

Subject: Request to Halt Assessment and Destruction of Forest

I am writing to request the immediate cessation of the assessment and destruction of the forest between Weaver Blvd, Broadway Street, Dortch Ave, and Vivian Avenue. This area is not only valuable to our community but also serves as a habitat for wildlife, numerous species, and old-growth trees.

Many of us are adamantly opposed to these actions and expect them to stop without delay. Rest assured that this issue will not be forgotten, and further actions will be taken to protect these woods.

We will not tolerate further destruction, and we expect your full cooperation in halting these activities immediately.

Emails to send to:

		Campus operations	campus_operations@unca.edu
Acker	Melissa	Manager, Grounds Maintenance/Landscape Design & Development, Project Manager	macker@unca.edu
Bartsch	Perry	Construction Manager, Design & Construction	
Gray	Sean	Manager, Building Operations & Maintenance	sgray1@unca.edu
Jenkins	Jeffrey	Campus Ops Business Officer	jjenkins5@unca.edu
Neilsen	Peter	Construction Manager	pnielsen@unca.edu
McCracken	Mindy	Customer Service Coordinator	mmccrac1@unca.edu
Walker	Scott	Associate Vice Chancellor for Campus Operations	swalker@unca.edu
Pohl	Mary		mpohl@unca.edu
		CHANCELLORS OFFICE	
Van Noort	Kimberly	Chancellor	chancellor@unca.edu
Dougherty	John	Chief of Staff and General Council	jdoughe2@unca.edu
Gilmore	Sarah	Executive Assistance, Chancellor and Chief of Staff	sgilmour@unca.edu
Bryson	Cory	Director of Governor Relations	cbryson@unca.edu
Hart	Brian	Director of University Communication	rbhart1@unca.edu
		UNCA BOARD OF TRUSTEES	bot@unca.edu
Aiken	Richard		raiken@bot.unca.edu
Barefoot	Liv	STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE President of Student Govt Association	sgapresident@unca.edu

		UNC BOARD OF GOVERNORS	public@bog.northcarolina.edu
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Email Template for UNCA Leadership

*Add personal story of connection to the woods, role in the Asheville community, etc., after first paragraph

Dear Chancellor van Noort,

I am writing to express my concern regarding the recent and unannounced development work happening in the UNCA woods on Dortch and Vivian Avenues in the Five Points neighborhood.

As part of its mission, UNCA is committed to sustainability, environmental stewardship, and fostering community engagement and greater connectivity to the City of Asheville. Through that lens, the lack of transparency around the current development activities contradict these values, which is concerning to me and other Five Points residents and neighboring community members who utilize and cherish the woods.

In a time when Western North Carolina is still reeling from Hurricane Helene and the widespread loss of greenspaces, tree canopy, and wildlife habitats, the development of the UNCA woods deepens those wounds and confounds efforts to recover. The university has declared its campus an urban forest, recognizing the vital role green spaces play in supporting ecological health, student well-being, and Asheville's climate resilience. Recent unannounced clearing and boring activities have disturbed habitats, destroyed research plots, and alienated community members like me.

While I acknowledge UNCA's ownership of this land and the university's current financial challenges, I believe preserving this rare urban forest is critical to Asheville's climate resilience and community well-being. I am incredibly grateful to UNCA for making the woods a public benefit for more than 30 years. I consider UNCA a neighbor, and hope the university is willing to work collaboratively and genuinely allow neighbors and community members like me to offer feedback before making decisions about the future development or destruction of its properties in our community. I respectfully request an immediate pause on all development activities in the forest, as well as a transparent process involving students, staff, and community members to evaluate its future use to explore alternatives that protect the forest while addressing UNCA's needs.

Sincerely,

Name - Neighbor/Alumni/Supporter

Street Name