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change.org

To: Cambridge City Council, Boston Properties, Google

Subject: **Save the Kendall Square rooftop garden**

Letter: Greetings,

I just signed the following petition addressed to: Cambridge City Council, Boston Properties, Google.

Save the Kendall Square rooftop garden

The Kendall Square rooftop garden is one answer to so many of the things that keep Kendall Square from being the vibrant urban mecca it should be. It draws people out of their cubicles to enjoy a magnificent garden six stories above the hustle and bustle and relentless concrete of high-tech Kendall Square. Surrounded by trees, birds, flowers, grass and meandering pathways, people enjoy lunch, take a break, hang out with their friends, meet new people and just generally reconnect with life before heading back to the daily grind. Kendall Square needs more spaces like this, but, if Boston Properties has its way, this public garden will be cut to half its size, and a two-story, 26,000-square-foot expanse of new offices for Google will replace the western half of this oasis. You can see the plans that were presented to the Cambridge City Council at http://www.cctvcambridge.org/GoogleKendallSquare and read the stories in the Boston Globe, Boston Herald, Cambridge Day and Cambridge Chronicle for more information about what exactly we are being told is planned. Look at the pictures at http://www.yelp.com/biz/cambridge-center-roof-garden-cambridge The City Council may be voting as early as Monday night, March 19, to forgo public hearings on the grounds that the property is "of such little signi_cance that the [full] process would be unduly burdensome." This property is significant to thousands of us who use it and love it. There are ways to make this right for everybody, and public hearings will give us time to find them.

Sincerely,

Signatures

Name	Location	Date
Heather Hoffman		2012-03-18
Erica Jaquith	Cambridge, MA	2012-03-18
Sam Speeth	Cambridge, MA	2012-03-18
Joseph Aiello	Cambridge, MA	2012-03-18
Mark Jaquith	Cambridge, MA	2012-03-18
Carolyn Ross	Somerville, MA	2012-03-18
Adrianne Schaefer	Somerville, MA	2012-03-18
Molly Katz-Christy	N. Cambridge, MA	2012-03-18
Craig Lee Burket	Millis, MA	2012-03-18
Mary Carolyn Shipley	Cambridge, MA	2012-03-18
elizabeth smith	Cambridge, MA	2012-03-18
Charles Teague	Cambridge, MA	2012-03-18
Nita Sembrowich	Cambridge, MA	2012-03-18
Elron Yellin	Cambridge, MA	2012-03-18
John Grant	Cambridge, MA	2012-03-18
Susan Teshu	Cambridge, MA	2012-03-18
Betsy Lenora	Cambridge, MA	2012-03-18
Susan Harrison	Cambridge, MA	2012-03-18
Dexter Eames	Cambridge, MA	2012-03-18
Jonathan Millman	Cambridge, MA	2012-03-18
Shams Mirza	Cambridge, MA	2012-03-18
Eleanor Beram	Cambridge, MA	2012-03-18
Tiffany Bartz	Cambridge, MA	2012-03-18
Lee Montgomery	Cambridge, MA	2012-03-18
Sue Vargo	Cambridge, MA	2012-03-18
Colleen Clark	Cambridge, MA	2012-03-19
Virginia Childs	Cambridge, MA	2012-03-19

Name	Location	Date
Steve Wineman	Cambridge, MA	2012-03-19
Stuart Moss	Cambridge, MA	2012-03-19
julia bishop	Cambridge, MA	2012-03-19
Barbara Bryant	Cambridge, MA	2012-03-19
Sarah Smith	Cambridge, MA	2012-03-19
Andrea Wilder	Cambridge, MA	2012-03-19
Judy Johnson	Cambridge, MA	2012-03-19
Patrice Polisar	Cambridge, MA	2012-03-19
Dagmar von Schwerin	Cambridge, MA	2012-03-19
Janet Crystal	Cambridge, MA	2012-03-19
Elizabeth Birk	North Cambridge, MA	2012-03-19
Susanne Swalley	cambridge, MA	2012-03-19
Victoria Kent	Cambridge, MA	2012-03-19
Kimberly Mancino	Cambridge, MA	2012-03-19
Len Tower Jr.	Somerville, MA	2012-03-19
Susie Flynn	Cambridge, MA	2012-03-19
Marc Sevigny	Cambridge, MA	2012-03-19
Whitney Waddell	Cambridge, MA	2012-03-19
Brad Neighbors	Boston, MA	2012-03-19
Harvey Tuch	Cambridge, MA	2012-03-19
Prem Singh	Cambridge, MA	2012-03-19
Robert Sullivan	Cambridge, MA	2012-03-19
Martin Blitz	Sutton, MA	2012-03-19
Grzegorz Calkowski	Winchester, MA	2012-03-19
David Dillon	Cambridge, MA	2012-03-19
Sundeep Nallamilli	Somerville, MA	2012-03-19
Eric Twietmeyer	Belmont, MA	2012-03-19
Michael Nakagawa	Cambridge, MA	2012-03-19
Anastasia Hard	Cambridge, MA	2012-03-19

Name	Location	Date
Josh Simons	Sharon, MA	2012-03-19
Christine Foglia	Revere, MA	2012-03-19
Shannon Larkin	Cambridge, MA	2012-03-19
Kate Moloney	Cambridge, MA	2012-03-19
Damien Blggs	Cambridge, MA	2012-03-19
Zach Shepherd	Cambridge, MA	2012-03-19
Manisha Bewtra	Cambridge, MA	2012-03-19
Bara Blender	Cambridge, MA	2012-03-19
Anne Lafleur	Natick, MA	2012-03-19
Dara Glass	Cambridge, MA	2012-03-19
Jim Moriarty	georgetown	2012-03-19
Adam Dean	Cambridge, MA	2012-03-19
Chris Lahey	Woburn, MA	2012-03-19
Traci Swartz	Cambridge, MA	2012-03-19
James Duyon	Cambridge, MA	2012-03-19
Tancredi Botto	Cambridge, MA	2012-03-19
Glenn McElhoe	Cambridge, MA	2012-03-19
Elizabeth Hawley	Boston, MA	2012-03-19
Margie Ferreira	Cambridge, MA	2012-03-19
Emer Garland-Scott	cambridge, MA	2012-03-19
Sophia Maniaci	Somerville, MA	2012-03-19
Robert Muti	Woburn, MA	2012-03-19
Anne Kern	Jamaica Plain, MA	2012-03-19
Allan Wechsler	Belmont, MA	2012-03-19
Aravind Srinivasan	Cambridge, MA	2012-03-19
Catherine Cavanaugh	Cambridge, MA	2012-03-19
Lizz McManus	cambridge, MA	2012-03-19
Ryan Lewis	Somerville, MA	2012-03-19
Xiaojing Fu	Somerville, MA	2012-03-19

Name	Location	Date
Phil Shapiro	Cambridge, MA	2012-03-19
Jerry Le	Quincy, MA	2012-03-19
Deborah Alkema	San Francisco, CA	2012-03-19
ilan levy	cambridge, MA	2012-03-19
Michael R. Hegarty	Cambridge, MA	2012-03-19
glenn mcdonald	Cambridge, MA	2012-03-19

Why People Are Signing

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Susan Harrison
1 day ago
1 person likes this reason

Elimination of the required public hearings is unacceptable, and the alternative park offered is nothing more than a median strip, along a busy street. Any replacement park space should offer a place of peace and greenery comparable to what will be lost.

Eric Twietmeyer
about 5 hours ago

I work every day in 5 Cambridge Center and I enjoy visiting the root top garden, as do my wife and daughter when they come to visit me. It is a very pleasant oasis and adds a lot of value for all of the tenants in Cambridge Center.

Zach Shepherd
about 4 hours ago

As a resident of Cambidge who works in Kendall square, I greatly value the space.

Because of the potential impact on residents, I believe public hearings should be held.

Michael Nakagawa
about 5 hours ago

The garden is a mitigation for the impact of the original development project, and there was a documented, formal agreement that allowed the project to continue. It should not be solely left to the discretion of the City Manager to rescind an agreement with the Cambridge community.

The rooftop garden provides access to the sun in ways that a ground-level park surrounded by tall buildings cannot. It also provides green roof benefits, reducing urban heat island effects better than a shaded park.

Any change in the original agreement should be preceded by a discussion by the people affected by the change.

Josh Simons
about 5 hours ago

I work in Kendall Square with an office overlooking the current rooftop park from where I can see how popular the locale is for many people to eat lunch, read, enjoy the weather, etc.

Removing the park would remove a pleasant oasis from Kendall Square. Relocating the park to a ground-level area would not reproduce the feeling of calming separation afforded by the current arrangement. Cutting the park in half and erecting a structure on the front side will shade the park during the spring and autumn.

Mary Carolyn Shipley
1 day ago

The City Council has, as one of its goals, saving the environment in ways in which they can have an effect and that is within their purview. It is well-known and accepted science that trees, shrubs, flowers, and other living plant organisms contribute to improved air quality, the uptake of CO2, and relief from the Urban Heat Island Effect. If the Cambridge City Council approves the destruction of this marvelous environmental resource and place of rest and inspiration for Cambridge residents and employees who come to Cambridge to work in the high tech complex in Kendall Square, then the City Council will be voting against its own stated goals and thus will appear hypocritical to all Cambridge voters. Alsa, once again, it will be proven to the voters of Cambridge that the City Council continues to rubber stamp the agenda of the city manager and that the City of Cambridge is only looking for more revenue from large corporate entities (which don't vote for the councillors) in order to add to the ridiculous free cash surplus which now approaches the $100 million mark. Save the garden. Do not accept that insult of a strip of grass in the middle of a heavy traffic area where thousands of cars, trucks, and buses speed and spew dirty exhaust as a replacement garden. Thank you.

Elizabeth Birk
about 4 hours ago

In a Boston Globe article dated Sept. 4, 2011, the Cambridge Center Roof Garden was listed as one of the 5 top "secret spots" of Boston [sic].

Rooftop gardens reduce runoff, soak up pollution and make excellent use of otherwise dead space.

This 30,000 square foot park with benches and picnic tables is a park I visit often--although I live in North Cambridge. As do the birds! It is a very precious resource in a very dense part of the city. What a respite it provides!

Public hearings to air the pros and cons of any proposed changes is essential.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth (Lisa) Birk

Charles Teague
1 day ago

There is no good reason to eliminate the required public hearing(s) and sets a terrible precendent.

Anastasia Hard
about 5 hours ago

This is the letter I just sent to council@cambridgema.gov. Please feel free to use it if you like it - we need to make our voices heard!

Dear Cambridge City Council Members,

I have the privilege of working in Kendall Square and enjoying the benefits of the vibrant community in Cambridge. The Roof Garden in the center of Kendall Square is ESSENTIAL to the health and well-being of so many local residents, employees, students, and visitors who spend their days in Cambridge Center and the surrounding area. For some, including myself, the Roof Garden is the only place during the day to find peace and quiet, fresh air, sunshine, greenery, birds, and relaxation. The garden is an oasis from the stuffy cubicles and bustling streets of Cambridge Center.

If you allow Google to tamper with the Roof Garden at all, your Council will not only lose some of the respect it has fought so hard for, it will also lose the credibility it has earned over the years in its fight to make Cambridge a greener, happier place to live and work.

PLEASE, for the love of your city, PLEASE do not change the Roof Garden. Your city is depending on you and Google is smart. They can figure something else out without having to take away one of the most beautiful spots in the city.

Thank you for your time,
[Your name here]

Chris Lahey
about 3 hours ago

I work in a neighboring building and this is one of the bright spots in Kendall Square. Proceeding without the required public discussion is just wrong.

Dagmar von Schwerin
about 7 hours ago

I feel that this beautiful garden is one of the most important spaces/oases in developing

Kendall Square. I know it is important to Cambridge's tax base to work with corporations seeking to stay in Cambridge, but Kendall Square is such a draw to high tech companies that I am sure Google will do what it takes to stay, even in separated spaces....Google for example has been taking space in a neighboring building (where employees get their free breakfasts!) and could expand there or nearby. Eliminating even part of this garden is shortsighted...it is an amenity for workers and residents alike, not to mention the hawks who congregate at Five Cambridge Center. It is the only real park in Kendall, and an integral part of what continues to make Kendall the international hot spot it has already become...

Anastasia Hard
about 5 hours ago

Because MIT students, faculty, and staff will not stand for the destruction of such a beautiful resource in the middle of Cambridge!!!!

Barbara Bryant
about 10 hours ago

If this does get approved, Cambridge needs to negotiate for much more in return. How about the creation of NEW garden space in Cambridge of equal or greater accessibility and size? And integrated into the community.

Covenant extension is good, but clearly covenants can be change later, so this may not be as meaningful as it sounds.

Erica Jaquith
1 day ago

I love this garden and I would hate to see it destroyed in favor of something less beautiful. I know that others feel this way as well, so I hope that the entities being addressed in this petition will listen. This is extremely important and we can't just forget that this beautiful space ever existed. It means so much to many people who live and work around Kendall Square, and those people deserve to be able to enjoy it.

Susan Teshu
1 day ago

Why would the city council not have hearings about this issue?

Sundeep Nallamilli
about 5 hours ago

I've had great experience and memories with the rooftop garden. I wish to get more. Please don't destroy them.

Manisha Bewtra
about 4 hours ago

I think this rooftop garden is a huge asset to the neighborhood and I often bring visitors from out of town to see it as an off-the-beaten path attraction. It is a model for how we can creatively increase green spaces and reduce impervious surfaces in an urban setting. While I understand there may be a need to weigh this amenity with other development opportunities, I don't think it is "of such little significance" and I think a public process is very much warranted.

Martin Blitz
about 5 hours ago

I work in 5 Cambridge Ctr. The park is the only green close by to relax or have lunch. Having a park several blocks away is useless for local residents.

Nita Sembrowich
1 day ago

I have never been to this garden, but I was entranced by the idea of it when I first heard of it several years ago. It amazed me that such a beautiful, quirky, even magical place somehow existed amid the relentless "improvements" and developments of the past three decades, which in many ways have left Cambridge's general population with less and less. I had always meant to go there-- and now, alas, I learn, not surprisingly, that it may not be long for this world. Can't we find a way to preserve it? There must be many buildings able to support Google offices-- but there is no other place like this garden.

Len Tower Jr.
about 5 hours ago

There is too little open space for the public in Kendall Square. If this is built there should be a new roof garden on top of it.

Janet Crystal
about 7 hours ago

This city continues to rubber-stamp ANYTHING that developers ask for. The City Council needs to LISTEN to its constituents and preserve this beautiful garden instead of acquiescing to

another developer's request for space. City Councillors, you have an opportunity here to do the right thing. Do it!

Victoria Kent
about 3 hours ago

Public hearings = Democratic process