

From: [Penny Griffioen](#)
To: [Garrick Landsberg](#); [Historic District Commission \(Staff\)](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Message about Lafayette Park Historic District
Date: Wednesday, May 14, 2025 2:23:46 PM

Dear Detroit Historic District Staff and Commission,

My name is Penelope Griffioen, I am a junior at Kenyon College, and I grew up in the Lafayette Park Historic District. I writing with distress at the plans submitted by Detroit Thermal to threaten the health of the living environment that meant so much to me as a child in this neighborhood, as well as the proposed destruction to the playground on which I spent countless hours on the swings, climbing the slide and play structure, as well as running through the grass and playing among the ancient trees that make this neighborhood so special.

When I left for school last fall, Detroit Thermal had already torn up and fenced off a huge chunk of the playground. When I returned home for Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Spring Break it was still torn up and fenced off and it seemed like nothing had been done in the many months I had been gone. I am now home for the summer and my neighbors have mapped out the proposed extension of the worksite and excavations and I am shocked that anyone ever thought this was a good idea. Did Detroit Thermal even visit this neighborhood before it decided to rush through this proposal and construction? Did they talk to any of the people who live here about what they planned to do? Did they knock on any doors, try to explain, or make even the tiniest effort to engage this community? How can it be possible that a utility can destroy a beautiful, historic neighborhood park so that people whom the utility isn't even servicing can enjoy a cheaper option for their heating system? How is that equitable?

Please tell Detroit Thermal that Lafayette Park is a place to be protected. It is a place where people live and play. It is not a street to be ripped apart and put back together. This area they intend to destroy is a place where generations have grown up, watching the landscaping mature with them. It is not a place to tear up the ground, park excavators and dump trucks, fence off from children and wildlife, and spend an entire summer destroying.

Please, reject this proposal, refuse to grant a certificate of appropriateness or a notice to proceed. Deny Detroit Thermal's proposal in its entirety and make them pay for the damage they have already done.

Thank you,

Penelope Griffioen