

67 Highland Avenue, Apartment 2
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139
May 10, 1976

City Council
City of Cambridge

Editor
Cambridge Chronicle

The City Council passed an order on May 10, which, inadvertantly, decreased what little open space Mid-Cambridge has. They asked the Public Works Department to put up "Keep off the grass" signs in front of City Hall. Incredible as it may seem, in Mid-Cambridge the City Hall lawn is counted as part of our almost non-existent open space. People have been sunbathing on the lawn because that lawn is designated as a park in our neighborhood. I refer to a 1972 map prepared by the planning department and printed in their document entitled "1973 Open Space Land Program Alternatives," a program which apparently received its final funding the same night.

Mid-Cambridge has 0.21 acres per thousand persons of open space. This is one-sixth that of Riverside, one-twelfth that of Cambridgeport, one-tenth that of Neighborhood Nine, and one-twentieth that of Brattle Street (neighborhood ten). All of these neighborhoods have recently had active plans for increase of their open space, including one losing plan which obtained approval by a majority of the members of the council. Mid-Cambridge, of course, has the least open space in the city. Our best park is slated for destruction by the city, and part of the building slated to destroy that park is proposed to have 28,980 cubic feet of bulk hanging over Cambridge Street, where now only trees can be seen. It is bad enough to be under attack by a majority of the council and five members of the school committee, without having what little other open space we have destroyed by inadvertance.

It is hardly nice to sunbath on City Hall lawn, but if the city is too cheap to provide anything better for the taxpayers in its most populous neighborhood, this little piece of green should not also be destroyed as far as practical use goes.

I learned of the proposal at 4:45 P.M. on the tenth. I was in the council chambers at 5:15 P.M., but was unable to contact the sponsor of the motion at the special hearing then going on. I returned at 7:30 P.M. expecting to have a wait of an hour and a half, but found adjournment approaching. I can only beg of the council. You've made an unintended mistake. Please show a little mercy.

Sincerely,

Robert J. LaTremouille
Robert J. LaTremouille

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Comm. from Robert J. LaTremouille re: to an
order which was passed May 10, 1976 re: to
"Keep Off The Grass" signs at City Hall.

In City Council,
May 17, 1976

5/17/76

Placed on File