

The Karl Stirner Arts Trail in Easton was established in 2011, thanks in large part to a \$9 million grant from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The arts trail is a unique community resource not just because of its artistic and natural beauty, but also for health and wellness, attracting visitors from beyond our borders as a stimulating green museum and a quiet place for contemplation in a bustling city.

The arts trail's board of directors is greatly concerned about the negative impacts of the warehouse project not just on the arts trail, but even more so on the community and our ecosystem.

Emissions from the diesel-fueled trucks servicing the warehouse will degrade air quality, with significant impact on residents and guests. Diesel exhaust contains more than 40 cancer-causing substances, and diesel particulate matter is known to damage DNA.

According to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), diesel exhaust causes adverse "health effects ranging from irritation of the eyes and nose, headaches and nausea, to respiratory disease and lung cancer" (<https://www.osha.gov/diesel-exhaust>).

The harmful pollutants also stunt the growth of plants, damage their leaves, and reduce photosynthesis due to the deposition of soot and acidic compounds. Animals inhaling these fumes can suffer respiratory problems, and the toxins can accumulate in their bodies through the food chain.

As per an October 2024 report from the United States Environmental Protection Agency, toxic releases into the air within one square mile of the site are already the 86th percentile of the USA, diesel particulate matter is already in the 75th percentile, and asthma is already in the 78th percentile.

Despite plans for retention ponds, we foresee inevitable and significant increases in pollutant runoff into the Bushkill Creek, a natural trout-bearing Pennsylvania Blue Medal river that supports a robust diversity of flora and fauna, from mink to bald eagles.

West Ward families use the arts trail more than residents from any other Easton neighborhood. The vast increase in truck traffic and the attendant noise and traffic disruption will alienate and reduce arts trail access for our most vulnerable and underserved population.

We have a collective responsibility to protect our environment and the quality of life in our community. When we do this, we are protecting future generations and benefiting all of Easton, its citizens and guests.

Our Pennsylvania Constitution has a Green Amendment that guarantees our inalienable rights to pure water, clean air and healthy environments. Article 1, Section 27 says,

"The people have a right to clean air, pure water, and to the preservation of the natural, scenic, historic and esthetic values of the environment. Pennsylvania's public natural resources are the common property of all the people, including generations yet to come. As trustee of these resources, the Commonwealth shall conserve and maintain them for the benefit of all the people."

We strongly urge the Planning Commission to reject the warehouse project and to use all available legal means to block such a harmful use, while encouraging responsible development of the property that will protect our most valuable resources — our community and our environment.