

Clifton Journal

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struction sites for a company (Montana Construction) which is doing sewer work in Clifton and not doing work on either one of these parks.

In order to use a park listed on the ROSI for a use other than a public park, Clifton would have had to obtain prior written permission from N.J. Green Acres called a "temporary use permit" which the city did not do. Both parks have been used as a construction site for the last several months and are filled with mounds of dirt, stone, sewer pipes and grates. Neighbors have been subjected to noise from the construction crews working day and night and the public has been denied use of these parks.

Further, through an open records request, I have learned there is no lease or contract between Montana Construction and the City of Clifton to use either park. Since these parks are owned by the residents of Clifton, unless the contractor is paying fair market value to lease this land the citizens of Clifton are being defrauded. The lack of a written contract is proof that this is fraud. Further, this contractor was "low bidder" on several current sewer projects throughout Clifton and it was not stipulated in these contracts that use of these parks was part of these contracts. Therefore, the other contractors could sue Clifton and claim the open bidding process was not fair as this contractor received special consideration which is clearly what is happening. Temporary leasing of land by contractors to store their equipment, dirt and materials is quite expensive. I know of another piece of privately owned property which is being leased for a few hundred thousand dollars. Imagine if Clifton was paid this amount of money - it would go a long way to improve our parks.

As an open space advocate, I demand this council take action to immediately evict Montana Construction from these two parks and immediately restore both parks to their rightful condition as usable parks. Shame on this city for allowing any of our parks to be used as a construction site. These two parks - like the rest of the Clifton parks - belong to the people of Clifton.

**Mary Sadrakula**

Former Clifton Councilwoman

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### Wrong use of parks

It is wrong to use any park as a construction site, especially if the park is on the New Jersey Green Acres Open Space Inventory List (ROSI).

Two parks in Clifton, the SkateZone on Third Street and Gregory Manor Park on Patricia Place, both which are listed on the ROSI are being used as con-