

Dear Friends,

During my 20 years administering the Community Development Block Grant for the City of Muncie, there was a consistent commitment to ensure free public access to recreational green space, which is an essential element of a healthy community. Hundreds of thousands of dollars have been spent on creating neighborhood/pocket parks, improving larger parks with playground equipment, landscaping, dead tree removal, new trees, upgraded baseball diamonds, basketball courts, restrooms, shelters, cabins and other amenities.

With an anticipated increase in downtown residential units, logical urban planning would advise increasing the available outdoor space where people can safely play, picnic, gather and build community. The Tuhey Park/YMCA project is a gross violation of this logic.

To quote Joni Mitchell's 1970 protest song,

*"Don't it always seem to go that you don't know what you've got 'til it's gone.
They paved Paradise and put in a parking lot."*

Well, most of us know what we've got at Tuhey Park and we don't want it covered with a sea of concrete! Stop this project before we lose a wonderful downtown asset.

Thank you for your consideration,
Connie Gregory
Former Community Development Director
Retired