



AUDUBON NATURALIST SOCIETY

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June 20, 2011

D.C. Zoning Commission
441 4th Street, N.W., Suite 210
Washington, D.C. 20001

RE: Opposition to Georgetown University Campus Plan 2010-2020 Case No. 10-32

Dear Zoning Commissioners:

Audubon Naturalist Society (ANS) opposes the transportation element of the Georgetown University Campus Plan because it places significant and avoidable impacts on Glover Archbold Park.

Our organization (originally the Audubon Society of the District of Columbia) has had a long, proud tradition of fighting for the ecological integrity of Glover Archbold Park as a part of the National Park System in the District of Columbia. And occasionally, this has put us at odds with Georgetown University. In 1967, ANS opposed a plan to locate the central heating and air-conditioning plant on the campus-park boundary. Our letter in 1967 identified the conflict between the University's plan and the D.C. zoning regulation, which states that any campus land use must be "so located that it is not likely to become objectionable to neighboring property because of noise, traffic, number of students or other objectionable conditions." Are the regulations today similar to those in place in 1967? If so, how is it possible that this proposed plan conforms to the zoning requirements?

Our 1967 letter continued, "We are suddenly emerging into a new awareness of the quality of our environment, in which the esthetic values of natural woodlands, such as Glover Archbold Park, are recognized as indispensable. To those who understand this recent public concern, and the emphasis on public beauty, it is inconceivable that Georgetown University would construct a large building at the brink of the Foundry Branch ravine."

Today, it is inconceivable that Georgetown University would place a loop road with its associated noise and traffic adjacent to a steep slope in a National Park.

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia

CASE NO.

10-32

EXHIBIT NO.

320

D.C. Zoning Commission

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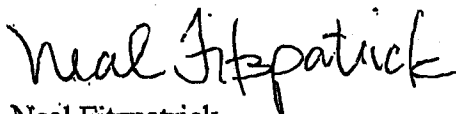
It is indeed remarkable that this tiny natural area, only 2.5 miles long and 500-1,500 feet wide, has been preserved in the heart of the nation's capital. Glover Archbold Park has one of the most varied and dense bird populations in comparable woodland anywhere in the United States, contributing to both human values and scientific values of the Park. This unique little park was a favorite of Rachel Carson, whose reminders in *Silent Spring* and other books reinforce the need for natural areas.

ANS uses Glover Archbold Park regularly as an outdoor classroom for its environmental education activities. Field geology and field botany instructors use the Park between Reservoir Road and the C & O Canal National Historical Park. Each winter, ANS volunteers collect data on the bird populations in Glover Archbold and add them to the national census of wintering birds called the "Christmas Count."

On a personal note, I live near Glover Archbold Park on Cathedral Avenue. Part of the reason my wife and I selected the neighborhood is the value we place on the park's unique environment. Two weeks ago, I had the pleasure of taking my two granddaughters, ages six and four, on early morning walks in Glover Archbold Park. Such a walk is a tradition I hope to continue throughout their childhoods. And for this, I thank Anne Archbold and George Glover for their wisdom in donating their land to the city as a bird sanctuary.

I urge the members of the Zoning Commission to protect this cherished donation by rejecting Georgetown University's proposal for a loop road. It is imperative that the University devise another plan that serves the transportation needs of its growing student body without impacting a National Park.

Thank you,



Neal Fitzpatrick
Executive Director
Audubon Naturalist Society