

# Response letter to requests to help

From Herold1961 <herold1961@gmail.com>

To Herold1961 <herold1961@gmail.com>

Date Wednesday, March 25th, 2026 at 6:08 PM

Subject: Thank You for Your Interest — Next Steps to Protect Detweiller Playground Trust's Marina & Public Access

Dear Neighbors and Friends,

Thank you for reaching out and expressing your interest in helping protect **our public access to the river** by the **Detweiller Playground Trust's land and marina**. The level of concern and willingness to get involved is both encouraging and necessary right now.

We want to share a clear understanding of what is happening and where your voice can make the most impact.

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## What's Happening

The **Detweiller Playground Trust (DPT)** — not the City — is currently pursuing the **sale of trust property** to entities including **O'Brien Steel** and the **Peoria Boat Club**. These actions may also lead to **restrictions or loss of public access**, including potential impacts to:

- Caroline Street
- Bond Street
- Direct neighborhood access to the riverfront

It's important to be clear:

👉 **The City of Peoria is *not* selling this land.**

👉 **The City's primary authority is over whether public streets (like Caroline and Bond) can be vacated.**

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## Why This Matters

Thomas Detweiller's original intent was clear:

- Preserve this land as **green space**
- Ensure **public access to the river**
- Provide space for **recreation and community use**

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## Where to Focus Your Efforts

### 1. Contact City of Peoria Leadership

Your voice is critical in decisions about **vacating public streets**.

Please reach out to:

- Mayor
- City Council Members
- City Manager

**Message:** Urge them to **preserve Caroline Street, Bond Street, and all public access to the riverfront.**

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## 2. Contact Detweiller Playground Trust (DPT) Trustees & Park District

The trustees are responsible for decisions regarding the trust property. The **Peoria Park District** may also play a role in helping find a solution that keeps this land open and accessible to the public.

Please respectfully express your **opposition to:**

- Restricting public access
- Deviating from the original intent of the trust

And encourage collaboration with the **City of Peoria**, Park District, other public charitable groups and the public to:

- Explore options that **preserve public ownership or access**
- Keep the land dedicated to **community use and recreation**
- Be financially sustainable

### DPT Trustees:

- Andrew Schneider, President & Trustee  
[4504 N Miller Ave](#)  
[Peoria Heights, IL 61616](#)  
(309) 339-2898
  - John Blahnik (Trustee/Treasurer)
  - David Welch (Trustee)
  - Jim Grimm (Trustee)
  - Jr. O'Brien (Trustee) 1700 NE Adams St, Peoria, IL 61603
  - **Phone:** (309) 671-5800
  - Judy Crandell (Trustee)
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### Call Script (Simple & Effective)

#### When calling Trustees, Park District, or City Officials:

"Hello, my name is [Your Name], and I live in [Neighborhood/Peoria area].

I'm calling about Detweiller Playground Trust's land and Marina and the potential loss of public

access to the river, including Caroline Street and Bond Street.

I want to express my strong concern about any actions that would restrict public access or move away from the original intent of keeping this land open for recreation and community use.

I am asking you to:

- Preserve public access to the river
- Keep Caroline Street and Bond Street open
- Work toward a solution that keeps this land available for the public

This space is incredibly important to our community, and I hope you will act to protect it.

Thank you for your time.”

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### **Stay Connected & Get Involved**

We are working to organize as a community to:

- Share information
- Coordinate outreach
- Advocate effectively for preserving this public space

More details on upcoming meetings and coordinated actions will be shared soon.

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### **Closing**

This is a pivotal moment. Once public access is removed, it is incredibly difficult—if not impossible—to restore.

Your involvement matters. Your voice matters. And together, we can work to protect this unique and irreplaceable part of our community.

Thank you again for stepping forward.

Sincerely,

Detweiller Playground Protectors