

Dear City Council Members,

I am writing as a concerned citizen of Regina about the recent proposal to cut down the trees at the Regent Park Par 3 Golf course. My name is Ashlyn Kydd, and my concern for this is due to the fact that there are so many benefits to having trees, especially old trees, be part of our city. It is my understanding that you plan to take out a large amount of the trees, and replace it with a recreational area, which includes a soccer fields and more. Although these are beneficial to people, their benefit does not outweigh the benefits of having trees in a neighbourhood. This neighbourhood is also an older one and therefore the trees will be much more mature and have an increased benefit.

One benefit of having trees in our neighbourhoods is that they improve the air quality. According to Urbanforestnetwork.org, "Urban forests help to improve our air quality...On average, one acre of new forest can sequester about 2.5 tons of carbon annually. Young trees absorb CO₂ at a rate of 13 pounds per tree each year. Trees reach their most productive stage of carbon storage at about 10 years at which point they are estimated to absorb 48 pounds of CO₂ per year. At that rate, they release enough oxygen back into the atmosphere to support two human beings." Also, according to Green Blue Urban, "For every 10% increase in urban tree canopy, ozone is reduced by between 3-7%."

Mature Trees are also important to have because of their benefits in helping cool areas. "One mature tree can produce the same cooling effect as 10 room-sized air conditioners. This becomes an effective tool in reducing urban heat islands and hot spots in cities", according to Green Blue Urban. As increased heat in the summer becomes an issue, it would be beneficial to keep the mature trees in this park to help with the cooling effect. It would be a place that people

humans his team found that there was “decreased civility, more aggression, more property, more loitering, more graffiti, and more litter, as well as less supervision of children outdoors” (The Nature Principle). Wouldn’t you want the citizens in that area to benefit from the nature that already exists there? Don’t you think that they should have access to the things that would help them feel less stress? Keeping the trees might also help lower crime in the area, which has been shown in studies time and time again.

When you look at the map for that area, you do not see many green, natural spaces that people can enjoy. There are manicured parks in the area, but even those parks, and I have driven by them a fair amount, do not have many trees.

In conclusion city councilors, I would ask that you reconsider your plans and don’t cut down the trees. They provide so much for the area that you can’t always be seen right away. Even if you do, please consider what the city wants, because your ideas are not what the 200,000+ citizens of this city might want.

Sincerely,

Ashlyn