

Thank you for allowing me this opportunity to convey to you why I am opposed to the disposition of parkland located at Glenmore Landing. I feel frustrated by the fact that we have to fight for something that should be considered so precious, especially in a time when our City has declared a climate emergency and the United Nations declared **this** the “decade of ecosystem *restoration*”, not destruction.

**Merriam-webster defines PARK as:**

*an area maintained in its natural state as a public property*

The property in question at Glenmore Landing is PARK, it is part of a regional pathway of the city-wide network system that connects the communities from the east side of 14th street, allowing a safe access point for cyclists and pedestrians along 90 ave to the greater park area of Glenmore Reservoir. The park also provides a buffer from 14st and 90 ave traffic and the parking plaza at Glenmore Landing. How does this differ from other pathways next to natural areas in our city?

If we allow the parkland at Glenmore Landing to disappear we lose our pathways system, and risk upsetting the balance of ecosystems and losing biodiversity. The 5.6 **acres** of parkland at Glenmore Landing has **numerous** mature and young trees. Out of these trees **81 are recorded** on the Urban Forestry Management site as having a documented value of over \$400 000. 00. The forested area in question consumes 40,000 sq feet, almost another acre of land, but has no recorded value. **Where does it stop?**

We believe this location and the trees are priceless. According to the [Arbor Day Foundation](#), in one year **a mature tree** will absorb more than 48 pounds of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and release oxygen in exchange. The trees and green space play a critical role in creating a healthier, more biodiverse, and more appealing community. Unfortunately the current stewards of the parkland, RioCan, have neglected to keep all the trees healthy and vibrant.

That being said, the trees continue to grow, capturing carbon and producing oxygen. They continue to help reduce ambient heat, improve flood-proofing and provide habitat for birds, pollinators and other biodiversity. These trees and the trees in the larger reservoir park are important and we need to protect and maintain them by making sure they have consistent access to sunlight in order for them to stay healthy. With the proposed hard infrastructure, 25 storeys will heavily shade the forest to the north but keeping the area parkland would ensure the health of all surrounding trees. If Nature is literally the heart and lungs of our great city, why are we even considering letting these parklands go? We should be **adding more** trees! Statistics Canada says “The plan is to double the tree canopy by 2060, which would require planting 3,500 trees

annually to maintain existing stock plus another 4,000 for expansion. *Globe and Mail*  
*JANUARY 7, 2023*

**Numerous** city documents support keeping Calgary green and urban areas healthy;

**The Urban Strategic Plan,** says

“Calgary’s urban forest is a sustainable asset contributing to the environmental, social, and economic wellbeing of current and future generations.” *pg 17*

**The Biodiversity -strategic plan** a “document that was created as part of The City of Calgary’s commitment to protect and restore the natural environment.” *pg- 45 states* “Protect air, land, water and biodiversity in the planning, design ....”*pg.16* Section 3.12,

**The MDP outlines a series of clear environmental policies stating;**

Greening the city, prioritizes maintaining biodiversity ... *City of Calgary biodiversity -strategic plan - pg.16* Section 2.6,

**The Open Spaces Plan** states .... Pg. 47 Policy #1

1. The City should promote the provision and maintenance of a healthy, viable urban forest in all areas of Calgary by protecting the existing urban forest and facilitating **additional** planting to keep up with the growth of the city and to meet environmental targets.

Our parklands should not be compromised but rather they should be supported and protected. The city needs to be accountable for nature and have **balance** in their decision making when planning our great city.

So we are asking the council to **Rethink** this parkland, work alongside eager community members to protect and rewild this parcel of land so it is cohesive with the adjacent Glenmore Reservoir Park, and ultimately protect our **drinking water** located steps away. Protect the investment that Harry Hayes, Grant Mcewan, the community and council members of 40 years ago fought so hard for by going to the Supreme Court of Canada to have this parkland kept in **perpetuity**.

Once our city’s parkland is gone it is gone forever along with all the other species that rely on it. Density **does not** belong on parkland next to our drinking water! Please pause, work with Calgarians and ultimately allow future generations the opportunity to enjoy the natural beauty of Calgary and let’s keep this parkland green, **not grey!**