

**From:** [Debra Henning](#)  
**To:** [Historic District Commission \(Staff\)](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Stop Detroit Thermal from Destroying the Most Prominent Feature of Lafayette Park - Our Landscape  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 14, 2025 12:27:04 AM

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Dear Commissioners,

As you undertake the important work of protecting Detroit's Historic Landmarks, it is important to remember, as author Caroline Constant has, that "Lafayette Park is best known for its buildings, designed by Mies van der Rohe, yet the project's most prominent feature is its landscape," (*Hilberseimer / Mies van der Rohe: Lafayette Park Detroit*, P. 95) The photos below captured the evolution of that landscape over six decades.

Our landscape - the most prominent feature of Lafayette Park - is what we will lose if Detroit Thermal has its way! The argument that Detroit Thermal has the right to excavate the land which is, in fact, the front yard of nearly twenty homes is beyond credulity. Who would allow any company to dig up the front yard of one private home and install steam vents, let alone twenty! To add to the travesty, is the fact that this land has National Historic Landmark designation, which should make the decision regarding Detroit Thermal's plans to install new steam infrastructure clear: The answer must be NO.

Respectfully,

Debra Henning  
1339 Joliet Place  
Lafayette Park



Lafayette Park Townhouses 1959 - 1960



Lafayette Townhouse as they look today