

Dump site is the Pits

Residents fume over possible trash-stash plan

By DON PEAT, SUN MEDIA

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Christie Pits residents are fuming at the thought their beloved park could be turned into a temporary dump.

While the city has yet to announce the location for its new temporary dump sites, residents see temporary fencing being set up and figure the park is about to get filled with garbage.

Friends of Christie Pits say the decision stinks, especially after watching the 2002 strike ruin the park with piles of garbage from the 16-day city strike.

The group is planning a protest for 11 a.m. today to try to stop the city from turning their park into a dump.

Group member Himy Syed started a [petition](#) earlier this week to urge city council that parks should not be used as

Himy Syed, of the group Friends of Christie Pits, started a petition earlier this week to urge city council that parks should not be used as dumps. (GREG HENKENHAF/SUN MEDIA)

dumps. That petition garnered hundreds of signatures and received support from residents living around other parks in the city. The initial protest prompted a city cleanup of garbage left in the park from the weekend and illegal dumping on Day 1 of the strike.

Now the group is livid that, despite assurances to the contrary from local Councillor Joe Pantalone's staff, they'll have to contend with piles of the stinky stuff.

Earlier this week in an e-mail to the group, Pantalone's staff assured them the park was not a dump.

"Christie Pits, nor any park, will not be used as a garbage dump," the e-mail stated. "Thank you for taking the time to write and for all the work you, and the friends do, with Christie Pits."