



PARKS, PLACES & PEOPLE

September 9, 2025

To Whom It May Concern,

The Olmsted Network is writing to express concern and offer support regarding the proposed zoning changes affecting Brookland Parkway ([Jobs #12508](#)), the sole realized feature of Frederick Law Olmsted's plan for Sherwood Park ([Job #01176](#)).

Brookland Parkway represents a rare example of Olmsted planning in Virginia, embodying the principles of human-scaled design, connectivity, and natural beauty that define the Olmsted legacy. We understand that zoning reform is a complex and necessary process, but we encourage the City of Richmond to ensure that new development aligns with the neighborhood's unique historic character and national significance.

We are aware that residents and neighborhood groups, including the Sherwood Park Civic Association, have raised concerns about how these proposed changes might affect the integrity of their historic community. We urge the City to listen closely to these voices and to consider how future development can respect the original vision of this landscape, while still addressing modern needs.

As stewards of the Olmsted legacy, we would be glad to support the City in its planning process—whether by answering research questions, providing historical documentation, or offering insight into how other cities have successfully balanced growth with preservation in Olmsted-designed neighborhoods.

We hope that Richmond will continue to take pride in its Olmsted heritage and lead the way in protecting these important places for future generations.

Sincerely,

Sue Breilkopf
President
Olmsted Network
www.Olmsted.org