



November 2, 2022

Charles A. Birnbaum, FASLA, FAAR
President & CEO
The Cultural Landscape Foundation
1711 Connecticut Avenue NW, Suite 200
Washington, DC 20009

Dear Mr. Birnbaum:

Thank you for your reply on October 31st, 2022.

I want to reiterate the proposed development [your website describes](#) is not moving forward and briefly describe the University's relationship to Genesee Valley Park (GVP).

The University of Rochester has contributed to the expansion of GVP and voluntarily maintains a woodland buffer on its property to enhance views from Moore Road to our campus. Moore Road serves GVP from Elmwood Avenue and the road also serves as our property boundary. Additionally, the University regularly supports GVP access and use.

The 16.22-acre parcel described by CLF was sold by the City of Rochester in 1969, under approval by the State of New York, for the expressed purpose of expanding the University of Rochester campus. This land was formerly part of the Lehigh Valley Railroad and directly adjacent University owned property that extended directly to the Genesee River.

In 1990, the University sold to the City of Rochester property that now forms the southern portion of Genesee Valley Park adjacent the Erie Canal and the Genesee River. This 1990 sale to the City helped establish a GVP more closely aligned with the original Olmsted vision.

University of Rochester campus development is regulated under City of Rochester Planned Development District #10 (PD 10). PD 10 was established in 2010 after extensive input from surrounding neighborhoods, the City, and Monroe County.



The 16.22-acre parcel is part of PD 10. The parcel includes both existing development and woodlands. The woodlands are inventoried and managed by the University as part of its certified arboretum. The University has been recognized by the Arbor Day Foundation as a Tree Campus USA Institution for the 12 straight years. Tree Campus USA is a national program that honors colleges and universities that have a commitment to promoting healthy trees and engaging staff and students in conservation goals.

The University intends to undertake an update to its campus master plan in the coming months and the parcel's adjacency to GVP will receive full consideration as PD 10 does not require setbacks or a development buffer from Moore Road. However, the University maintains a buffer as a good neighbor to the park. Additionally, the University supports GVP events through use of parking lots on the 16.22-acre parcel, thus negating the need for the City to develop additional parking within the park proper.

Again, we request removing the University of Rochester as a threat to GVP. The University was instrumental in the expansion of a GVP more closely aligned with the original Olmsted vision, steadfastly maintains a woodland buffer to enhance views to our campus from Moore Road, regularly supports access to the park, and the proposed development is not moving forward. To be clear, our intent from the beginning was to determine an appropriate campus location to build an operations center; not to pursue the possible future development of this 16.22-acre parcel of University land.

Regards,

Mike Chihoski

Mike Chihoski
Senior Associate Vice President

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