

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 Mikaela Juliene De Leon. My address is: [REDACTED]. My phone number is [REDACTED].

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

My name is Mikaela De Leon. 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 Regina Urban Forest Management Strategy (2000) says that **virtually every tree in the city was planted by hand**. It goes on to say that "A cost-benefit analysis estimates that the average public tree in Regina returns 42 times what it cost to plant and maintain it in environmental, ecological, social and economic benefits to the community and larger ecosystem"

If you want to cut down a single city tree in your yard in Regina you have to fight city hall to do it. In fact the city has a bylaw to protect trees: In part this bylaw says: "no person shall plant, damage, disturb, prune or remove any public tree" and it goes on to say: "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 these things you can be fined up to \$5,000. Yet the City wants to remove hundreds of trees from the Regent Par II 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 anyone would design or defend a redevelopment that would destroy hundreds of trees.

The Regent Par III Golf Course is one of the oldest urban forests in the city of Regina. It is a valuable asset not just to Coronation Park but to the rest of the City and as part of a global picture. It is a great resource to combat climate change.

It is nearly 12 acres of land consisting of hundreds of trees and shrubs that are decades old and it has been home to generations of various birds and small creatures. It plays an important role in protecting us from climate change. Removal of trees on this land would interfere in this important ecosystem, would contribute to climate change and would displace or potentially kill the wildlife that currently lives there. I object to removing any trees and I am very aware that other students also object.

There is other land available in Coronation that could be used to build your proposed sports hub. For example, the ACT Ball Diamond space. The City's Master Recreation Plan claims it wants to cut the number of ball diamonds in the City in half so that there would be 1 ball diamond per 2,500 people. Coronation already has 1 ball diamond per 465 people nearly 6 times the number the city recommends.

Children in the immediate area of the golf course have a 65% poverty rate and the majority, if not all, do not play ball at ACT diamonds so it's just a gravel filled space for them that is unattractive and unusable. Wealthy areas of the city have few ball diamonds. For example, Twin Lakes has 1 diamond per 2,000 people and Harbor Landing has no ball diamonds. The ACT ball diamond space is a perfect place for your recreation hub. If the City wanted to serve the community to the best of its ability then the ACT area would be used as the recreation hub and the urban forest at the golf course would be left intact.

The golf course land is part of the birthright of future generations and I speak on their behalf when I tell you it is not okay to redevelop this forest in any way that would destroy any of the trees. Do not clear out 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. **We, the next generation 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.