

## Cochran, Patricia (DCOZ)

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**From:** Allison Denny <allison.denny@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 9, 2018 6:08 PM  
**To:** DCOZ - BZA Submissions (DCOZ)  
**Subject:** BZA Case 19377: The Boundary Companies and The Missionary Society

### Comments in Opposition

To whom it may concern,

I am a parent of a kindergarten student at Lee Montessori Public Charter School. The green space in front of the school is so meaningful to my family and me that it is hard to know where to start this letter. I hope that I can convey some of the intense sense of loss that we are feeling facing the development of this land.

My family lives in an urban rowhouse in Petworth and we do not have easy access to the outdoors at home. Over the past year and a half that our school has been in this location, my son and I have tried hard to remedy our nature deficits and in the process we have gotten to know and care for the grounds very much.

Personally, my favorite spot is the northwest corner, down where the rain pools into a pond, the tall grasses grow, and the willow trees hang low. My son and his friends adore hiding in the tall grass, tiptoeing on the rocks across the watery pond, and splashing in the dark, sticky mud. If you care to look, there are mysterious rock pilings laid by the children underneath the willow trees. Halfway up the hill, the boys found a dead crow last fall that they still talk about. Right now there is a mysterious deep hole halfway up the hill that many of the children gravitate toward. Much speculation has occurred as to who dug it.

The middle space is home to many trees, which my son is learning to identify. We have been excited to find beech trees and hope to try writing on the bark once some falls off, just like the Native Americans used to do. We were only disappointed not to be able to find a sycamore tree, because the seed balls are so very satisfying to pull apart. Many of the school and neighborhood children love to collect sticks and climb the evergreens. The two pine trees nearest the driveway are particular climbing favorites for their low branches that spiral, making it easy to climb, and for their thick green foliage that lasts all winter. The decaying hollow tree trunk is also an endless source of fascination. Even the drainage ditch next to the driveway is interesting. Could a child crawl through it? Many have debated it, no one has (yet) tried.

Flowers are blooming all over the hills right now. We touched the stamen of the cherry blossoms, and they are delightfully sticky to help them to catch pollen. We blew dandelion seeds, looked at the fuzzy landing strip on the violets that lures in bees, and watched buttercups turn our chins yellow.

As to animals, we are so curious to know why the land is absolutely covered with robins right now. Every day, they just carpet the lawn. We have not noticed that many worms and can't think what else could be drawing them. One Saturday while picking up trash for Earth Day, my son pushed aside an old pile of leaves and exposed a tiny, three inch long brown snake, which to our astonishment reared itself up to its full size, flicked its black forked tongue and hissed at us like a full grown cobra!

I could go on and on but I hope these examples have given you a little sense of how meaningful the green space and its flora and fauna have become to us and to our school. Please, consider how much this land is used and loved, and how much its loss will be felt, as you make your decision about this new development.

Board of Zoning Adjustment  
District of Columbia  
CASE NO.19377  
EXHIBIT NO.178

Kindest regards,  
Allison Denny

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