

**From:** [Catherine Curtis](#)  
**To:** [Historic District Commission \(Staff\)](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Detroit Thermal Project – Objection from a Lafayette Park Resident  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 7, 2025 2:12:56 PM

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Dear Detroit Historic District Commission,

I am writing as a resident of the Lafayette Park Historic District to strongly oppose Detroit Thermal's application for new work within our neighborhood. Their proposed project would cause lasting and irreversible damage to the historic landscape that is essential to our community's National Historic Landmark designation.

The project poses a serious threat to the character of our neighborhood. It would destroy mature trees, shrubs, and plantings that have shaped the look and feel of Lafayette Park for more than six decades. The planned construction targets the most sensitive and beloved part of our landscape, with the area designated for "disturbance" and vague promises of "restoration in-kind." In reality, a 60-year-old landscape cannot simply be recreated after such damage.

Additionally, a separate section near Lafayette Avenue, also filled with mature plantings, is marked for similar disturbance. Together, these actions would severely compromise the historic integrity of our entire neighborhood.

Detroit Thermal's approach demonstrates a clear disregard for the unique and historic nature of our community. In the past seven months, without engaging residents, they have already caused harm: cutting down much of a mature magnolia tree, damaging gardens, and ignoring requests to meet or share project details with the neighborhood.

I am also alarmed by the potential installation of new steam vents and deep excavations near the foundations of our historic homes — risks that seem not to have been fully considered.

Given these concerns, I respectfully request that the Commission deny Detroit Thermal's application to prevent irreversible harm to Lafayette Park's historic landscape.

Thank you for your time and for your continued commitment to preserving Detroit's historic neighborhoods.