

The Record
11/15/15

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**Parks are not
construction sites**

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.

Two parks in Clifton – the SkateZone on Third Street and Gregory Manor Park on Patricia Place – are on the open space list. Both are being used as construction sites for a company doing sewer work. The work has nothing to do with either one of these parks.

In order to use a park on the list for a use other than a public park, Clifton would have had to obtain prior written permission from the state or 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 the construction firm 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 treated unfairly. The lack of a written contract is proof that this is a problem.

As an open space advocate, I demand the council take action to immediately evict construction activity 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.

Mary Sadrakula
Clifton, Nov. 13