
Subject: Email - Communication - Tom Gode - Proposed School Construction within Optimist Park - 610-11
Attachments: optimist_park.docx

From: Web NoReply <web-noreply@Saskatoon.ca>
Sent: Friday, February 19, 2021 12:32 PM
To: City Council <City.Council@Saskatoon.ca>
Subject: Email - Communication - Tom Gode - Proposed School Construction within Optimist Park - 610-11

--- Replies to this email will go to [REDACTED] ---

Submitted on Friday, February 19, 2021 - 12:31

Submitted by user: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Date Friday, February 19, 2021
To His Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council
First Name Tom
Last Name Gode
Phone Number (306) [REDACTED]
Email [REDACTED]
Address [REDACTED] 2nd Street East
City Saskatoon
Province Saskatchewan
Postal Code [REDACTED]
Name of the organization or agency you are representing (if applicable) SOS Trees Coalition
Subject Optimist Park
Meeting (if known)
Comments Letter is attached

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



SOS Trees Coalition

1618 - 9th Avenue North, SASKATOON, SK. S7K 3A1

www.sostrees.ca

February 19, 2021

To: His Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council

Re: Proposed School Construction within Optimist Park

As a coalition protecting and fostering stewardship of our urban forests since 1992 we believe that there must be a better location than in one of Saskatoons oldest parks. Construction in Optimist Park, or any park for that matter should be unacceptable as the City strives to increase its canopy cover. City trees are a significant asset of the city with values that can reach \$30-\$50,000 per tree and is a significant element in removing the climate changing CO2 from the air. The city trees affects benefits residents who live, work and use the streets, bikeways, sidewalks and trails of Saskatoon and are a critical component to the high quality of life residents enjoy.

The West Industrial neighbourhood has less than 1.5% green space and only 3-5% canopy cover. Compare that to other neighbourhoods in our city - some of which have over 15% green space and over 25% canopy cover. Optimist Park currently offers mature trees, shade, recreational opportunities, mental and physical health benefits, wildlife habitat, storm water management, and so much more. If a school were to be built in the park, we worry that it would lead to the removal of trees, park space would be fragmented and paved over, and that the existing forest would be depleted. If the City believes that the park is so under-utilized to give up half of it than SOS Trees Coalition proposes that the 3-4 acres be planted into a naturalized urban forest so the neighborhood can enjoy the benefits of a naturalized environments that many of our newer neighborhoods enjoy.

The Green Infrastructure Strategy, Action 10: "Protect and Grow the Urban Forest". We know that the larger trees are more effective at storing carbon than an equal amount of trunk diameter of smaller trees. The cost of establishing trees far exceeds that of maintaining existing trees. We must protect our large established trees.

Guiding Principle: "Wellness: Physical & Mental - The green network meets community needs, recognizing that access to green space is strongly related to residents' physical, spiritual and mental wellbeing." If we have learned one thing during the Covid crisis is that people need access to trees and the natural environment for their mental & physical health.

If school amalgamation is the route ultimately selected we urge Council to look at vacant and under-used properties in the area that do not involve the removal of trees and reject the Optimist Park option.

Yours sincerely,

Linda Moskalyk

President, SOS Trees Coalition Inc.

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trees@sostrees.ca