

This is a request to appear before City Council on December 9th & 10th, 2019. I will be discussing the redevelopment of the Regent Par III Golf Course. My name is: Jacquie Braun My address is: [REDACTED]. My phone number is [REDACTED]

The following is a written summary of what I will be presenting:

My name is Jacquie Braun I am here tonight to oppose the redevelopment of the Regent Par III Golf Course into a recreation hub. It is important that the trees on the land not be destroyed.

The City of Regina wants to build a recreation hub on the Golf Course land. This would involve the removal of hundreds of large old established trees.

One common definition of an **urban forest** is a **collection of trees** that grow within a city.

The Regent Golf Course is one of the oldest urban forests in Regina. It is a valuable asset not just to Coronation Park but to the rest of the City and globally. It allows Regina to do our part to combat climate change.

The Regina Urban Forest Management Strategy is a comprehensive plan that includes policies and standards for maintaining urban forests in the City. It was developed through extensive research and consultation and according to the City it must be adhered to.

The strategy says that **virtually every tree in the city was planted by hand.**

It goes on to say the following:

Urban forests are essential to the current and future health of our City and its residents.

A cost-benefit analysis found that a public tree in Regina returns 42 times what it cost to plant and maintain it in terms of environmental, ecological, social and economic benefits to the community and the larger ecosystem.

The Strategy also says all of the following:

Trees Improve the quality of air and water and reduce the effects of noise pollution. It should be noted regarding noise that the golf course adjoins a railroad and the trees protect the community from the noise of trains

The strategy says that trees reduce stormwater runoff and reduce the load on storm sewage systems resulting in less damage to life and property. It should be noted that Coronation was found to be one of the worst flood zones in all of Regina and the golf course trees help protect the neighbourhood from flooding.

Urban forests within our city provide an important opportunity for residents to appreciate and understand the natural world while reducing the stress of urban life and improving physical well-being.

Urban forests build stronger communities and contribute to lower levels of domestic violence

Trees are a natural source for stimulating a child's imagination and sense of wonder and are a great source of civic pride.

The strategy goes on to say that trees are a community asset and a maintained urban forest is an investment that appreciates in value.

The Goal Statement of the strategy says:

Regina's urban forest is essential to the current and future health of our City and its residents and the goal is to proactively manage and sustain the City's forest.

This past summer the city began cutting down trees in the golf course. The City claimed the trees were suffering from drought, were sick, infested with beetles, old and at the end of their lifespan. As proof City crews showed citizens lines under the bark they said were made by beetles. Hundreds of photos of the trees were taken and sent to the University of Saskatchewan where they were viewed by a professor of agriculture. He said the lines under the bark were normal and expected insect activity in the trees. He also claimed the trees in the pictures could have been expected to live another 30 to 50 years.

Even if the City was right and some of the trees were sick or old, this would not be a reason to remove even a single healthy tree or to destroy any 60 year old sick tree that could be saved with

intervention. According to experts we have spoken with, the natural state of any forest, including an urban forest, is that it will renew itself. The trees on the golf course land could be protected, nurtured and renewed if the City wanted to do this.

If you want to cut down a single city tree in your yard in Regina you have to fight city hall to do it. The city has a bylaw to protect trees which says “no person shall plant, damage, disturb, prune or remove any public tree” and “no person shall attach any notice, bill, poster, sign, wire, rope, cord, nail or other object to or around any public tree”....

If you do any one of these things you can be fined up to \$5,000. Yet the City wants to remove hundreds of trees from the golf course land which is one of the oldest urban forests in Regina, because they have decided to put a recreation hub there. It simply doesn't make sense why the City would design or defend a golf course design that would destroy hundreds of trees.

The City should comply with their own Urban Forest Management Strategy and their own bylaws and nurture and protect every tree on the golf course land. How can citizens be expected to protect individual city trees in their yards if the city capriciously cuts down hundreds of trees to build a field and some washrooms.

The golf course land is part of the birthright of future generations. Members of city council are only temporary stewards of this land. It is not okay to redevelop this forest in any way that would destroy any tree. It is not your right to destroy the urban forest. Do not remove trees to put in a sports field. Do not clear out trees to put in a toboggan hill, washrooms or any other recreation hub items. I have spoken with dozens of people and **we, as a community are not okay with your decision to do this.**

For these reasons and others I am opposed to building a recreation hub on the Regent Par III Golf Course land.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "D. ...", is written in a cursive style.