

From: [Wynn Wagenseil](#)
To: [Stevens, Karen](#)
Subject: Public Comment Harsimus Branch
Date: Thursday, September 28, 2023 8:20:37 AM
Attachments: [Harsimus Branch Embankment Preservation.docx](#)

Dear Ms. Stevens,

I would like to contribute a comment for today's public hearing. I plan to attend the meeting and if called upon will state my comment.

I am also including a copy of it in case there is not sufficient time for me to express my view during the meeting.

Thank you,

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Harsimus Branch Embankment Preservation

My name is Wynn Wagenseil. My perspective on the Embankment issue is based on my experience as an occasional visitor to Jersey City from my home in southeastern North Carolina. In July of this year, I visited my sister, Beth Wall, a long-time resident of Jersey City and a participant in the Embankment Preservation Coalition. While there, we walked to Liberty State Park where we enjoyed the open space for walking by the Hudson River before I embarked on a ferry trip to Ellis Island and Manhattan. We also took a sunrise multi-stepped climb to an elevation that overlooks the dense structures that comprise Jersey City and New York City. Along the way, we stopped at the Stevens Institute, a lush green space, where we encountered rabbits munching reflectively on the grass. From the cliff's edge, we noticed two kayakers navigating the Hudson River. While our walk continued on the pleasant pathway along the river, it was clear from these excursions that Jersey City is undergoing ambitious real-estate development, which will irrevocably alter the landscape.

My recent visit up north included a stop at the Jefferson Market Community Garden and Library followed by an exploration of Little Island at Pier 55, which represents an innovative repurposing of a maritime port, now a site for all to enjoy native plants and sweeping vistas. On previous visits, I have walked on the High Line, another example of creative urban renewal. I recommend that Jersey City, while going through its current transformation, use these New York City examples as a prototype for what can be done with the Harsimus Branch Embankment. Green infrastructure is as significant and valuable as building apartments, roads, and bridges because it contributes to the quality of life for current and new residents. In addition, green infrastructure enhances the destination for tourists. Based on my conversations with my sister and my visits, I am aware of the layers of history and the cultural opportunities that are present in Jersey City. I have read about the plans to introduce a new art museum. All of these amenities contribute to Jersey City's vibrant atmosphere, yet if you fail to preserve the natural environment as would be the case if the Harsimus Embankment is demolished, a vital piece of the community and a potential link to the East Coast Greenway is forever lost. Thank you.