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August 18, 2004

DC Zoning Commission
441 - 4th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20001

**RE: Forest Hills Tree and Slope Protection Overlay
ZC Case No. 02-19**

Dear Chairman Mitten and Zoning Commissioners:

This is to supplement the testimony I gave at the hearing on July 22, 2004. At the hearing, I recommended that the District develop a list of native trees for replanting in the overlay that would be compatible with trees found in Rock Creek Park. Both Maryland and Virginia, as well as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), have developed lists of trees native to the Piedmont Region. Attached is a list of canopy trees from these lists that I would like to have you consider for a replanting list for Forest Hills. I have forwarded this list to the DC Office of Planning and the Urban Forestry Administration.

In doing my research, I noticed that many of these trees are recommended for planting in large areas because of their height, spread, and needs for root growth. I urge you to keep at least a 9,500 square foot minimum lot size in the overlay regulation to accommodate these large trees.

Sincerely,

Cathy Wiss
Cathy Wiss

Attachment (3 pages)

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia

CASE NO. 02-19
EXHIBIT NO. 378

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**SUGGESTED NATIVE CANOPY TREES FOR REPLANTING IN THE
FOREST HILLS TREE AND SLOPE PROTECTION OVERLAY
ZC CASE NO. 02-19**

The states of Maryland and Virginia, as well the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), have developed lists of native trees of the Piedmont region for use in conservation. These lists can be found at <http://www.dnr.maryland.gov/criticalarea/trees.html> (Maryland); <http://www.dcr.state.va.us/dnh/natvtree.htm> (Virginia); and <http://www.nps.gov/plants/pubs/nativesMD/pdf/MD-Piedmont.pdf> (USFWS). There is strong correlation between these lists and the tree associations currently found in Rock Creek Park, as summarized in Gail Spilsbury, *Rock Creek Park* (Baltimore, Md.: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2003).

The species suggested below for replanting in Forest Hills were taken from these lists. Descriptive information was compiled from these lists and from Michael A. Dirr, *Manual of Woody Landscape Plants* (Champaign, Ill.: Stipes Publishing Co., 1990). Suggested species includes both trees found in Rock Creek Park, as the most appropriate for planting near the park, but also a few other species to meet individual planting needs.

I. Trees in Rock Creek Park

Red Maple (*Acer rubrum*)

Listed by Md., Va., USFWS

Height: 40-60'; spread = height; medium to fast growth rate

Orange to red fall foliage

River Birch (*Betula nigra*)

Listed by Md., Va., USFWS

Height: 40-70'; spread: 40-60'; medium to fast growth rate

Peeling pinkish bark is interesting and attractive especially in winter

Hickory (*Carya*)

Mockernut Hickory (*C. alba/C. tomentosa*)

Listed by Va. for conservation, USFWS

Height: 60-90'

Pignut Hickory (*C. glabra*)

Listed by Va. for horticulture and conservation, USFWS

Height: 60-80'; spread: 25-35'

Dirr: beautiful rich gold in fall

Shagbark Hickory (*C. ovata*)

Listed by Md. and Va. for conservation, USFWS

Height: 60-80+'; spread: 40-60'

Interesting peeling bark; transplant when small because of taproot

American Beech (*Fagus grandifolia*)

Listed by Md., Va., USFWS

Height: 50-70+'; spread = height; slow to medium growth rate

Young trees can be moved successfully

Dirr: "Beautiful native tree"; golden fall foliage; leaves often persist into winter

White Ash (*Fraxinus americana*)

Listed by Md., Va., USFWS

Height: 50-80'; spread = height; medium growth rate

Handsome tree for large area, but susceptible to pests and diseases;

Tree-mendous Maryland has stopped supplying *F. pennsylvanica* (green ash)

because of the emerald ash borer

Tulip Tree; Tulip Poplar (*Liriodendron tulipifera*)

Listed by Md., Va., USFWS

Height: 70-90+'; spread: 35-50'; fast growth rate

Susceptible to disease and reputation for weak wood, but many mature tulip poplars in this area withstood Hurricane Isabel while oaks and maples did not.

Black Gum; Sour Gum (*Nyssa sylvatica*)

Listed by Md., Va., USFWS

Height: 30-60'; spread: 20-30'; slow to medium growth rate

Beautiful as specimen with good fall color; deep taproot

Sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*)

Listed by Va., USFWS

Height: 75-100'; spread = height; medium to fast growth rate

Peeling grayish white bark

Oak (*Quercus*)

White Oak (*Q. alba*)

Listed by Md., Va., USFWS

Height: 100'; spread: 50-80'; medium growth early, slow growth later

Dirr: "among the most handsome of oaks"; must transplant when small

Chestnut Oak (*Q. prinus*)

Listed by Va., USFWS

Height: 60-80'; spread = height; medium to fast growth rate

Dirr: "A very lovely tree which does exceedingly well in dry, rocky soil."

There are some chestnut oaks in the Intelsat park on Connecticut Avenue

Northern Red Oak (*Q. rubra*)

Listed by Md., Va., USFWS

Height: 60-75'; spread: 40-50'; medium to fast growth rate

Transplants easily because of negligible taproot; withstands pollution

Black Oak (*Q. velutina*)

Height: 50-60+'; variable spread

Extensive taproot makes it difficult to transplant

II. Other Recommended Tree Species of the Piedmont Region

(A) Deciduous Trees

American Sweetgum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*)

Listed by Md., Va., USFWS

Height: 60-75+'; spread = 2/3 height; medium to fast growth rate

Rich yellow-purple-red fall color; prickly seed pods can litter lawns

There is a good specimen opposite Rock Creek Park at Oregon Ave. and Wise Rd.

Pin Oak (*Quercus palustris*)

Listed by Md., Va., USFWS

Height: 60-70'; spread: 25-40'; fast growth rate

Transplants readily because of shallow root system

Willow Oak (*Quercus phellos*)

Listed by Md., Va., USFWS

Height: 50-100'; spread: 30-40'; medium growth rate

Transplants more easily than most oaks; hardiness zones 5-9

American Basswood; Linden (*Tilia americana*)

Listed by Va., USFWS

Height: 60-80'; spread: 1/2 to 2/3 height; medium growth rate

Transplants easily

(B). Evergreens

White Pine (*Pinus strobus*)

Listed by Md., Va., USFWS

Height: 50-80+'; spread: 20-40'; fast growth rate

Easily transplanted; branches often break in ice storms

Eastern Hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*)

Listed by Md., Va., USFWS

Height: 40-70+'; spread: 25-35'; medium growth rate

Transplants well