

Dear Mayor Gaskins and members of the Alexandria City Council,

I respectfully submit the following for your consideration of the proposed pumping station at Waterfront Park.

As stewards of our city's natural resources and unique landscape, I strongly urge you to oppose the proposed construction of a pumping station at Waterfront Park. Waterfront Park is not merely a stretch of land by the river—it is a cherished communal asset, a place of joy, reflection, recreation, and ecological diversity. Installing industrial infrastructure in the heart of this beloved park would constitute a grave misstep, one with lasting consequences for generations to come.

Waterfront Park is a symbol of civic pride and a testament to our collective commitment to sustainability, health, and inclusiveness. The park fosters community cohesion, inviting diverse groups to share public space. Industrial development divides and restricts access, and the presence of an industrial pumping station contradicts these values. It also undermines our community goals and runs counter to maintaining greenspace, which was promised to residents and the community by city leaders during consider of the waterfront development master plan.

Residents and the community overwhelmingly support investments in parks, trails, and greenways—not further industrial encroachment.

The proposed pumping station at Waterfront Park is a misguided plan that threatens the very heart of our community. City leaders have a duty to uphold public trust in their stewardship of parks and green spaces. Transparent, ethical decision-making requires weighing the interests of present and future generations, not just short-term convenience. The irreversible loss of parkland is a cost too high to pay for infrastructure that could be sited elsewhere.

Let us preserve Waterfront Park as the green jewel it is—for today, for tomorrow, and for all who call our city home. Please stand in opposition to this project and honor your commitment to the Old Town community, its residents, and many visitors for smart development of the waterfront in keeping with our unique historical area.

Sincerely,

Shawn M. Vasell
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