
[EXTERNAL] Voigt Park HDC Applications Concerns

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To Historic District Commission (Staff) <hdc@detroitmi.gov>; Public Spaces Planning Unit <PSPU@detroitmi.gov>

Cc Theresa Mcarleton <theresa.mcarleton@detroitmi.gov>; CouncilMemberSheffield <CouncilMemberSheffield@detroitmi.gov>; Keith Butler <Keith.Butler@detroitmi.gov>; Jkinloch@waynecountymi.gov <Jkinloch@waynecountymi.gov>

Dear Historic District Commission,

I am writing in regards to [HDC Application 2025-00576](#) to be considered at the [October 8, 2025 Historic District Commission meeting](#).

In its current form, **I do not support the proposed plan** for installing new infrastructure in Voigt Park. While I do not oppose restoring the historic paths, or adding benches and trash receptacles, I am deeply concerned by the design and plan as it is currently proposed – as well as the Parks Department's lack of resident engagement before proposing these changes. **I respectfully request that HDC not approve the current plan presented**, allowing the City of Detroit Parks Department to engage the community on the proposed amenities and return with a revised plan based on the feedback of the neighbors and users of Voigt Park. Specifically, I have the following concerns regarding this application:

1. **The construction and impermeable nature of the cement path would significantly threaten the viability of the valuable existing trees. Several of the trees are over 100 years old and caring for their health must remain a priority.** A path composed of a natural and permeable material can be discussed to make more of a trail like path more suitable to an urban forest in an historic district such as the Boston Edison, Historic District, which has city, state and federal historic designation & was deeded with reservations that it remains an ornamental park.
2. More reasonable funding priority would include funding needed for maintenance of the existing trees as well as mitigation of serious ponding issues.

We want to see the integrity of this sublime Park be maintained, for all Detroiters as well as for posterity.

I thank the Historic District Commissioners and the City of Detroit Parks Department staff for their attention to this critical issue for our neighborhood. I am fully confident that when the Parks Department engages with residents who live adjacent to and frequently use Voigt Park, we can have a plan for our beloved park that truly reflects the desires and priorities of nearby residents.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and your commitment to preserving Detroit's history, buildings, and landscapes.

Sincerely,

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