

John Long

From: Green & Open Somerville <greenopensomerville@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 18, 2020 4:25 PM
To: Mayor; City Clerk Contact; Matthew McLaughlin; JT Scott; Ben Ewen-Campen; Jesse Clingan; Mark Niedergang; Lance Davis; Katjana Ballantyne; Mary Jo Rossetti; Wilfred Mbah; William A. White; Stephanie Hirsch
Cc: Stephen Moore; Tori Antonino; Chris Dwan; Leigh Meunier; BRENDAN SHEA; David Falk; Green and Open Somerville
Subject: Foss Park Oak Tree Removal

Dear Mayor Curtatone and Honorable Councilors,

We have learned of the State's announcement to remove eight mature oak trees from Foss Park as part of the artificial turf field installation. Beyond the frustration of this information coming out over a year after the original discussion around the proposed construction, we are devastated to learn of the planned tree culling.

To say that Somerville struggles to keep its tree canopy is quite an understatement. There are many competing interests that interfere with trees - rail corridor clearing, new development, tiny tree wells - and our trees are the losers every single time. These eight mature oak trees may be the largest stand in the city. They have survived poor soil and wretched pollution, all the while cleaning the air in our most polluted area of town, taking in stormwater, and providing habitat to potentially hundreds of species of caterpillars, butterflies, and birds.

Just a few weeks ago, a group of pollinator and biodiversity experts, along with Green & Open Somerville representatives, met with the Mayor to encourage him to support and promote native plant species so Somerville can do its part to support the food web. Oak trees, above all others native to our region, are the tree that supports the most caterpillars, which are the base of our food web. We discussed the importance of creating and supporting corridors, which allow pollinators to travel across the city from one area of shelter and food to another.

Doug Tallamy, a professor of entomology and one of the lead voices on the importance of restoring native species for the health of the food web, on which we rely for our own survival, recently spoke at Harvard and explained that there are some native species, keystone species, that we should focus on as we replant because they host exponentially more insects than others. His number one keystone species is the oak.

As we all are aware, the City Council just approved the plan that leads us to artificial turf on Conway Park. One of the arguments was that the grass on Conway offered few ecological services beyond its extraordinary cooling properties, making the switch to its plastic counterpart "not much" of an environmental loss. While we wholeheartedly disagree, no one should argue that these eight oak trees do not offer important ecological services.

We implore you to do everything in your power to keep these trees, including moving the location of the artificial turf field or even refusing to accept the project entirely, if that's what it takes. There is no excuse, especially one so trite as installing swaths of plastic on our land, for killing these mighty trees.

Sincerely,

Renée Scott
Stephen Moore
Tori Antonino
Chris Dwan

David Falk
Brendan Shea
Leigh Meunier

Green & Open Somerville

Green & Open Somerville

Advocating to improve and increase green space in Somerville, focusing on ecological restoration and climate change reiliency.

Email us to join our listserv | Explore our [website](#) | Follow us on [Twitter](#) | Like us on [Facebook](#)

John Long

From: Erik Hook [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, February 18, 2020 5:28 PM
Cc: Mayor; City Clerk Contact; Matthew McLaughlin; JT Scott; Ben Ewen-Campen; Jesse Clingan; Mark Niedergang; Lance Davis; Katjana Ballantyne; Mary Jo Rossetti; Wilfred Mbah; William A. White; Stephanie Hirsch; Stephen Moore
Subject: Re: Foss Park Oak Tree Removal

Dear Mayor Curtatone and Councilors,

Thank you for your work. My family appreciates being represented by you.

I oppose the installation of plastic play fields in Somerville, as well as the removal of trees by the State at Foss park.

Please do anything that you can do to encourage (and where possible mandate) more trees, real grass playing fields and increased natural foliage in for our city.

Thank you.

With kind regards,

Erik Hook
[REDACTED]

On Tue, Feb 18, 2020 at 4:24 PM Green & Open Somerville <greenopensomerville@gmail.com> wrote:
Dear Mayor Curtatone and Honorable Councilors,

We have learned of the State's announcement to remove eight mature oak trees from Foss Park as part of the artificial turf field installation. Beyond the frustration of this information coming out over a year after the original discussion around the proposed construction, we are devastated to learn of the planned tree culling.

To say that Somerville struggles to keep its tree canopy is quite an understatement. There are many competing interests that interfere with trees - rail corridor clearing, new development, tiny tree wells - and our trees are the losers every single time. These eight mature oak trees may be the largest stand in the city. They have survived poor soil and wretched pollution, all the while cleaning the air in our most polluted area of town, taking in stormwater, and providing habitat to potentially hundreds of species of caterpillars, butterflies, and birds.

Just a few weeks ago, a group of pollinator and biodiversity experts, along with Green & Open Somerville representatives, met with the Mayor to encourage him to support and promote native plant species so Somerville can do its part to support the food web. Oak trees, above all others native to our region, are the tree that supports the most caterpillars, which are the base of our food web. We discussed the importance of creating and supporting corridors, which allow pollinators to travel across the city from one area of shelter and food to another.

Doug Tallamy, a professor of entomology and one of the lead voices on the importance of restoring native species for the health of the food web, on which we rely for our own survival, recently spoke at Harvard and

explained that there are some native species, keystone species, that we should focus on as we replant because they host exponentially more insects than others. His number one keystone species is the oak.

As we all are aware, the City Council just approved the plan that leads us to artificial turf on Conway Park. One of the arguments was that the grass on Conway offered few ecological services beyond its extraordinary cooling properties, making the switch to its plastic counterpart “not much” of an environmental loss. While we wholeheartedly disagree, no one should argue that these eight oak trees do not offer important ecological services.

We implore you to do everything in your power to keep these trees, including moving the location of the artificial turf field or even refusing to accept the project entirely, if that's what it takes. There is no excuse, especially one so trite as installing swaths of plastic on our land, for killing these mighty trees.

Sincerely,

Renée Scott
Stephen Moore
Tori Antonino
Chris Dwan
David Falk
Brendan Shea
Leigh Meunier

Green & Open Somerville

Green & Open Somerville

Advocating to improve and increase green space in Somerville, focusing on ecological restoration and climate change reiliency.

Email us to join our listserv | Explore our [website](#) | Follow us on [Twitter](#) | Like us on [Facebook](#)

--

For more information, visit: <http://greenopensomerville.blogspot.com>

Like us on facebook: www.facebook.com/greenandopensomerville

Follow us on twitter: twitter.com/GreenSomerville

You received this message because you are subscribed to the Google Groups "Green and Open Somerville" group.

To unsubscribe from this group and stop receiving emails from it, send an email to green-and-open-somerville+unsubscribe@googlegroups.com.

To view this discussion on the web visit <https://groups.google.com/d/msgid/green-and-open-somerville/CAAZB%3DuAVF4Te89KnNWdcHAW-n%2BR46mxxrroj0wLjsmAFteLWw%40mail.gmail.com>.

John Long

From: Deborah Pacini [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, February 18, 2020 5:36 PM
To: Mayor; City Clerk Contact; Matthew McLaughlin; JT Scott; Ben Ewen-Campen; Jesse Clingan; Mark Niedergang; Lance Davis; Katjana Ballantyne; Mary Jo Rossetti; Wilfred Mbah; William A. White; Stephanie Hirsch
Subject: Fwd: Foss Park Oak Tree Removal

I'm writing to plead with you to do everything you can to reverse the decision to remove the Foss Park oak trees. It's insane and hypocritical for the city to ban plastic straws and single use plastic bags, while at the same time choosing to cut down mature trees in order to make way for a plastic-covered field. Removing trees of this size would be a terrible loss to the city, especially since the benefits that such large trees offer the city as a whole cannot be restored within our lifetimes. Somerville has already suffered enough loss of its canopy, please, please do whatever it takes to save these trees.

Deborah Pacini
[REDACTED]

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Green & Open Somerville" <greenopensomerville@gmail.com>
Subject: Foss Park Oak Tree Removal
Date: February 18, 2020 at 4:24:46 PM EST
To: mayor <mayor@somervillema.gov>, cityclerk@somervillema.gov, Matt McLaughlin <Mattforward1@gmail.com>, JT Scott <jtforward2@gmail.com>, Ben Ewen-Campen <benforward3@gmail.com>, Jesse Clingan <jesseforward4@gmail.com>, Mark Niedergang <m.niedergang@comcast.net>, Lance Davis <lancedavisward6@gmail.com>, Katjana Ballantyne <katjana@katjana.org>, Mary Jo Rossetti <aldermanrossetti@gmail.com>, Wilfred Mbah <aldermanmbah@gmail.com>, william white <william.a.white@verizon.net>, Stephanie Hirsch <stephanie@stephaniehirsch.org>

[REDACTED]

Dear Mayor Curtatone and Honorable Councilors,

We have learned of the State's announcement to remove eight mature oak trees from Foss Park as part of the artificial turf field installation. Beyond the frustration of this information coming out over a year after the original discussion around the proposed construction, we are devastated to learn of the planned tree culling.

To say that Somerville struggles to keep its tree canopy is quite an understatement. There are many competing interests that interfere with trees - rail corridor clearing, new development, tiny tree wells - and our trees are the losers every single time. These eight mature oak trees may be the largest stand in the city. They have survived poor soil and wretched pollution, all the while cleaning the air in our most polluted area of town, taking in stormwater, and providing habitat to potentially hundreds of species of caterpillars, butterflies, and birds.

Just a few weeks ago, a group of pollinator and biodiversity experts, along with Green & Open Somerville representatives, met with the Mayor to encourage him to support and promote native plant species so Somerville can do its part to support the food web. Oak trees, above all others native to our region, are the tree that supports the most caterpillars, which are the base of our food web. We discussed the importance of creating and supporting corridors, which allow pollinators to travel across the city from one area of shelter and food to another.

Doug Tallamy, a professor of entomology and one of the lead voices on the importance of restoring native species for the health of the food web, on which we rely for our own survival, recently spoke at Harvard and explained that there are some native species, keystone species, that we should focus on as we replant because they host exponentially more insects than others. His number one keystone species is the oak.

As we all are aware, the City Council just approved the plan that leads us to artificial turf on Conway Park. One of the arguments was that the grass on Conway offered few ecological services beyond its extraordinary cooling properties, making the switch to its plastic counterpart “not much” of an environmental loss. While we wholeheartedly disagree, no one should argue that these eight oak trees do not offer important ecological services.

We implore you to do everything in your power to keep these trees, including moving the location of the artificial turf field or even refusing to accept the project entirely, if that’s what it takes. There is no excuse, especially one so trite as installing swaths of plastic on our land, for killing these mighty trees.

Sincerely,

Renée Scott
Stephen Moore
Tori Antonino
Chris Dwan
David Falk
Brendan Shea
Leigh Meunier

Green & Open Somerville

Green & Open Somerville

Advocating to improve and increase green space in Somerville, focusing on ecological restoration and climate change reiliency.

Email us to join our listserv | Explore our [website](#) | Follow us on [Twitter](#) | Like us on [Facebook](#)

--

For more information, visit: <http://greenopensomerville.blogspot.com>

Like us on facebook: www.facebook.com/greenandopensomerville

Follow us on twitter: twitter.com/GreenSomerville

You received this message because you are subscribed to the Google Groups "Green and Open Somerville" group.

To unsubscribe from this group and stop receiving emails from it, send an email to green-and-open-somerville+unsubscribe@googlegroups.com.

To view this discussion on the web visit <https://groups.google.com/d/msgid/green-and-open-somerville/CAAZB%3DuAVF4Te89KnNWdcHAW-n%2BR46mxrraboj0wLjsmAFteLWw%40mail.gmail.com>.

John Long

From: MELISSA MCWHINNEY [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, February 18, 2020 6:35 PM
To: Green & Open Somerville; Mayor; City Clerk Contact; Matthew McLaughlin; JT Scott; Ben Ewen-Campen; Jesse Clingan; Mark Niedergang; Lance Davis; Katjana Ballantyne; Mary Jo Rossetti; Wilfred Mbah; William A. White; Stephanie Hirsch
Cc: Stephen Moore; Tori Antonino; Chris Dwan; Leigh Meunier; BRENDAN SHEA; David Falk; Green and Open Somerville
Subject: Re: Foss Park Oak Tree Removal

Please, removal of oak trees in order to install fake grass is extremely short-sighted! Please read this article from the December issue of the Atlantic. <https://www.theatlantic.com/science/archive/2019/12/artificial-turf-fields-are-piling-no-recycling-fix/603874/>

Fake grass made of rubber is not fiscally healthy or physically healthy for the children and adults of Somerville and the region. Removing mature oak trees in order to install fake grass is completely counter to the "live/work/play" motto of Somerville. Where are you planning to dispose of it in eight or ten years when it's worn out? How can you justify the rubber bits that will clog our sewers and waterways.

And now you're going to take down mature oaks? That is incredibly irresponsible! Please, think again.

Melissa Mcwhinney

On February 18, 2020 at 5:14 PM MELISSA MCWHINNEY [REDACTED] wrote:

Yes, yes, yes! Please, have some common sense about our world here in Somerville

Best,

Melissa McWhinney

On February 18, 2020 at 4:24 PM Green & Open Somerville <greenopensomerville@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear Mayor Curtatone and Honorable Councilors,

We have learned of the State's announcement to remove eight mature oak trees from Foss Park as part of the artificial turf field installation. Beyond the frustration of this information coming out over a year after the original discussion around the proposed construction, we are devastated to learn of the planned tree culling.

To say that Somerville struggles to keep its tree canopy is quite an understatement. There are many competing interests that interfere with trees - rail corridor clearing, new development, tiny tree wells - and our trees are the losers every single time. These eight mature oak trees may be the largest stand in the city. They have survived poor soil and wretched pollution, all the while cleaning the air in our most polluted area of town, taking in stormwater, and

providing habitat to potentially hundreds of species of caterpillars, butterflies, and birds.

Just a few weeks ago, a group of pollinator and biodiversity experts, along with Green & Open Somerville representatives, met with the Mayor to encourage him to support and promote native plant species so Somerville can do its part to support the food web. Oak trees, above all others native to our region, are the tree that supports the most caterpillars, which are the base of our food web. We discussed the importance of creating and supporting corridors, which allow pollinators to travel across the city from one area of shelter and food to another.

Doug Tallamy, a professor of entomology and one of the lead voices on the importance of restoring native species for the health of the food web, on which we rely for our own survival, recently spoke at Harvard and explained that there are some native species, keystone species, that we should focus on as we replant because they host exponentially more insects than others. His number one keystone species is the oak.

As we all are aware, the City Council just approved the plan that leads us to artificial turf on Conway Park. One of the arguments was that the grass on Conway offered few ecological services beyond its extraordinary cooling properties, making the switch to its plastic counterpart “not much” of an environmental loss. While we wholeheartedly disagree, no one should argue that these eight oak trees do not offer important ecological services.

We implore you to do everything in your power to keep these trees, including moving the location of the artificial turf field or even refusing to accept the project entirely, if that's what it takes. There is no excuse, especially one so trite as installing swaths of plastic on our land, for killing these mighty trees.

Sincerely,

Renée Scott
Stephen Moore
Tori Antonino
Chris Dwan
David Falk
Brendan Shea
Leigh Meunier

Green & Open Somerville

Green & Open Somerville

Advocating to improve and increase green space in Somerville, focusing on ecological restoration and climate change reiliency.

Email us to join our listserv | Explore our [website](#) | Follow us on [Twitter](#) | Like us on [Facebook](#)

--

For more information, visit: <http://greenopensomerville.blogspot.com>

Like us on facebook: www.facebook.com/greenandopensomerville

Follow us on twitter: twitter.com/GreenSomerville

You received this message because you are subscribed to the Google Groups "Green and Open Somerville" group.

To unsubscribe from this group and stop receiving emails from it, send an email to green-and-open-somerville+unsubscribe@googlegroups.com.

To view this discussion on the web visit

<https://groups.google.com/d/msgid/green-and-open-somerville/CAAZB%3DuAVF4Te89KnNWdcHAW-n%2BR46mxrraboj0wLjsmAFteLWw%40mail.gmail.com>.