



June 18, 2026

Dear Members of Richmond City Council,

The Olmsted Network urges you to reject Ordinance No. 2026-109, which would close a portion of public right-of-way near Brookland Park Boulevard and Robin Hood Road to allow a private school to convert publicly accessible green space into a parking lot.

The parcel carries particular significance: Brookland Park Boulevard was envisioned by Frederick Law Olmsted's firm as the centerpiece of the Sherwood Park development, making it a rare piece of Olmsted's legacy in Richmond—one that connects the city to a global network of over 6,000 landscapes.

More than that history, neighborhood green spaces matter more than their size suggests. Trust for Public Land found that people are more likely to use parks within a [10-minute walk of home](#)—often the only realistic way residents can reach nature and gather as a community. And the payoff is measurable: a mature tree sequesters about [48 pounds of CO2 annually](#), according to the U.S. Forest Service, and these spaces collectively cool urban heat, absorb stormwater, and grow the canopy that does it. These benefits belong to the public, not any single institution.

The school's parking needs are real, but they can be addressed without permanently converting public land—through shared-use agreements with nearby lots, staggered drop-off scheduling, or similar arrangements.

The Olmsted Network asks the Council to vote no and uphold Olmsted's ideal that restorative green space belongs to everyone.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Sue Breitkopf", written in a cursive style.

Sue Breitkopf  
President  
Olmsted Network