Elliott Garcea

■ Echo Dr, Guelph, ON ■