

I am Rachel, an environmental scientist and activist. I support HB 458. Humans must become stewards of the land, as we once were. Green spaces are a wonderful place to engage in a wide array of activities. Exercising, art-making, reading, and simply connecting to nature are a few of the things I witness people doing outside in the green spaces of Baltimore. Over the past year, the threat of the pandemic has deemed green spaces a refuge for social contact, something that is actually necessary for human survival. We are naturally social beings, with each other and our environment. But for some, these spaces are not a refuge for anything. A simple misunderstanding and lack of awareness of the necessity to maintain green spaces ultimately leads to their destruction. Green spaces are ecosystems, and require largely undisturbed structures in order to function properly. I have Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, which interfered with my life for quite a while. With time and patience, I established umbrella standards and rules for myself, and followed them. I structured my little world around me so I could maintain my life and actually get things done. Without dedicating umbrella-type standards and structure to ALL parks and green spaces in our state, the grass, trees, and streams within them will not be able to “get things done.” In the end, proper ecosystem functioning dictates the health of humans in proximal communities.