



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 15, 2016

Citizens To Demonstrate Near Crown Hill Woods During National Arborist Conference

(INDIANAPOLIS, IN) – The Alliance of Crown Hill Neighbors, Indiana Forest Alliance, and other citizen groups will stage a demonstration **Wednesday, November 16 from 1 to 1:45 p.m.** at Crown Hill Cemetery near the south entrance at 34th & Boulevard Place in continued protest of the planned destruction of an old growth 14.75-acre forest by the Veterans Administration for concrete-heavy columbaria project.

The demonstration will coincide with a field trip being offered by the Partners in Community Forestry Conference. The National Arbor Day Foundation is hosting this annual conference in Indianapolis, November 16 & 17. As part of it, a busload of tree professionals will visit Crown Hill Cemetery to see how it “uses its tree inventory to ... plan for historic preservation.” Participants will also “watch a live demonstration by ISA-certified arborists on tree maintenance for some of the largest trees in the city and the state.”

“Our demonstration will reveal to these conference-goers that as Crown Hill touts its large historic trees, hundreds of them are in imminent danger thanks to their sale of the woods to the VA,” said Jeff Stant, executive director of the Indiana Forest Alliance. “The irony will not be lost.” The Crown Hill North Woods include at least twelve trees more than three feet in diameter.

Demonstrators plan to distribute copies of the new case statement to the field trip participants (<https://indianaforestalliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/Crown-Hill-North-Woods-Case-Statment-.pdf>).

A coalition* has generated hundreds of calls from concerned citizens to Indiana’s U.S. Congressional delegation to protest the planned destruction of these woods, to implore the VA to re-open its environmental assessment for public comment, and to find alternatives for a place to house the ashes of 25,000 veterans.

*The coalition to save Crown Hill Woods includes the Indiana Forest Alliance, Alliance of Crown Hill Neighbors, the Heartlands Group of the Sierra Club Hoosier Chapter, School for Community Learning, Amos Butler Audubon Society of Central Indiana, Earth Charter Indiana, and the Indiana Interchurch Center.

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