

RECREATION AND PARKS
DEPARTMENT

Date: October 3, 2025

To: 614 Beautiful Scoring Committee

Re: Letter of Support for Friends of Glen Echo Historic Stanchion Restoration and Pollinator & Tree Planting Project at Glenmawr Park

Dear Members of the 614 Beautiful Scoring Committee,

The Columbus Recreation and Parks Department is pleased to provide this letter of support for the Friends of Glen Echo's grant application for the Historic Stanchion Restoration, Pollinator & Tree Planting project at Glenmawr Park in the Glen Echo neighborhood.

As the property owner of Glenmawr Park, Columbus Recreation and Parks recognizes the significant value this project will bring to the community we serve. The proposed improvements directly align with our Urban Forestry Master Plan and our commitment to enhancing Columbus's tree canopy while preserving the historic character that makes our neighborhoods unique.

The project's focus on planting six additional shade trees in Glenmawr Park is particularly important to our department. This park has several mature trees that are slated for removal due to health. This project represents a meaningful step toward restoring the tree canopy that is so vital to urban environmental health, stormwater management, and community well-being. As these trees mature, they will provide critical shade coverage, reduce urban heat island effects, and improve air quality for residents and visitors who use this well-traveled pedestrian corridor.

We are especially supportive of the project's comprehensive approach, which combines urban forestry improvements with the restoration of historic stone stanchions that contribute to the neighborhood's National Register Historic District status. The stanchion restoration offers more than a simple park infrastructure improvement. The stanchions are key cultural elements that make Glen Mawr and Glen Echo some of the most unique and beloved parks in Columbus. Due to the ineligibility of masonry restoration as a capital improvement, Recreation and Parks relies heavily on alliances such as this to be able to complete important historic preservation work. Increased pedestrian safety, through enhanced park lighting and a new pollinator habitat, demonstrates the type of holistic community improvement that we value in our partnerships.

Friends of Glen Echo has demonstrated their commitment to working collaboratively with our department by pledging to work closely with Columbus Recreation and Parks staff and to secure all necessary permits and approvals before beginning work. They have also committed to covering any



RECREATION AND PARKS
DEPARTMENT

associated fees and consulting with a certified arborist, showing their dedication to following proper procedures and maintaining the high standards we require for work on public property.

The strong community engagement and volunteer commitment evident in this proposal ensures that the improvements will be well-maintained and truly serve the neighborhood's needs. The project's educational components, including interpretive signage about native plants and neighborhood history, will provide lasting benefits that extend beyond the immediate physical improvements.

Columbus Recreation and Parks is proud to support community-driven initiatives like this one that enhance our parks, strengthen our urban forest, and bring neighbors together around shared stewardship of public spaces. We look forward to supporting Friends of Glen Echo to bring this valuable project to fruition.

Thank you for your consideration of this worthy application.

Sincerely,



Bernita A. Reese
Director of the Columbus Recreation and Parks Department

