

Last fall, a resident of Greenway Downs wrote the Park Authority to complain that the newly erected wooden barriers in John Mastenbrook Park would prevent kids from sledding in that location- sledding that had been a neighborhood practice for over 40 years. This was the Park Authorities response to that complaint.

**Sent:** Thursday, November 1, 2018 3:46 PM

**Subject:** Greenway Downs Park

Dear Mr. ,

I apologize for making you wait so long for a response. We are aware of your disagreement with our actions, but please understand that the activities occurring were not approved or consistent with a master planning process. In addition, the activities were resulting in damage to parkland, and were disturbing an area that was intended to be left in a natural vegetated state. While we recognize that no one intended to damage parkland, it unfortunately was occurring, so to prevent further damage from occurring we would rather the park patrons utilize the established trails that were intended for the commuting purposes listed, and for the kids to play on the play equipment and utilize the park in the manners in which it was designed.

The Park Authority installed the barriers at Greenway Downs Park in response to paths being established where paths were not intended or authorized. If allowed to continue, the activities will ultimately damage, if not kill, the trees and understory in the immediate vicinity, and will result further erosion of the soil which is a water quality issue. Because the areas weren't developed for the activities that were occurring, they were not safe for the park users, and it was resulting in damage. As a result of our actions, we are hoping that the areas will restore themselves to their original natural vegetated state, which is what is intended for that part of the park.

The community was not engaged before our efforts were undertaken because of the scale of the efforts, and the activities occurring were not approved thru the Park Authority's typical public engagement process, which is master planning. It was a small-scale maintenance effort that we just put into the work program with our other projects. It was not of the large-scale-improvement-plan that typically requires community engagement. I believe we spent about \$300 in materials on this project. We typically do not get the community involved in routine or restorative maintenance efforts, especially those addressing damage resulting from non-approved activities.

I apologize that this may not have been the response you were hoping for, but please know that our efforts were focused on the safety of park patrons and the protection of parkland for the benefit of all. Please feel free to contact me if you have any further questions. Thank you for your concern and care for the park.

Sincerely,

Area 1 Manager  
FCPA