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Shelly Douglas, Executive Director

Green Columbus
A Volunteer Driven Nonprofit
Columbus, Ohio

Date: 09/19/2025

To: 614 Beautiful Scoring Committee

Re: Letter of Support for Friends of Glen Echo Historic Stanchion Restoration, Pollinator & Tree Planting Project

Dear Members of the 614 Beautiful Scoring Committee,

Green Columbus is pleased to provide strong 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 a sustainability-focused nonprofit dedicated to growing equitable tree canopy coverage and fostering resilient communities across Central Ohio, we recognize the critical importance of this urban forestry project. The Glen Echo neighborhood has experienced devastating tree canopy loss in recent years, with multiple mature trees already lost and 11 additional mature trees tagged for removal within the Glenmawr Park median. This level of canopy loss impacts the neighborhood's environmental health, pedestrian comfort, and community resilience.

The proposed planting of six new shade trees directly aligns with Green Columbus's mission to increase tree coverage for all Columbus communities. These replacement trees will provide essential environmental benefits including urban heat reduction, improved air quality, and enhanced stormwater management—all critical for community health and climate resilience. The strategic placement of shade trees along this well-traveled pedestrian corridor will create cooling microclimates that benefit daily users of the median park.

We are particularly supportive of the project's commitment to working with Columbus Recreation and Parks Forestry Division to ensure proper tree species selection and planting techniques. This collaborative approach reflects the type of professional partnerships that Green Columbus values in successful urban forestry initiatives.

The comprehensive maintenance plan demonstrated by Friends of Glen Echo, including committed neighborhood volunteers and adjacent residents providing water access, shows the

community stewardship essential for long-term tree survival and health. Through our volunteer-driven tree nursery and distribution programs, Green Columbus understands that sustainable urban forestry requires ongoing community engagement—something Friends of Glen Echo will continue after this grant period expires.

Beyond the immediate canopy restoration, this project's combination of tree planting with invasive species removal creates multiplicative environmental benefits. The removal of dense honeysuckle stands will eliminate competition for the new trees while creating space for the proposed pollinator garden, enhancing biodiversity and ecological function.

Green Columbus is committed to seeking beneficial environmental outcomes for the people of Central Ohio, and this project represents exactly the type of community-driven urban forestry work that creates lasting positive impact. The Friends of Glen Echo have demonstrated a commitment to volunteer engagement and professional planning approach that ensures successful tree establishment and ongoing care.

We strongly encourage your support of this worthy application that will meaningfully contribute to Columbus's urban tree canopy and community resilience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shelly Douglas". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the "S" and "D" being particularly prominent.

Shelly Douglas
Executive Director
Green Columbus