

From: [Leah Nevada Page](#)
To: [Eastman, Jeff R. - PDR](#)
Subject: New Horticultural building
Date: Thursday, April 23, 2015 8:21:28 AM

Dear Mr. Eastman,

I received a note that the plans for a new horticultural building at Maymont are currently being reviewed. We live in the Maymont neighborhood and we are huge fans of Maymont and Byrd Park. That said, I do not approve of this proposed building. I think everything should be done to preserve open space and views in our beautiful city. I hope that Maymont Park can find an alternate location for this building that does not impact the beautiful views in Byrd and Maymont Parks.

Best wishes,
Leah Page

1514 Texas Ave
Richmond, VA 23220

Sending by email to the City of Richmond, Urban Design Committee
via Committee Secretary Jeff Eastman at Jeff.Eastman@Richmondgov.com -- phone – 646-6348

Re: Horticulture and Maintenance buildings proposed for Hampton Street location

The proposed location of this horticulture/maintenance building and parking structure will mar a beautiful historic landscape, lie heavy upon the land, and encroach upon a neighborhood. The proposed City-owned building that the Urban Design Committee is scheduled to hear on Thursday morning, May 7, at 10:00AM should be hidden as utility buildings usually are. No one can dispute the great service the Maymont Foundation provides the neighborhood and region now. Unfortunately, the unsustainable nature of this poorly located building would be a sad legacy for years to come.

These are the three issues that I believe the Urban Design Committee should consider:

Beautiful Landscape: The proposed location off of Hampton Street is at the southern end of a historic grove of trees in Byrd Park on a hill overlooking the Maymont estate. Shield's Grove was referred to as an "ancient forest" in a newspaper article from 1926 and appears named on maps from the 1800's. Early park designers were especially excited about this natural area for city folk to experience. Shield's Shelter was placed here in the 1930's to provide a special picnic area.

Large Building/Pavement Footprint: Current designers of this proposed City building have worked mightily to provide landscaping that would diminish its industrial appearance. But in the end, they still have drawn a large building and much pavement which are located on a slope, within 200' of a stream, accessed by a hidden driveway on a hilly curved road.

Neighborhood and Visitors: Neighbors will have to contend with a new building and all the noise, fumes, trucks entering and exiting the roadway, lighting, and unforeseen impacts where now there is a pretty hill. Visitors coming by foot and wheelchair on a sidewalk built specifically for handicapped access to the current Hampton entrance will be first greeted by a driveway and utility building. Cyclists may have to slow on a hill they can currently speed down.

The area around Shield's Shelter is a little shabby now, but with Maymont's and Byrd Park's volunteers working together it could be restored to provide a natural experience once again. Operations on the estate are not for the City to decide, but as a citizen I would want to see a system that works well for the future when severe weather events are predicted to be more and more frequent. A large building on a slope with operations that would enshrine a heavy carbon emissions footprint is not sustainable. A driveway (20 feet shy of a cut-through from Hampton to Shield's Lake Road) is not in the spirit of a more bike, walking and handicap accessible future.

Please reject this location for a horticulture/maintenance building at the Maymont estate.

Sarah Weisiger, April 30, 2015

From: [Carol Chaffin](#)
To: [Eastman, Jeff R. - PDR](#)
Subject: Maymont Park's Proposed Maintenance Building
Date: Sunday, May 03, 2015 9:52:32 AM

Dear Mr. Eastman,

I was extremely disappointed and dismayed to hear that Maymont Park plans to put a maintenance building in the middle of one of the most beautiful views in Richmond (near the corner of Hampton St and Colorado Ave), a view that overlooks the rolling hills and magnificent big trees of Maymont Park.

In their quest for growth, the administrators of the Park appear to have lost sight of the beauty of the land, one of the most precious gifts that has ever been given to this city.

Surely there are places to tuck away a maintenance building that does not cause such irreparable harm? How can the adverse environmental impact of this building site matter so little to people whose jobs it is to preserve the beauty of the land?!

Instead of destroying that view, everything possible should be done to preserve it. Once it's gone, it will be gone forever.

Sincerely,
Carol Chaffin
1514 Texas Ave
Richmond, VA 23220

May 5, 2015

Mr. Michael Paul Dodson
2313 Rosewood Avenue
Richmond VA 23220

Ms. Andrea Almond, PLA, ASLA
Chairperson, Urban Design Committee
C/o Ms. Lowry Markham
900 E. Broad St., Room 510
Richmond, VA
23219 USA

Dear Chairperson Almond and UDC Members,

I am a resident of Byrd Park and have lived in the neighborhood since 2001. I grew up in suburban Richmond and love both the City and the surrounding parks. However, I have concerns with the new maintenance facility that is being reviewed for construction. I am NOT opposed to a new facility, as I am sure one is needed, but I do have three major concerns that I feel should be addressed prior to a final approval.

The first concern is the loss of trees. This property is part of the old Shields Grove with trees that date back over 100 hundred years. If this building is to be approved, I ask that as many trees be saved and that any parking facilities be gravel or pavers as we do NOT need additional storm water runoff in and around the two parks. Trees do not need to be removed so that we can put in a new parking lot.

The second concern is traffic. This plan includes new access and enhanced parking along Hampton Street which will no doubt cause additional traffic and wear on the park's roads. Additional maintenance vehicles will be using these roads. The park roads that are NOT maintained by Public Works as they are considered private roads. They receive no state funds and thus funding and improvements to them are limited. Byrd Park should not be seen as a cut through or a parking lot for any group or organization. If the facility is built at access from Hampton Street should be limited and Maymont vehicles should traverse directly into Maymont and not onto Hampton Street.

Finally the last, and most important, issue is the location. Maymont, by its agreement, is to control and maintain the one hundred acre estate from the Dooley family. However over the last 50 years this "line" between Byrd Park and Maymont Park has continued to move north. The old bathhouse facilities for Shield Lake (when it was the swimming pool) no lye partially inside the fence of Maymont. A fence built in 1960s and not located along any recognized line. The comfort station bathrooms built to serve the adjacent shelter were demolished in the early 2000s and the parking lot for the current Nature Center at Maymont have been incorporated into Maymont Park. Maps presented in recent year have shown Maymont going all the way to Amelia Street. Myself and many neighbors are concerned about this "unmarked" boundary line. I recommend that until a formal boundary line is surveyed distinguishing the two parcels that no project should be approved.

As a last point, I wanted to add that I am very frustrated that notification of this meeting was never sent to our civic league. I have am currently an officer in the league and we only received notice via our Councilmember. One cannot reach Randolph without touching the parts of the Byrd Park Civic League or Maymont neighborhoods. Our league reaches all the way to Amelia Street and we have active members in this area. Our boundary maps and contact information are correct on the City's own web site and we receive notices from other City agencies via US mail and email but we never formally notified of this hearing.

Sincerely,



Michael Paul Dodson

Resident of Byrd Park and 5th District Park Advisory Board Member

From: [Owen Design Co.](#)
To: [Agelasto, Parker C. - Council Member](#); [Merrifield, Norman C. - DPR](#); [Eastman, Jeff R. - PDR](#)
Cc: [Justin Owen](#)
Subject: Location for consideration for the Horticulture, Maintenance and Public Safety Building
Date: Sunday, May 31, 2015 10:52:05 AM

Good afternoon,

I am emailing in regards to the proposed location for the Horticulture, Maintenance and Public Safety Building near Maymont and Byrd Park. I have lived in this neighborhood for over 7 years on Meadow street and now on Kansas Ave. One of the main reasons my husband and I are so happy here is the Maymont/Byrd park system. After spending so much time in these parks with my family, friends and often just on my own, I can tell you the property under consideration is highly utilized and enjoyed by a wide variety of park visitors throughout the year. It is one of the few areas in the surrounding neighborhoods where there are more land and trees than buildings. It is a rare opportunity to feel close to nature in the city. I feel this park area is one of the most valuable contributions to the lifestyle of our city's residents. One of the largest benefits of this area is that it draws every time of person that make up our city's demographic. It is one of the few places that all types of personalities have enough room to spread out and enjoy the outdoors, enjoy the view and enjoy being with their families, friends and loved ones.

My husband, Justin, and I would like to ask you to leave our park area and land undisturbed in regards to this proposal. Please consider how many people before you had to stand up and protect what we have over the last 90 years in order to allow future generations to have open green space to enjoy. And know that it is enormously important to those of us who live here because of it and for the future residents and visitors of Richmond.

Thank you kindly.
Jennifer Owen

Jennifer Owen
Owen Design Co.

o 804 562-5023
c 804 852-0747

414 West Broad St.
Richmond VA 23220

www.owendesignco.com

From: [Evelyn Murphy](#)
To: [Eastman, Jeff R. - PDR](#)
Date: Tuesday, June 30, 2015 11:14:07 AM

We oppose to the planning of maymont and birdpark.

The murphys

From: [Debra A. McClane](#)
To: [Eastman, Jeff R. - PDR](#)
Subject: UDC 2015-13
Date: Monday, June 29, 2015 9:06:38 PM

Dear Mr. Eastman,

I have looked at the proposed plans for the above referenced project (Maymont Horticulture Building) as submitted with the UDC application. It appears that this building would be built on the north side of the existing fenceline and would therefore encroach upon the land included in William Byrd Park. Such an encroachment would diminish the character of this area of the park, as well as re-establish a fenceline further into the park property, taking that acreage out of park use. In addition, the construction of a new paved roadway would have a negative impact on the park, as well as the neighborhood, by increasing traffic in an already congested area.

In all of their 100 acres, Maymont cannot find a more discreet and less intrusive location for this building?

Debra McClane
4711 Devonshire Road
Richmond, Va 23225
804/233-3890

From: [Amy Jones](#)
To: [Eastman, Jeff R. - PDR](#); Lory.Markam@richmondgov.com
Subject: Letter of opposition for UDC 2015-13 (Proposed Maintenance Facility - Hampton Street)
Date: Thursday, July 02, 2015 1:27:56 PM

July 2, 2015

RE: # UDC 2015-13 - Conceptual Location, Character and Extent Review of a new building for the Horticulture, Maintenance and Public Safety Departments (aka "Proposed Maintenance Facility - Hampton Street)

Dear Urban Design Committee and Planning Committee:

While I understand the desire to have the Horticulture, Maintenance and Public Safety

Safety Departments all in one area however, the last thing that residents want to see is a building blocking the view of Maymont Park if it is built on Hampton Street. I have lived in the area for 5 years and the addition of a building on Hampton Street to accommodate vehicle repair bays, storage area for tools and equipment, offices, rest rooms and a break area for volunteers takes away from the beauty and serenity of Maymont Park. I respectfully request that you do not go ahead with the current plan on Hampton Street. Please consider adding on to an existing building that is more out of site to nearby residents. This would likely reduce the amount of private funds needed to complete this project and would no longer threaten the view for current residents. I thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration.

Kindest Regards,

Amy V. Jones
1704 Carter Street,
Richmond VA 23220
804-461-5384

From: [Mary Gurganus](#)
To: [Eastman, Jeff R. - PDR](#)
Subject: Projected project UDC2015-13 Maymont Hampton St.
Date: Thursday, July 02, 2015 10:51:08 AM

Dear Mr. Eastman,

I am writing to plead with Maymont to please reconsider this location for their Facilities Project. It would keep me from seeing the mist on the river early mornings from my porch and kitchen window. My favorite walk is down Hampton St from 1600 S Meadow where I live. On that walk I see the Sunset I can see down into Japanese Gardens, Birds, the Canal, and the River from the Bike Trail. The noise and activity on a very congested and narrow street already would take away from a small community its most Beautiful view.

Thank You for creating a space where this project could be hidden and not obstructing our view and polluting our neighborhood with noise and creating yet another hazard for small children and retired people such as myself to overcome.

Respectfully,

Mary Gurganus

Sent from my iPad

The City of Richmond: Planning Commission Board July 6th 2015

I am writing today in opposition to: UDC Ref# 2015-13, the plan to build a garage across from 1401 Hampton Street. I oppose this construction and any construction at this site; for the sake of brevity, three reasons.

This is one of the most open and unspoiled views in the park system from Shields Woods to the Maymont Mansion. This is the original view, in that this is what James and Sally Dooley saw the morning they rode horseback from their home on Franklin Street to the dairy farm that became Maymont. This is the historic side of the park. To build this type of structure right at the historic gate diminishes this unspoiled beauty. Boards and directors may come and go, but these inspiring views belong to us forever. We are charged by the Dooley's still, with keeping it unspoiled.

The second issue I have with this construction is the process or lack of process over a thing that permanently alters our park and directly that impacts my neighborhood. It is my understanding from speaking with foundation board members past and present that most of these decisions are made by very few "Officers" on the Maymont board and are made with the guidance of the director of the foundation and park. Then presentations are made to the broader board later, and at the end, once the die is cast, sometimes to the neighbors. In my opinion, over the years the terms "the foundation", "the board", are increasingly terms of art. Major plans, goals, and agendas come and go depending on a giving cycle and who gives what and when, directs the "planning". For example, in 2008, it was deemed necessary to build what was projected to be a 24 million dollar "Maymont Center" in the middle of the park. The next year, that vision changed and that plan was abandoned. The perpetual maintenance of this beautiful place that we charge the foundation with caring for, should require that any development plans that alter our park need to be open and transparent to all.

Finally the Billy Austin sidewalk which was built after great efforts, beginning in 1993. The dream of one young wheelchair bound man to connect the Virginia Home to the Maymont gate is still being used on a daily basis by visitors and volunteers to access the park from their home. With a garage and office in this location the Billy Austin sidewalk will cross a street and present a view of a garage.

Finally, these recent expansion plans have opened another conversation about the location of boundary lines. Where is Maymont? Where is Byrd Park? The Dooley's in their generosity failed to make that clear or perhaps they didn't care about the distinction. Perhaps they had fewer lawyers. Perhaps, I don't care about these lines either. Maymont Park is, a City Park for whom we, the citizens of this city, created a not for profit foundation to oversee its operation. A year ago Maymont Park or the foundation or some related entity bought a house in my neighborhood. My neighbors wonder why. I am sure that the intentions must be good, but when homes are being purchased by an entity over which you have no say or recourse, it is scary to homeowners. Imagine any large organization, benign or otherwise buying homes or building garages in other city neighborhoods, your neighborhood. People would express concern, to say the least. In Maymont/Riverview we are concerned too. As a neighborhood we enjoy living next door to Maymont Park, though it often involves some effort, on our parts'. I feel that this construction is crossing a line.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Mark Brandon
Vice President/Maymont Civic League
1800 Georgia Avenue
Richmond, VA 23220

July 9, 2015

City of Richmond Planning Commission Members
c/o Ms. Lory Markham
by e-mail

RE: Opposition to location of proposed Maymont Hampton Street Facility – UDC 2015-13

Dear Members of the Planning Commission:

The Friends of William Byrd Park reviewed the UDC 2015-13 application from Dr. Norman Merrifield and Norman Burns, "Conceptual Location, Character and Extent Review of a new building for the Horticulture, Maintenance and Public Safety Departments at Maymont," at our meeting on July 2, 2015. Attendees at the Friends of William Byrd Park meeting voted unanimously to forward the following statement to you:

We are opposed to any new development on the Byrd Park side of the existing fence between Maymont Estate and Byrd Park. We do not believe this proposal is in the best interest of Byrd Park.

We oppose the construction of new buildings, structures, parking, driveways and roads in the Shields Grove area of Byrd Park. If the Maymont Foundation or the City of Richmond constructs buildings and other structures near the existing fence in Maymont Estate, we request that landscaping shrubs and other low plants used for screening of the buildings be planted and cared for on the Maymont side of the fence.

We also request that there be verification by the city of the Dooley parcel boundary between Maymont Estate and Byrd Park before any approval for construction in this northern boundary area of the Maymont Estate.

The Friends of William Byrd Park authorizes a representative from our group to take this viewpoint to the Planning Commission meeting.

Thank you for consideration of our strongly held position.

Sincerely,

James Sties
President, Friends of William Byrd Park

CC:

Richmond City Council Members
Selena Cuffee-Glenn, Chief Administrative Officer
Norman Burns, Maymont Foundation Executive Director
Norman Merrifield, Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Facilities, Director
Jeff Eastman, Urban Design Committee, Secretary

From: [Jeffrey Adams](#)
To: [Markham, Lory P. - PDR](#); [Eastman, Jeff R. - PDR](#)
Subject: Byrd park
Date: Tuesday, September 01, 2015 10:25:17 AM

I am very opposed to the location of the maintenance/horticulture building on Hampton St. There has to be a better solution to this. This will detract from Byrd park a great deal. Thank you for listening.

From: [Dennis Danvers](#)
To: [Markham, Lory P. - PDR](#)
Cc: [Eastman, Jeff R. - PDR](#)
Subject: Planned Maymont Maintenance Facility
Date: Thursday, September 03, 2015 12:48:43 PM

Dear Ms. Markham,

I am writing to express my objections to the planned Maymont Maintenance Facility. The chosen location blights the view, fronting the neighborhood with what amounts to a garage, complete with a gas pump. Instead of enshrining a carbon emitting fleet of vehicles, perhaps money could be better spent on reducing the park's emissions. The city has the opportunity to set an example of responsible stewardship instead of continuing business as usual. There is already a maintenance facility in Byrd Park, a stone's throw away. Is there really a need for a separate structure?

Sincerely yours,

Dennis Danvers

Dennis Danvers
2311 Maplewood Avenue
Richmond, VA 23220
tel.: 804.355.2639; cell 804.399.5139
email: dennis@dennisdanvers.com
website: <http://www.dennisdanvers.com/>

From: [JOLANDA KNEZEVICH](#)
To: [Markham, Lory P. - PDR](#)
Cc: [Eastman, Jeff R. - PDR](#)
Subject: Maymont Park maintenance facility
Date: Thursday, September 03, 2015 9:27:23 PM

To Whom it May Concern:

My name is Jolanda Knezevich and I am the Byrd Park Civic League Vice President. Recent developments concerning Byrd Park and a proposed new Maymont Park maintenance facility have come to our attention and demand comment from our organization. Preservation of Byrd Park is one of our chief concerns and we feel that the addition of a second maintenance facility on its property should not be considered. The existing maintenance facility is already an eyesore and considering the size of Maymont Park, another location within its property lines must be available. As a neighborhood, we would like to be involved in any decision that concerns alterations to Byrd Park and would like to be present at any relevant meetings. We appreciate your attention to this matter and ask that you help us preserve and improve Byrd Park and not let it devolve into a maintenance area for the City of Richmond or Maymont Park.

Thank you.

Jolanda Knezevich
Byrd Park Civic League VP

Jolanda Knezevich

Long & Foster Realtors
409 Strawberry St.
Richmond, VA 23220
Licensed in the
Commonwealth of Virginia
Cell: 804/513-2632
Jolanda@LnF.com

September 7, 2015

To: Jeff Eastman and members of the Richmond Planning Commission

I am writing today to voice my opposition to the proposed horticulture building/maintenance facility and fueling station that is to be located on the curve just outside the historical entrance to Maymont Park on Hampton Street in our residential neighborhood.

There are several reasons that the proposed location is not suitable for such a facility, and why I urge you to vote against the plan before you.

The watershed view of Maymont Park from Hampton Street, where the Foundation has proposed building this structure, is a historical view, one that Sallie Dooley "became enchanted with and asked her husband to buy the land to build her a home on top of the hill."

This view is one that residents on Hampton Street, visitors entering the park from Hampton, and residents of the city who access Maymont through Byrd Park will no longer have should this plan be approved. This view cannot be replaced or restored once a structure has been built here; it should be protected, and great care taken to preserve it. The proposed site is currently open, a beautiful green space; a space that is used by those visiting Byrd park and by residents of the Virginia Home that accesses Maymont from the Billy Austin sidewalk that runs directly through this area.

My neighbors on Hampton Street have enjoyed this unobstructed watershed view for 50+ years. The proposed site is currently not a part of the Maymont park boundary. It is unclear whether Maymont has the authority to build here or use this area that is currently a part of Byrd Park. The proposed site for this building is destructive at best, and is not in keeping with the intention of the Dooley's.

I understand that the Maymont Foundation would like to have a new area to house its horticulture volunteers, some maintenance vehicles and to have a separate fueling station, but this site is not where it should be. This proposal was not shared with the Maymont community or its residents until after plans were already underway and specifications had already been prepared. Neighbors on Hampton Street should not have their view destroyed nor should our community be forced to see maintenance vehicles, fuel delivery vehicles and staff coming to and from this part of our neighborhood that we currently enjoy for its natural beauty and for daily walks, hikes, and biking.

I am sure a more suitable site can be found in what is currently Maymont Park's boundaries. I suggest that the Maymont foundation select a site that will not obstruct a watershed view, and instead find a space that is well shielded from the park's natural vistas and views; a site that will not obscure or take away from an otherwise peaceful and pastoral setting.

Sincerely,

Leslie Rubio
Maymont Resident
1705 Georgia Avenue
Richmond, VA 23220
804-484-9884

From: [Andrea Levine](#)
To: [Eastman, Jeff R. - PDR](#)
Cc: [Olinger, Mark A. - PDR](#)
Subject: Conceptual Location, Character and Extent Review of a new building for the Horticulture, Maintenance and Public Safety Departments
Date: Monday, September 07, 2015 5:22:37 PM

Hello Jeff, please confirm receipt. Thank you.

Dear Planning Commission Members,

I am writing to you today in opposition of the proposed location for Maymont's Maintenance and Horticulture buildings.

I have enjoyed living in the Maymont neighborhood for almost 20 years. I visit Maymont Park on a regular basis. I walk, drive, bike, rollerblade or even cross country ski down the hill on Hampton Street almost daily. I have many reasons for opposing this location.

1. **Viewshed** This location is the "gateway" to the park as you approach from the north on Hampton Street. The view is magnificent, rolling hills stretch towards the the south and west, with old growth trees dotting the pastoral setting. Parks should uphold the responsibility of preserving such rare and special gifts, rather than destroying them.

2. **Neighborhood Impact** The proposed maintenance shed will be the fueling station for the parks vehicles. There will be large fuel trucks accessing via a new curb cut. There will be noise. There will be traffic. And this may also impose a safety issue for pedestrians and bicyclists who are either accessing the park or the trails just beyond along the river.

3. **Functionality** Architectural renderings always make things look pretty. Nice geometric shapes artfully aligned. Now picture realty, maintenance vehicles, trucks, golf carts both old and new, some garaged and some not. Not so pretty.

4. **Transparency** Maymont's process for engaging neighbors has not been without issue. When home owners who live directly across the street from the proposed location do not receive notification, let alone many individuals in a particular neighborhood, including myself, there comes the question of how and why? A presentation was given, some were contacted but not until the proposed location was already chosen. How come there was no involvement prior to?

5. **Property Ownership** According to Councilman Parker Agelasto, there remains the question as to who owns the land? This property is on the other side of the park fence, where does Maymont end and Byrd Park begin?

It is not often I plead a case to fellow boards and commissions. Under this circumstance I feel I must let my point of view, shared by many other concerned neighbors in the Maymont community, be known.
I thank you for your time and consideration.

Andrea Levine GRI, ABR, EcoBroker
One South Realty Group, LLC
2314 West Main St | Richmond, VA 23220

c 804-647-2828 o 804-353-0009

www.AndreaLevine.com

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City of Richmond
Planning Commission

Jeff Eastman
Senior Planner
Dept. of Planning and Development Review
Richmond, VA

Maymont Civic League
C/O 1701 Hampton Street
Richmond, VA 23220

Re: "Maymont Park's" request for the building of a maintenance facility and garage on Hampton Street.
UDC #2015-13

The Maymont Civic League was formed in 1959. Its main objective was to prevent commercial businesses from operating in this residential neighborhood. The neighborhood is bordered by Hampton Street, Colorado Avenue, Southampton Avenue and Kansas Avenue.

The building of the maintenance facility will bring, among other things, gas pumps, a garage, frequent truck traffic, all night lights and lowered property values to an established residential area. These appear to be commercial practices.

The Maymont Civic League opposes the building of the proposed facility or any construction on this Hampton Street site.

Maymont Park has been a good neighbor to the League, but their request runs counter to our right of quiet enjoyment and to our continued vision of what a good neighborhood to live in should be.

Please deny the request of the "Maymont Park" to build this maintenance facility and working garage on Hampton Street. Help us to preserve our good neighborhood.

Sincerely,



Gloria Bouldin

President

Maymont Civic League

October 14, 2015

Maymont Civic League - c/o 1701 Hampton Street, Richmond 23220

From The Desk
Of
William C. Murphy, Sr.
1407 Hampton Street
Richmond, VA 23220
(804) 359-2812

November 16, 2015

RE: "Maymont Foundation – Horticultural Project – UDC #2015-13"

City of Richmond

Planning Commission

For Attention of Mr. Jeff Eastman, Senior Planner

Dear Mr. Eastman,

I am writing to ask that The City of Richmond Planning Commission oppose the request from The Maymont Foundation "Horticultural Project".

I have lived on Hampton Street for 50 plus years. This is a beautiful residential area, with Hampton Street being a main thoroughfare to getting to our homes and Maymont Park. The site in which the proposed plans are for is not suitable for a maintenance facility containing fuel pumps, high truck traffic, etc. especially in our front yards.

When you have a facility that is housing fuel pumps that is a danger in itself, especially in such close proximity to homes. This is a residential area not a commercial area for maintenance garages or fueling stations. We want to keep our neighborhood safe, beautiful and residential. Needless to say our property values would decline with such a site. It's like putting an "EXXON or TUFFY MUFFLER" in our front yard.

This proposed siting of this project is ill considered of the residents and hundreds of visitors who come to this area yearly. It would diminish the beauty of our neighborhood considerably. While design issues might be solved by conditions or revised proposals, they could not remedy the siting problem, which in itself is distasteful.

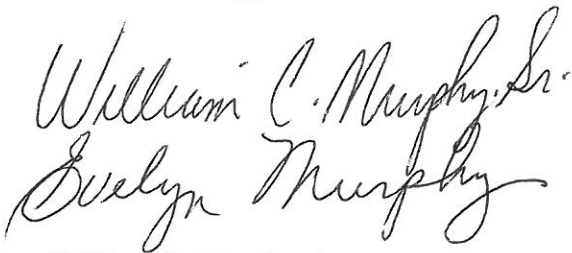
Maymont Park has hundreds of acres of land, certainly there could and should be a more suitable location for this facility.

Our concern for this project not being approved by the City of Richmond is extremely high.

We have a beautiful and established residential neighborhood and we want to keep it that way.

Thanking you in advance for considering our concerns and our request to oppose The Maymont Foundation "HORTICULTURAL PROJECT".

Yours faithfully,

Handwritten signatures of William C. Murphy, Sr. and Evelyn Murphy. The signature of William C. Murphy, Sr. is written in a cursive style, and the signature of Evelyn Murphy is also in cursive, appearing below the first signature.

William C. Murphy, Sr.

(wcm6107@verizon.net)

Evelyn Murphy

(evem1407@verizon.net)

Cc: Parker.Agelasto@richmondgov.com

Cc: Norman.Merrifield@richmondgov.com

From: [vf_johnson](#)
To: [Eastman, Jeff R. - PDR](#)
Cc: [Ann Gathers](#)
Subject: Maintenance Facility and Garage on Hampton Street
Date: Thursday, December 03, 2015 8:27:17 PM

Hello Mr. Eastman,

I moved to the Maymont area in June of 1960. Every day I enjoy the open spaces the park provides for families, wildlife, and the numerous visitors who attend the many cultural events throughout the year. The value, integrity and beauty of this residential areas must be maintained.

I oppose the Maymont Foundation's request to build a maintenance facility with a garage, parking and gas pumps for increased truck traffic on Hampton Street. This increased traffic and loss of green space will turn a quiet family neighborhood into a commercial use area that is totally out of character with the natural setting intended by James and Sallie Dooley when they left this land to the people of Richmond over a century ago.

On behalf of my family and neighbors on Hampton Street, you must deny this request so we can preserve our right to a quiet, enjoyable, walkable, residential neighborhood.

Please let me know if I can count on your support. You may respond to agather@aol.com.

Thank you.

Ann Johnson Gathers
1709 Hampton Street
Richmond, Virginia 23220

From: peggyhenward@comcast.net
To: [Agelasto, Parker C. - Council Member](#)
Cc: [Eastman, Jeff R. - PDR](#)
Subject: Maymont Plans
Date: Tuesday, December 08, 2015 4:50:01 PM

Hello Parker,

I voted for you and I live on Hampton between Dakota and Nevada. I am completely and totally against Maymont's plans for a garage/maintenance building on Hampton and Colorado. This is a lovely, residential area and the building they are talking about is completely out of sync with the neighborhood. Byrd Park is a delight and should NOT have a road built through it -- there are enough roads as it is and adding more would take away the loveliness of the park. If Maymont wants to build a garage, let them build it in the back of their property where it won't infringe on the beauty of the park or the neighborhood.

Thanks for all you do for us and best wishes for the holidays.

Sincerely,
Peggy Henward
1507 Hampton Street



From: [cat ennis](#)
To: [Eastman, Jeff R. - PDR](#); [Markham, Lory P. - PDR](#); [Agelasto, Parker C. - Council Member](#)
Subject: Letter against Hampton Street Maintenance Building
Date: Thursday, December 10, 2015 4:44:36 PM

Dear Jeff,

Thank you!!

My family and I greatly enjoy the green space located near Hampton St. We find it to be a wonderful way to access all of the beautiful green space that Byrd Park and Maymont has to offer. Oftentimes, we don't even make it to Byrd Park and just sit in the grass near the Nature Center and have a picnic or play. (I have a one year old and a three year old). It is a perfect bridge to the Nature Center from the somewhat congested area of Randolph. We would mourn the loss of this green space. There are other solutions for Maymont's needs that don't involve fuel trucks through this piece of green space. I would also like you to consider the fact that in the last few months, our neighborhood has been rattled by a homicide on Greenville Ave, and by a shooting right outside of Maymont preschool. Perhaps some empathy could be given to our little neighborhood and our little piece of green space could be preserved with other solutions or even perhaps in another area?

Thanks so much.

Cat, Justin, Sheamus and Nathaniel Sears, Carter St

From: [Yvette Coronado Mercer](#)
To: [Eastman, Jeff R. - PDR](#)
Cc: [Markham, Lory P. - PDR](#); [Agelasto, Parker C. - Council Member](#)
Subject: Maymont Foundation maintenance facility
Date: Thursday, December 10, 2015 3:45:07 PM

12/8/15

To Whom It May Concern,
We strongly oppose the Maymont Foundation maintenance facility being built on Hampton Street. We want our voices recognized among the many Maymont neighbors that are opposed to this location. We have lived here for seven years and have enjoyed the view and space in that area as we walk to Maymont park with our two young children.

We understand that the Byrd Park residents are in favor of the Hampton location. This makes me concerned because the people from our neighborhood may not have the same privileges as Byrd Park residents to come to meetings to oppose the Hampton Street location. Please know that Maymont neighborhood residents are opposed to this location. If it is numbers we need to say that Maymont neighbors oppose this location, then we can give this to you.

We strongly urge a third alternative location and a smaller facility as a solution that will respect everyones needs. Thank you for your time and consideration,

Chris Mercer and Yvette Coronado-Mercer
of 1401 Greenville Ave., Richmond, VA 23220
[804.310.4618](tel:804.310.4618)

From: [Joy Whitney](#)
To: [Eastman, Jeff R. - PDR](#)
Cc: [Markham, Lory P. - PDR](#); [Agelasto, Parker C. - Council Member](#)
Subject: Maymont horticultural building
Date: Thursday, December 17, 2015 12:52:21 PM

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Joy Rogers and my husband Seamus and I live in the Maymont Neighborhood of Richmond. I am writing to voice my opposition to the proposed horticultural building site.

The proposed site has beautiful iconic views, is not suited for more traffic, and with the addition of large fuel storage tanks becomes a possible safety issue.

There seem to be alternative locations within park bounds that may be suitable.

I understand that the Byrd Park Neighborhood Association is opposing the current proposed location, although a few vocal residents are supporting the proposal. Their support is based on their unwillingness to have the building in that section of Byrd Park. If no neighborhood supports this expansion I respectfully request that Maymont continue looking for locations that the surrounding neighborhoods can support.

Sincerely,

Joy Rogers

From: [Leslie R](#)
To: [Eastman, Jeff R. - PDR](#)
Subject: Maintenance Facility-Maymont Park
Date: Sunday, January 03, 2016 8:33:29 PM

Jeff- I live in the Maymont Park neighborhood. This is my second email to the Planning Commission regarding Maymont's request to move the current boundary that they exist within and encroach on parts of Byrd Park and our Maymont neighborhood in order to build a maintenance facility.

I am shocked at the disregard for the view shed that this building would forever obstruct and alter, and I am confused as to why it would be considered. I disagree with the site selection, and I am at a loss as to how the selection process was determined. I do know that that there are at least 7 other possible locations for this facility that "Maymont" has determined are not as favorable but that exist within the Maymont boundaries and do not encroach on other city parks.

Little regard has been given as to the impact that this location would have on long time residents of Maymont. Not only would the facility obstruct a pristine view that is located just outside of the historic gates of the park, but it would also bring maintenance vehicles and fueling stations to the neighborhood. In addition this site would have unwanted lighting that would affect the natural setting of the area and wildlife. This will most certainly affect neighbors directly across the street from the facility. How does this affect the value of our homes?

Attempts by "Maymont" to engage the neighborhood have been limited to a few meetings where most of my neighbors were not notified in advance, if at all.

I urge you to postpone your decision today while other possible locations can be reviewed and considered.

Thank you,
Leslie Rubio
1705 Georgia Avenue
Richmond, VA 23220

From: [Leah Nevada Page](#)
To: [Eastman, Jeff R. - PDR](#)
Subject: Maintenance Facility
Date: Monday, January 04, 2016 11:57:56 AM

Dear Mr. Eastman,

I was hoping to make it to the planning commission meeting today to voice my opposition to the planned maintenance facility, but unfortunately I had a work obligation come up that prevents my being there. I am instead sending you this short email in hopes that it will help illuminate how many of my neighbors feel about the planned developments at Maymont Park.

I volunteer for the board of the Maymont Civic League and I am a resident of the Maymont neighborhood. Maymont Park first approached the Maymont Civic League to discuss the plans for this maintenance facility several months ago. Maymont Park representatives attempted to present themselves as though they were soliciting feedback on their development plan and wanted neighborhood input, but it quickly became very evident that the development plans were already decided on and the whole package was a done deal. At the Planning Commissions urging to further engage the neighborhood, Maymont Park then reached out to the neighborhood several more times for "community meetings", but despite large turnouts at every meeting and almost unanimous opposition to their plans, only superficial cosmetic changes to the planned structure were ever proffered. I don't think that any stretch of the imagination could allow one to say that presenting a mostly unaltered plan and rigorously defending it against opposition is "engagement."

Everyone I have spoken with in my neighborhood and many additional people from Randolph and Byrd Park neighborhoods are opposed to the construction of a maintenance facility in this beautiful part of the park. We don't want to see green space irrevocably destroyed. At every single community meeting we asked representatives from Maymont Park: "why this location?" Even a casual observer can see that there is plenty of space in existing buildings at Maymont and that there also seem to be several locations that are tucked behind existing structures (such as the Children's Farm) that would not harm a beautiful view shed. Unfortunately Maymont Park would only tell us that they considered "many different options" and rated them on several scales of cost, suitability, access, etc. However they never shared any additional details with us about the site selection process. I am concerned that Maymont Park's weighting of the attributes and flaws of different sites do not at all align with the larger neighborhood or City's valuation of different sites. I also am concerned that this facility may be spurred on in part by Maymont's planned expansions to exhibitions in current buildings. Expansion plans that we also were not consulted about.

Maymont Park is a beautiful open green park that belongs to the residents of the City of Richmond. However the Maymont Park Foundation's complete disregard for the people surrounding the park have caused many of us to come to the sad conclusion that this park actually belongs to a few wealthy citizens who mainly do not live in Richmond. It feels as though one of our City's greatest assets is being taken from us and we have no pathway to recourse.

I will not be at the Planning Commission meeting today and nor will Patrice Jean, Yvette Coronado, Chris Mercer, Joy Whitney, Seamus Rogers, Cat Ennis, Carol Chaffin, nor my many many other neighbors who oppose this plan. We all have jobs or family obligations that prevent us from attending. But that does not mean that we are not closely observing the outcome of this decision, and hoping that a decision can be reached in favor of preserving green space and insuring a more inclusive approach to planning future expansions at this most loved and treasured city park.

Warmest wishes,
Leah Page

1514 Texas Ave, Richmond, VA 23220

From: [Christina Garnett](#)
To: [Eastman, Jeff R. - PDR](#)
Subject: Maymont Maintenance Facility
Date: Monday, January 04, 2016 11:46:35 AM

Hi Mr. Eastman,

I just wanted to write and voice my concern in regards to the currently proposed site for Maymont's Maintenance Facility. I am an active member of the Maymont neighborhood, have lived there for many years and have enjoyed the beautiful view from Hampton Street into the park. I walk my dog in the area daily and live only a block from the proposed site.

I have major concerns that this facility will affect if not block the majority of this glorious introductory view to the park as park goers arrive towards the Hampton Street entrance. I think that Maymont is taking steps to have this facility blend into current environment but I would GREATLY prefer that Maymont be pushed to find a less obtrusive site within the park that does NOT affect any of the parks wonderful view sheds! Byrd Park did not want this facility in their neighborhood and neither does the Maymont/Riverview neighborhood.

I would ask that ALL best efforts be made to find an alternative location for the facility.

Thank you for your time,

Christina Garnett
South Meadow Street Resident

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"Once in a while you get shown the light, in the strangest of places, if you look at it right." - The Grateful Dead

Markham, Lory P. - PDR

From: Katy Dynes [kldynes@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, March 07, 2016 8:51 AM
To: Markham, Lory P. - PDR
Subject: UDC2015-13

Ms. Markham,

I am writing to let you know that I strongly oppose the expansion of Maymont as referenced in UDC2015-13 Hampton Street Maintenance Facility. I live in the Byrd Park neighborhood at 2407 Maplewood Avenue. My feeling is that the planned buildings will ruin the aesthetics of Shields Woods, and by extension, Byrd Park.

Thank you for taking my opinions into account today.

Katy Dynes
2407 Maplewood Ave.
Richmond, VA 23220
804-358-2390

Markham, Lory P. - PDR

From: Sharon Taylor [sholdent@aol.com]
Sent: Monday, March 07, 2016 9:13 AM
To: Markham, Lory P. - PDR
Subject: Maymont Expansion into Byrd Park

As a long term resident and homeowner in this area, I am opposed to

expanding Maymont into Byrd Park to build a maintenance facility, garage, and gas pumps. It will destroy a view and kill trees in Shields

Woods.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sharon H. Taylor
2018 Powhatan Street
Richmond, VA 23220
804 213-0270

Markham, Lory P. - PDR

From: Chris Walsh [Chris@rvrrealty.com]
Sent: Monday, March 07, 2016 9:14 AM
To: Markham, Lory P. - PDR
Subject: Maymont to Byrd Park

I am opposed to the expansion for facilities development!

Chris Walsh
River City Realty
819 South Meadow St.
Richmond, VA 23220
804-247-2116

Markham, Lory P. - PDR

From: Bill Harrison [waharrisonjr@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, March 07, 2016 9:28 AM
To: Onufer, Kathleen M. - PDR; Markham, Lory P. - PDR
Cc: bpclrva@gmail.com
Subject: Maymont Maintenance Development

Good Morning: I am writing to express my opposition to the development of the Maymont Maintenance Facility in the Hampton Street area. I love living next door to Maymont as it is such a gift to our city; however a better location for the expansion needs to found.

William A. Harrison, Jr.
801 Spottswood Rd.
Richmond 23220

Markham, Lory P. - PDR

From: Mark Burkett [mark@mongrelrva.com]
Sent: Monday, March 07, 2016 9:18 AM
To: Markham, Lory P. - PDR; Onufer, Kathleen M. - PDR
Cc: bpclrva@gmail.com
Subject: Fwd: BPCL Alert: Proposed Maymont Maintenance Facility on Byrd Park

Lory Markham and Kathleen Onufer,

I am opposed to the Maymont maintenance facility, garage and gas pumps, being planned for Byrd Park. As a property owner and City resident, this facility will be a detriment to our neighborhood.

Thank you.

Mark Burkett
801 Spottswood Road
Richmond, VA 23220
804-833-1008

Mark Burkett
Mongrel
2924 West Cary Street
Richmond, VA 23221
804-342-1272
www.mongrelRVA.com

Date: March 7, 2016 at 8:39:37 AM EST

To: undisclosed-recipients;

Subject: BPCL Alert: Proposed Maymont Maintenance Facility on Byrd Park

Hello All,

This is a notification that the planned Maymont Maintenance Facility for Hampton Street will be heard for the third time at the City of Richmond's Planning Commission today (March 7) @ 1pm at City Hall, Fifth floor.

It's not too late to let them know that **we are opposed to expanding Maymont into Byrd Park** to build a maintenance facility, garage, and gas pumps. It will destroy a view and kill trees in Shields Woods.

The BPCL (based on the members' vote opposing this project at a previous BPCL meeting) will be sending an email to reemphasize our opposition to this project and encourage everyone to email and send an individual letters.

We can send an email regarding UDC2015-13 Hampton Street Maintenance facility to:

Lory.Markham@richmondgov.com Secretary to Planning Commission
Kathleen.onufer@richmondgov.com Acting Secretary to the Urban Design Committee

If you have any specific questions or comments, please let us know and reply back to this email address.

We appreciate any support you can give!

Regards,
BPCL Committee