

I am incredibly disheartened that the YMCA intends to consolidate its Northwest and Downtown facilities and build a new facility in Tuhey Park. Tuhey Park is publicly owned land that should remain free and open for the use of all. Building at Tuhey will ruin this beautiful park and greenspace.

Tuhey Parks serves everyone in the City of Muncie for free and without fee. That green space is used by myself and my neighbors all the time. You can see where people use the park because of the worn down dirt path leading from the Washington St. Bridge along the river and into the park.

Placing a giant building that blocks the park from the Washington St. Bridge would disinvest the low income families that are my neighbors. A large imposing structure blocking the natural path from the neighborhood into the park is a barrier for folks who cannot afford fee base services. Placing a new bridge on the opposite side of another new build at the riverfront magnifies disenfranchisement and sends both a visual and physical message that low income families are not welcome in Muncie Parks.

During the Land and Traffic meeting on Dec. 1st there was a misspoken word, where low income families were called "low class". And it was said that families from the north side would not travel to the current Y location even though it's only a few blocks away from the proposed Tuhey Site.

Why is that? There was no explanation or source of information to back that claim given in the Land and Traffic Meeting. The current and proposed locations are mere blocks apart.

One of the selling points for the community is that a new YMCA will benefit downtown, except only the Mulberry St. location actually directs people through downtown. The other selling point, is that this new Y will serve low income families. During the meeting it was recognized that a YMCA serving low income families must be accessible to those families. And yet the proposed YMCA blocks the line of sight, disrupts the neighborhood, does not match the neighborhoods architecture, and disturbs the natural flow of foot traffic onto the park while moving the physical location further from where many low income families live. That does not serve Muncie, nor does it serve low income folks.

Why was the public not involved in this decision making process when it involved privatizing a public asset? As a member of the YMCA and as an active member of my neighborhood I am disappointed in the City and I am disappointed in the YMCA for announcing this decision without first consulting the public. My membership fees

support the YMCA. Our tax dollars support Tuhey – it is our park – and I say no to the YMCA building at Tuhey Park.

Although I appreciate the work that the YMCA does to build healthy spirit, mind, and body and the programs that support that mission, I believe there are other, better options for the YMCA to remain in the city center close to the children and families it hopes to serve. **I ask that you investigate other options and choose a different location that will leave Tuhey Park intact** – a beautiful greenspace, a playground, and a gathering place for the residents of Muncie.

Respectfully,

Holly Juip