



City of Cambridge

R-10
FIRST IN COUNCIL
October 25, 2021

COUNCILLOR NOLAN
VICE MAYOR MALLON
MAYOR SIDDIQUI
COUNCILLOR SIMMONS

WHEREAS: It has come to the attention of this City Council that the Herter Community Garden, founded in 1976, is a 45-year-old community garden situated along the Charles River that has provided organic, urban community gathering for decades, including providing 13 current Cambridge residents with a garden plot; and

WHEREAS: Gardeners in the community garden are largely older, immigrants, and people of color who rely on the gardening community for both sociability and food security, and provide a true community of well-being and support for each other; and

WHEREAS: The Department of Conservation & Recreation (DCR) unveiled a plan to remove the garden and replace it with a “picnic lawn” on September 29, 2021; and

WHEREAS: An outpouring of opposition to the DCR plan emerged, with a petition to save the Herter Community Garden gathering over 2000 signatures; and

WHEREAS: The DCR proposed solution of moving the garden to a different spot along the river has been characterized as impossible by experts - 45 years of soil enrichment and features such as trellises and paths are not transferable; and

WHEREAS: The new proposed site is sloped, filled with invasive vegetation, and contains depleted soil with poor drainage; and

WHEREAS: Removal of the Herter garden and construction of an inadequate garden elsewhere would decrease accessibility and equity for the vulnerable communities which rely on it; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That this City Council go on record strongly opposing the DCR plan to remove the Herter Community Garden and stands behind the Herter Community Gardeners; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the City Clerk be and hereby is requested to forward a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution as soon as possible to the leadership of DCR, to the Cambridge delegation, and to the organizers of the “Save Herter Community Garden” petition on behalf of the entire City Council.

In City Council October 25, 2021.
Adopted as amended by a yea and nay vote:-
Yeas 9; Nays 0; Absent 0.
Attest:- Anthony I. Wilson, City Clerk

A true copy;

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anthony I. Wilson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

ATTEST:-

Anthony I. Wilson, City Clerk