



D.C. 20001
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NATURAL RESOURCES DEFENSE COUNCIL

5 September 2002

Zoning Commissioners
441 4th Street, N.W. – Suite e 200
Washington D.C. 20001

Re: Zoning Commission Case No. 02-19 (Text Amendment – Forest Hills Tree and Slope Overlay District)

Dear Zoning Commissioners:

This letter is in response to the 30-day Notice regarding Case No. 02-19. NRDC is writing to support the creation of § 1516, FOREST HILLS TREE AND SLOPE OVERLAY DISTRICT.

NRDC was invited by members of the Forest Hill community to participate in the public process of developing this overlay, has followed the evolution of this overlay through multiple public meetings and the initial hearing before the Board of Zoning Commissioners, and for reasons of public interest, welfare and environmental protection on behalf of the District of Columbia and its residents, wholeheartedly endorses this specific zoning amendment to protect the steep slopes and forest cover in the neighborhoods adjacent to Rock Creek and its protective impacts on downstream water quality.

NRDC would like to point out that Zoning Regulations are particularly important and valuable tools in managing the District's stormwater runoff problems and the severely impaired water quality of surrounding water bodies. DC Council, Department of Health, Department of Public Works, Department of Transportation, and WASA are responding to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency mandates to reduce contamination of District water bodies from polluted runoff and from combined sanitary and stormwater overflows. However, the loss of forest canopy cover over the past several decades throughout the District has contributed significantly to the runoff problem in DC, overwhelming the capacity of the existing infrastructure and contributing enormously to water quality impairment, especially sedimentation and total suspended solids, a problem for the Potomac River and especially for the Anacostia River.

NRDC believes this particular overlay is a very critical step in the right direction for stormwater management and low impact development generally in the District of Columbia, and that TSP overlays are invaluable watershed and "air-shed" tools in working towards multiple goals of environmental protection, including the goals of long-term compliance with the Clean Water Act, and the Clean Air Act, as well as those for community and economic development. In NRDC's recently released *"Out of the Gutter – Reducing Polluted Runoff in the District of Columbia,"* NRDC broadly recommends and supports the utilization and grassroots creation of TSP overlays throughout the watersheds of the District.

Sincerely,

James W. Woodworth, Jr.
Urban Water Specialist
NRDC

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
Case 02-19
Meeting 238



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CONFIDENTIAL FAX

TO: Zoning Commission, Alberto Bakista
FROM: Jim Woodworth
DATE: 5 Sept 02
COMMENTS: _____

This fax is 2 pages long including this cover sheet. If there are any problems with this transmission, please call Jim at (202) 289- 2429.

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