

Dear Mayor Guthrie and Councillors

There are a number of people who are extremely concerned that the Old Reformatory (OR) lands are going to be used for housing developments.

We all agree that housing is necessary.

We think you will agree that people who live in those houses will need to be able to take care of their mental health.

People can improve their mental health by having access to the outdoors - this does not mean streets and sidewalks but wide open spaces and natural surroundings.

If you have ever gone for a walk near a body of water or in a treed area you will know the benefits of getting away from concrete and buildings and breathing in air that is of better quality because of the water and the trees.

This is free - people can access better mental and physical health with no cost to the health care system.

I hope you will see the wisdom of turning this unique piece of land at the OR into an Urban Park in Guelph.

Guelph needs housing and Guelph needs parks - in my mind housing and parks are equally important.

Please consider this when making decisions around the final draft of the Ontario Reformatory Heritage Conservation District and the purchase of Ontario Reformatory (OR) lands south of York Road.

Thank you for the work you do - we trust you to make good decisions for the benefit of people in Guelph and also people who would come to Guelph to visit an Urban Park.

Lynn Roodbol (YGH Board Secretary)