

Dear Cook County Environmental Commission,

I am a resident of Flossmoor, IL, and ask you to stand by residents of Chicago's Southland to help us preserve the greenspace of the former Calumet Country Club, recently disconnected from Homewood, IL. Upon disconnection, it became unincorporated Cook County, and now we request your assertion that you will put up barriers to ensure the developer is not able to rezone the land currently zoned "public lands and open space" to construct a trucking distribution center. We also request that you clearly assert that you would not create a TIF for this developer, as he had intended on a substantial TIF from the city of Homewood to offset the majority of his anticipated \$93 million development.

The south suburbs already bear a disproportionate share of industrial pollution due to environmental racism. This development would bring about negative externalities of pollution from diesel exhaust, flooding and traffic hazards. Scientific research on pollution from diesel emissions has linked it to asthma and other respiratory conditions – especially in children. According to the Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America, African-American children have the highest prevalence of asthma, African-Americans in the U.S. die from asthma at a higher rate than people of other races or ethnicities, and African-Americans are three times more likely to die from asthma, especially African-American women, than any other group. Allowing greenspace land to be developed into a trucking center that brings more diesel emissions to a predominantly African American community is furthering environmental racism.

Diesel emissions also exacerbate climate change. The U.S. Energy Information Administration estimates that in 2019, diesel fuel consumption in the U.S. transportation sector resulted in the emission of 456 million metric tons of carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas. The current 128 acres of greenspace with over 2000 trees helps mitigate climate disaster through carbon sinks and ground water absorption. Our area already experiences effects of climate change in the form of flooding and extreme temperatures. If serious action to curb climate change is not taken immediately, we will experience a great deal of additional downpours, making flooding a serious concern.

The Doomsday Clock, maintained by the Atmospheric Science and Security Board of the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, released a statement in January putting us 100 seconds to midnight. They state, "Governments have also failed to sufficiently address climate change. A pandemic-related economic slowdown temporarily reduced the carbon dioxide emissions that cause global warming. But over the coming decade fossil fuel use needs to decline precipitously if the worst effects of climate change are to be avoided. Instead, fossil fuel development and production are projected to increase. Atmospheric greenhouse gas concentrations hit a record high in 2020, one of the two warmest years on record. The massive wildfires and catastrophic cyclones of 2020 are illustrations of the major devastation that will only increase if governments do not significantly and quickly amplify their efforts to bring greenhouse gas emissions essentially to zero."

We need the County to step up its efforts to help mitigate climate disaster. Your own Next Century Conservation Plan calls for action for "A healthy, beautiful and safe natural environment where diverse plants and animals thrive, reduced flooding, cleaner air and water," and other benefits. The area surrounding this property is devoid of natural and green spaces. These residents deserve to benefit from this initiative. The County must step up and take clear actions to prevent this community from having greenspace turned into a trucking distribution center. County government approving rezoning to allow development of a trucking distribution center to proliferate semi-trucks spewing diesel pollution in our communities would be a government response that denies science and climate change. Destroying 130 acres of greenspace and thousands of trees is a backwards government response to the real dangers of climate change. Please do not allow communities already deprived of existing forest preserves to be turned into an industrial wasteland.

Residents clearly oppose this. 1500 residents have come together via the South Suburbs for Greenspace over Concrete campaign to show their desire to stop this development. More information about our campaign can be found at <https://www.ss4greenspace.org/>. Please help us by making clear statements indicating you will not rezone, you will not create a TIF, and help us create a pathway to turn this land into a natural preserve.

Thank you,

R. Erika Schafer

Flossmoor, IL

---

Good morning - the citizens of Homewood & the surrounding areas urgently need your attention of the ongoing developments most immediately impacting Homewood, Hazel Crest and East Hazel Crest, and battle over what happens next at the Calumet Country Club property at 175th & Dixie Hwy, approximately 130 acres of Greenspace. More importantly we implore vehemently for Cook County to act in the best interests & concerns of the welfare, health and safety of the citizens of the Southland including Homewood, Hazel Crest and East Hazel Crest by not approving and opposing any and all measures that encourage the destruction of the land and industrial development in relation to this property.

There are literally 2 densely populated neighborhoods with 100' of the property lines of the Calumet Country Club property - Givernors Park (Homewood) and Bremerton Woods (East Hazel Crest). There are thousands of people that live within a mile of the property and it's proposed truck routes including Hazel Crest.

On this past Tuesday, April 13, the Trustees of Homewood voted to Disconnect the property from Homewood jurisdiction as a result of the settlement between the Village of Homewood & W & E Ventures. W & E Ventures filed a lawsuit against the Village of Homewood leading to said settlement.

It is more than safe to say that the majority of Homewood's residents are concerned and confused by this decision.

Just weeks earlier, the Homewood Planning & Zoning Commission did not recommend re-zoning the property for Industrial on March 4, and the following Tuesday March 9 the Homewood Trustees voted against re-zoning following the expert advice of the Zoning Board. They cited numerous validated reasons why the area would suffer including additional diesel & pollution (PM2.5), negative health impact on people, loss of natural growth, greenspace, natural storm drainage, light and sound pollution, increased traffic, and ensuing property value losses that would arise if such a development were to be allowed in the community.

Now that the attention has shifted to Cook County and Hazel Crest, there is still extremely high concern from the residents of our communities especially in regards the multitude of issues and detriment that the Homewood Zoning Board & Trustees confirmed the area would suffer from.

We need to keep our awareness and involvement going strong and ask our elected Cook County officials to stand up for the people and not allow such detriment be acted upon, right in our own front yards.

I have personally walked door to door in these neighborhoods in the March and April rains and snow in February and out of hundreds of people I've spoken to, only a handful of people have opposed, and they didn't grasp the location was just a few blocks away. People are in tears fearing they will have to relocate and uproot their families to avoid the negative impacts, and some people just can't afford to.

The future health and prosperity of our communities are hanging in the balance. We must not allow industrial developing and the clearing out of this important parcel of land that currently does much more good than the harm being proposed. Despite any benefits that might be offered, the risks far outweigh the rewards.

Environmental Justice, Greenspace, Volunteerism, and Welfare of our Neighbors are at the core of South Suburbs for Greenspace Over Concrete and will continue to be a part of our future.

Stay #SouthlandProud

[www.truckno.us](http://www.truckno.us)

[www.ss4greenspace.org](http://www.ss4greenspace.org)

South Suburbs for Greenspace over Concrete

Sincerely,

Kevin Crabtree

Homeowner & Taxpayer in Homewood IL  
Representative of South Suburbs for Greenspace Over Concrete

---

Dear Cook County Environmental Commission:

I am writing today regarding the proposed redevelopment of the property formerly known as Calumet Country Club in Homewood and Hazel Crest. As you are likely aware, after the property was purchased at a tax sale, its new out-of-state owner, Diversified Partners of Scottsdale, Arizona, was looking to detach the land from Homewood and annex the property to Hazel Crest for purposes of developing the property into an industrial trucking center with its corresponding pollution and destruction of hundreds of acres of green space. There was such an overwhelmingly negative impact from the destructive industrial hub that the Homewood Board of Trustees unanimously voted not to allow the land to be zoned as industrial. This development would pose grave environmental health and safety concerns to the immediately adjacent residential communities in Homewood, East Hazel Crest and Hazel Crest.

Unfortunately, Homewood passed a disconnection ordinance on 4/13/21 to allow for disconnection out of Homewood. Hazel Crest has said they are against this property being developed for heavy industrial use. **As a result of this pending disconnection, the property comprising over 120 acres of trees and greenspace, upon which Calumet Country Club currently sits, is likely to become part of Cook County.**

Residents in Hazel Crest, East Hazel Crest and Homewood have overwhelmingly opposed the proposed trucking center and its negative impacts: air and water pollution, semi-truck traffic, noise, low-wage jobs (if any at all for local residents), increased flooding and loss of property values. Not to mention the environmental impacts from bulldozing the property, including the clubhouse and the over 2000 mature trees and native plants, encompassing over 120 acres of open green space.

We in the community value the limited green spaces we have and would like to see the land used for projects that are environmentally beneficial to the health and wellbeing of ALL it's residents. Too many commercial and industrial developments are being moved to southern Cook County because its communities are less affluent than our Western and Northern neighbors. This burden is affecting minority communities the heaviest and amounts to environmental racism. Robin Kelly has come out and publicly expressed concern over the environmental racism that is happening on the south side.

**Now that this land will come into your jurisdiction, we hope that you will hear our voices and call for your help in turning this pending tragedy into a good news story. We look to this commission as an ally who will join us to prevent this environmental tragedy and help us spotlight the environmental racism that is prevalent in the South Suburbs.**

Sincerely,  
Renee Albrecht