

How many more historic places need to disappear before we ask—**what are we really building?**

The Garden of Our Lord isn't just a garden. It's one of the last untouched sanctuaries in Coral Gables. A place you don't have to pay to enjoy. A place that doesn't sell anything. A place that gives—peace, beauty, quiet dignity.

Knocking it down to put up more concrete would be a tragedy, not progress.

This city has always stood out because it cared about *how* things were done—not just what was built. That's why people live here. That's why people stay here. We could have been just another overbuilt South Florida neighborhood. But we're Coral Gables. And that means something.

Tearing out green space that the community *loves*—and let's be clear, people **love** that garden—isn't just a misstep. It's a contradiction of everything this city claims to value. This garden is history. This garden is soul. And once you pave over soul, you don't get it back.

So I'm asking you—don't approve this project. Don't sell out one of the few sacred spaces left. Not here. Not in Coral Gables.

Keep the Garden of Our Lord standing. Keep it beautiful. Keep it *ours*.

Respectfully,


J.P. Durkin
888 SW Durkin RD

I'm writing you today as a neighbor who loves this city and wants to speak up about something that matters a lot to me—and to a lot of people I've spoken with: **the Garden of Our Lord.**

That garden has been a quiet, beautiful part of Coral Gables for as long as I can remember. It's peaceful. It's green. It gives people a place to pause and breathe. In a city that's getting busier and more built-up by the year, places like that feel more important than ever.

I know there's talk of development, but I truly hope you'll reconsider. This isn't just about trees or land—it's about what kind of city we want to be. Do we really want to start replacing places that bring people peace with more buildings? Once green space is gone, it doesn't come back.

I also think it's worth saying—people really care about this garden. A lot of us do. It means something. You can feel it when you're there. It's not flashy, but it's special.

So I'm just asking, from one Coral Gables resident to the folks in charge: **please protect this space.** Let's keep this part of our city's spirit alive.

Thanks for reading and for all the work you do for our community.

Warmly,

Marta Mullero
103 Penwood Ave
Coral Gables FL 33134

To The Board of Architects, City Manager, Mayor and Commissioners,

Century's

plans must be rejected.

They are out of character with this neighborhood. They do not comply with our building code. They should be held to the standards which we have set forth in our code.

The Board and the city must have the courage to demand that the plans be changed dramatically. I demand that our code be followed.

Board have Courage,

Hoping the City And

 29 ANTILIA AVENUE
ART #9.

Dear Mayor Lago, and Board Of Architects ,

Please deny the plans that Century is presenting.

Preserve this neighborhood by rejecting this horrible proposal and require the developer to create a plan which complies with our building code!

The city must demand that the developer provide a proposal which is compatible with the neighborhood. The city must demand that it have the proper scale, context and massing for this to be a viable plan. Hold them to our standards!

Hoping For the City To have Courage,



12 ARTILLA AVE

APT #6

I write to you with deep concern and a heartfelt plea on behalf of countless residents who love and cherish the **Garden of Our Lord**, a site whose beauty, legacy, and peace have stood quietly in the heart of Coral Gables for generations.

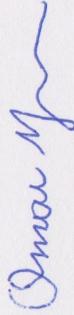
Plans to remove or develop this sacred green space fly in the face of the very values our city claims to uphold—chief among them, the protection of green spaces, historic preservation, and architectural harmony with our surroundings. Coral Gables is known for its commitment to thoughtful, conscious design that enhances—not erases—what is already beloved.

The Garden of Our Lord is more than land. It is a living, breathing reflection of our city's soul. Trees that have stood for decades. Pathways where generations have walked in silence or prayer. Flowers planted with care. These things cannot be replicated once gone, no matter how grand a structure might appear on paper.

This garden is woven into our city's history. It speaks to our architectural and cultural heritage, and its removal would signal not progress, but loss. Its absence would be deeply felt by the community.

Please, use your position not just to approve new projects, but to protect what already gives Coral Gables its grace and soul. The Garden of Our Lord deserves more than demolition—it deserves recognition, preservation, and reverence.

Sincerely,



Omar Yasseen
911 E Pone De Leon Blvd #902
Coral Gables, FL 33134

Dear Mayor Lago and Members of the Coral Gables Board of Architects,

I write to you not only as a Coral Gables resident, but as someone who believes in this city's vision for a more livable, sustainable, and historically mindful future. It's with that belief that I urge you to halt any plans to develop the land known as the Garden of Our Lord.

This garden has stood as a sanctuary for our community—open, green, and filled with spirit. In a time when green space is disappearing across South Florida, Coral Gables has proudly claimed to be different. We build thoughtfully. We preserve with pride. And we celebrate spaces that connect us to something deeper—nature, history, and one another.

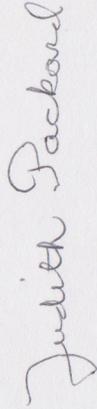
Destroying this garden for development would be an abandonment of those ideals.

The Garden of Our Lord is not just another lot—it is a historic treasure. It's where children learn quiet, where elders find peace, and where neighbors gather in shared reverence. Its trees, its layout, its presence—these are part of our city's identity. Losing it would not only affect the landscape, but the heart of our neighborhood.

Mr. Mayor, you have always spoken of Coral Gables as a jewel among cities. I ask you now to protect one of its most delicate gems. Listen to the residents. Hear the voices calling not for more buildings, but for the preservation of something sacred.

This is about more than zoning. It's about legacy. I hope you'll do everything in your power to protect the Garden of Our Lord—for today, for tomorrow, and for generations to come.

With respect and urgency,



Judith Packard
Concerned Coral Gables Resident

911 E Ponce De Leon Blvd
Coral Gables, FL 33134
(305)-444-4337

To Mayor Lago and the Coral Gables City Board of Architects,

I am writing to respectfully urge you to **reconsider any plans that would allow the destruction and development of the Garden of Our Lord**, a space whose quiet beauty and cultural value have made it a cornerstone of the Coral Gables community for many years.

This garden is not just a patch of open land—it is a place of reflection, serenity, and community memory. In a city that proudly markets itself as “The City Beautiful,” it is difficult to understand how replacing a historic green sanctuary with more construction could be seen as progress.

The garden reflects the values that Coral Gables was founded on: **elegance, intentional design, respect for nature, and architectural harmony**. Its very existence honors a longstanding relationship between our community and our green spaces—a relationship that’s already under threat from increasing development.

Furthermore, this is a **site of historic and spiritual significance**. For many in our community, it is hallowed ground. Generations have visited, prayed, meditated, or simply found peace there. It is one of the few places left that feels untouched and spiritually alive in our increasingly urban environment. To approve its removal would not only be a step backward in preserving Coral Gables’ character—it would also send a message that community voices and cultural memory are secondary to development pressures.

I ask you to consider the legacy you’re shaping. Will Coral Gables be a place that sacrifices meaning for square footage? Or will it continue to be a city that protects its identity, honors its spaces, and listens to the people who live and love here? Please preserve the Garden of Our Lord. Once it’s gone, we can never get it back.

Sincerely,

Carol
Carolina Salgado

20 Calabria Ave #306 Coral Gables, FL 33134

8/5/2025

TO THE MAYOR AND BOARD OF ARCHITECTS,
PLEASE REJECT THE PROPOSAL BEING PRESENTED
BECAUSE IT DOES NOT ABIDE BY THE BUILDING CODE FOR
THE CITY OF CORAL GABLES!!! IT LACKS PUBLIC GREEN
SPACE AND IT FAILS TO ACCOUNT FOR A 200 YEAR OLD
TREE WHICH IS ON THE PROPERTY!. THE PROJECT SHOULD
PRESERVE THE GARDEN AND THE 200 YEAR OLD TREE!!
I AM A NEIGHBOR AND WILL BE SEVERELY IMPACTED BY
THIS PROJECT!!!

Lily Paz y Miño 119 Selman Ave
Apt 1

Dear Mayor Lago and the Coral Gables Board of Architects,

There are decisions a city makes that define its future—and others that haunt it. If the Garden of Our Lord is destroyed to make room for more development, it will be the latter.

This spot has offered comfort, quiet, and beauty to countless people over the years. You don't need to be religious to feel something when you walk past it. It's sacred to the neighborhood. It's part of the city's identity. It belongs to all of us.

If you greenlight a project that bulldozes this, what are you saying Coral Gables stands for? More concrete? More condos? Less soul?

You don't need to be reminded that the city's original vision was rooted in Mediterranean beauty, harmony with nature, and architectural dignity. What's happening now doesn't reflect that—it feels like a betrayal of it. And the residents see it. They're talking. They're upset. They're organizing. Because this garden isn't just a patch of land—it's a symbol.

We urge you—don't let this be the legacy you leave behind. Save the Garden of Our Lord. Stand with the people who actually live here and care.

Respectfully,

Abraham J. J.
25 Menores Ave
C Gables FL 33134

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Jupiter 888 S Douglas Rd