

Nov. 28, 2023

Norfolk City Council and City Manager
810 Union Street
Norfolk, VA 23510

Dear Mayor Alexander, Members of City Council and Mr. Roberts:

As you are aware, the River Forrest Shores/Wayside Manor/Easton Place Civic League has long lobbied for increased investment in the Eastside of Norfolk area. We have made the point over and over again that we are lacking an adequate recreation center and library, and we will continue to make our case in the future. Consequently, this letter of support for the recommendation of the Lambert's Point City Park Steering Committee may come as a surprise to you since the requested amenity would be located in Westside Norfolk. Specifically, our civic league took a vote on Nov. 13 to support the committee's request that the remaining acreage associated with the former Lambert's Point Golf course be converted to a public park.

We support this request for these reasons:

1. A public park is a benefit for all Norfolk citizens.
2. Norfolk is woefully inadequate in its inventory of park land. It is our understanding that only 5 percent of Norfolk's land is park land. In reality this number is much lower when you consider the fact it includes school system playgrounds which are unavailable to residents during the school day.
3. Norfolk residents have limited public access to the Elizabeth River since the majority of the land along the shoreline is privately or federally owned. A new park would help address that gap.

We understand Old Dominion University would like to obtain this land for the use of its golf team. To limit access to this valuable resource to such a small group of stakeholders would be inequitable. Norfolk homeowners this year are experiencing massive increases in their real estate tax bills. We need to get more for our money. This would be a solid opportunity for City Council to give citizens more recreational opportunities and access to our beautiful Elizabeth River waterfront.

We thank you in advance for consideration of this request.

Sincerely,
Debby Forehand, President
River Forrest Shores/Wayside Manor/Easton Place Civic League