

From: [Drew Harrigan](#)
To: [Eastman, Jeff R. - PDR](#)
Subject: Kanawha Plaza
Date: Thursday, April 09, 2015 9:18:33 AM

Mr. Eastman,

I had a chance to take a look at the plans for the Kanawha Plaza - very interesting. I'm not able to attend the UDC meeting this morning and I understand I can forward comments to you to be presented during the meeting.

The layout of the design is interesting and I particularly think the incorporation of the food truck access drive and adjacent seating adds a great layer to an expanding Richmond city vendor market. I do have concerns, though, about the environmental opportunity that seems to have been totally missed with the plan. Specifically, I think the designers should consider the following:

- Use of native plants! There appears to be only two native plants in the plan, the rest are non-natives. There are even two invasive species on the list and that's just downright irresponsible. There is an opportunity to connect to the landscape across the street at the Gateway building that is using all natives in their scheme.
- Stormwater management: Richmond needs innovative public spaces that capture and infiltrate stormwater, not contribute runoff to the combined sewer system that overflows in the River. While this might not be possible over the entire area, certainly some bioretention areas could be created along the perimeter. Other small changes might include not mounding the raised planters such that stormwater is better captured in those spaces.
- Use of larger shade trees where possible to reduce Heat Island Effect. Crape Myrtles and Foster Hollies have no shade value.
- Diversification and expansion of the plant list: as a massive public space there is opportunity to create some biodiversity.

Thanks very much for your time and involvement – as a designer and resident of the city I appreciate the job you do!

Respectfully,

Drew Harrigan
Landscape Architect

a *RiverWise* preferred designer



804-920-5878

www.fourwindsdesign.net

From: [Julie Buchanan](#)
To: [Eastman, Jeff R. - PDR](#)
Subject: Public comments on Kanawha Plaza renovation
Date: Wednesday, April 08, 2015 10:27:01 PM

Dear Mr. Eastman,

This email is in reference to the city's Kanawha Plaza renovation plans, which I understand will come before the Urban Design Committee at tomorrow's meeting.

I am a city resident who also works downtown, only two blocks from the plaza. I and countless other downtown workers are excited to see improvements to this space. While I'm fortunate to have the James River Park System close by, I can't always take the time to walk there. Kanawha Plaza is the most convenient place for many workers to get some important time away from their desks during the work day.

I also am a volunteer with the Greater Virginia Green Building Council, whose 2013 design challenge focused on this site.

With that said, I'd like to submit the following comments on the current plans:

- Please retain as much healthy vegetation as possible at the site. The shade trees and buffer plantings serve a valuable purpose, and it would be incredibly wasteful to remove them.
- In areas without shade, I would love to see the city pursue solar energy for the site. It would be efficient in the long-term and set a great example for visitors.
- Please do not use synthetic turf. It would detract from the already small element of naturalness that visitors go there to enjoy. Plus, it seems at odds with the idea to plant native plants.
- The splash pad idea seems completely off base. The concept is great in theory, but Kanawha Plaza is not a good place for this feature. We're talking about a high-traffic area that is frequented mostly by adults during the work day. A park located closer to neighborhoods is better suited for the splash pad. If anything, the current placement as shown on the drawings is downright unsafe.
- I appreciate the installation of bike racks wherever possible.
- We visit places like Kanawha Plaza to get away from technology, so the addition of large video screens is a turnoff. Please find a more subtle way to incorporate technology. Plus, these are the types of features that will date the park sooner than anything and are expensive to replace.
- Finally, Kanawha Plaza doesn't need to be all things to everyone. I fear the park will become a hodgepodge of amenities that won't get used. We need some breathing room. Please don't fill this valuable outdoor space with "stuff."

Thank you for your time. I look forward to visiting the renewed Kanawha Plaza!

Sincerely,
Julie Buchanan
6103 Patterson Ave.
Richmond, VA 23226
804-928-2445

From: [Louise Seals](#)
To: [Eastman, Jeff R. - PDR](#)
Cc: [Michael Paul Williams](#); [Paige Mudd](#)
Subject: Cutting 70+ trees would be a travesty
Date: Monday, April 20, 2015 11:51:10 AM

Dear Mr. Eastman,

I am a Fan District resident and a city taxpayer. The idea of cutting 6 dozen mature trees in order to re-do Kanawha Plaza for the bike races appalls me. I agree that the plaza needs a new look, but the fact that this project and its drastic action to clear the space are being pushed with so little public input is especially troubling to me. Didn't we learn anything from the controversy that marred the Redskins Park project?

For an administration that prides itself on promoting sustainability, this action makes no sense. Removing these trees and their ecosystem services will not enhance the appeal of the park because it will take years for the new plantings to approach their level of carbon sequestration and air pollution mitigation, to name just two ecosystem benefits, and to provide similar shade from our summer sun.

Louise Seals
(Margaret C. Seals on city tax rolls)
1819 Floyd Avenue

From: [CYNTHIA MASHBURN](#)
To: [Eastman, Jeff R. - PDR](#)
Subject: Kanawha Plaza trees
Date: Monday, April 20, 2015 12:37:44 PM

As a citizen of Richmond I object strongly to the removal of trees in Kanawha Plaza.
Cynthia Mashburn
801 W 49th Street
Richmond VA 23225
804-399-1667

Sent from my iPhone

From: cheeney@aol.com
To: [Eastman, Jeff R. - PDR](#)
Subject: Kanawha Plaza Renovation
Date: Monday, April 20, 2015 12:19:50 PM

As a long time resident of the City of Richmond and a Richmond Tree Steward, I would like to voice my objections to the final design that is up for approval for Kanawha Plaza. One of the many positive things about living in the City of Richmond are the abundance of trees and the number of parks. It is also very important for any urban area to support the urban forest and parks. The current proposal to remove mature trees to replace them with hard service, bike racks and seating is a very short sighted one. Removing mature trees in the middle of high rise buildings would make the space unattractive and uncomfortable, and would have that affect for years to come. How idiotic is that?

I support Andrea Almond's reasoning for maintaining the trees that we have in Kanawha Plaza.

Judith Harris
503 S. Davis Ave.
Richmond, Virginia 23220

From: [Joe](#)
To: [Eastman, Jeff R. - PDR](#)
Subject: Kanawha Plaza project
Date: Monday, April 20, 2015 1:30:32 PM

Dear Mr. Eastman,

I am a Northside homeowner and a city taxpayer. I have learned of plans to remove over seventy mature trees at the Kanawha Plaza in preparation for the upcoming bicycle races. This seems to be an extreme approach. The value of mature urban trees is well documented. I feel that more public input is warranted on this issue. My neighbors and I haven't gotten over the Redskins Park tree issues. It takes many years for a tree to mature and provide us with shade and other benefits.

I sincerely hope that this is not a done deal.

*Joe Terry
4301 Newport Dr.
Richmond, VA 23227*

From: [Barrett](#)
To: [Eastman, Jeff R. - PDR](#)
Subject: Kanawah Plaza Redesign
Date: Monday, April 20, 2015 1:36:38 PM

Dear Mr Eastman,

I strongly object to the proposed removal of healthy trees from this plaza in order to expedite its redesign. Removing healthy trees make no sense for either the people or the trees. This rush to have work completed prior to the bicycle race smacks of the era of the Potemkin Villages.

Sincerely,
Barrett Brown
8712 Old Spring Rd
Richmond Va

Sent from my iPhone

From: [SHARON CARTER](#)
To: [Eastman, Jeff R. - PDR](#)
Subject: No cut zone
Date: Monday, April 20, 2015 2:58:43 PM

I am a biker n long time Richmonder. Please do not cut trees anywhere in town. We need them to breathe as do bikers

Sent from my iPhone

From: drowe1624@comcast.net
To: [Eastman, Jeff R. - PDR](#)
Subject: Don't cut down the trees!
Date: Monday, April 20, 2015 3:28:46 PM

Mr. Eastman,

I have been told as part of an effort to redo Kanawa you're are proposing to cut down 75 current trees?!!!! That makes absolutely no sense to me. Do you have any idea how costly, labor intensive, wasteful and futile that is? Planting trees now frankly its too late, the summer will be upon us in no time and then you'll have to constantly water them to keep them alive not even to thrive. Based on the last major planting the city undertook the loss rate was astronomical.

Use what you have and ammend perhaps but don't cut down trees.

As a city taxpayer and long-time gardener I am fully opposed to this idea. If you'd like to discuss further you can reach me at 804-938-3493.

Thank you,
Debbie Rowe

From: [Robin Ruth](#)
To: [Eastman, Jeff R. - PDR](#)
Subject: Kanawha Plaza
Date: Monday, April 20, 2015 4:57:44 PM

Please abandon plans to remove 75 trees from Kanawha Plaza for bike races. This would be unbelievably wasteful and environmentally detrimental. The City has invested heavily in planting trees for the well-being of our residents. These efforts should not go to waste.

Robin Ruth
City of Richmond Resident
Sent from my iPhone

From: [Sarah Driggs](#)
To: [Eastman, Jeff R. - PDR](#)
Subject: Kanawha Plaza
Date: Tuesday, April 21, 2015 9:24:00 AM

Jeff,

I'd like to register my objection to the Kanawha Plaza plan, agreeing with the opinion that Andrea and Giles wrote in subcommittee.

Thanks,

Sarah Driggs

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Judith Nelson](#)
To: [Eastman, Jeff R. - PDR](#)
Subject: Tree removal in KANAWAH PARK
Date: Monday, April 27, 2015 12:17:15 PM

Dear Sir,

I hope the Commission will reconsider the removal of 75 trees from the park. The bike race is a once a year (if that) event and bikers are quite used to obstacles of many kinds. These trees are not replaceable in any reasonable time frame. In a climate such as ours, I believe it to be short-sighted and a serious mistake to remove trees, other than those that might be unsafe (ie: dead in a public area).

Thank you,

Judith Nelson (a 40 year resident of Greater Richmond)