

## Zoning Case 13-14 McMillan Park

### SAVE MCMILLAN PARK, REJECT THE DESTRUCTIVE ZONING

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McMillan was the first integrated park enjoyed by the city from the early 1900's to WW II. It is part of the Cities Beautiful Movement of true visionaries, an Olmsted designed park that any city would cherish.

Our own HPO, Kim William's nomination to the National Register describes a fascinating site "remarkably intact", and "undeteriorated", just read the nomination to understand the significance of this National treasure.

### National Register of Historic Places nomination

(<http://www.nps.gov/nr/feature/places/13000022.htm> )

The Federal Government made a terrible mistake when it sold McMillan to the District.

Because ever since, in blatant racist discrimination, abuse of power and malfeasance of office, successive administrations, have placed no value on the park, or people in this section of the city. DC kept a barbed wire fence around this desperately needed park for 28 years. A park they would have opened for everyone to enjoy, had it simply been located in the upper income predominantly white sections of DC. They want to develop it for revenue, so why has it been a multi-million dollar waste for 28 years?

This process has been dictatorial, a failure, as is the VMP plan, so universally rejected by the community.

Even to this day, our State Historic Preservation Officer, David Maloney is distorting and subverting the Historic Covenants intended to protect McMillan from exactly this kind of destructive development.

Each and every protection of the public interest is being subverted to force this private corporate atrocity further in its destructive over-urbanization. This zoning commission is charged with protecting the people and is required by law, by morality and by the merits to REJECT the applicant.

Ward 5 Architect, Eddie Johnson warns us of the negative impacts "The health of ward 5 residents will deteriorate. DC has the highest cancer rate in the United States. Our poor air quality is caused, in part by the volume of trucks and cars congesting our streets everyday, increasing incidences of cancer, respiratory, nasal, sinus problems and asthma in children"

Over 38 developments planned and constructed in Ward 5 will eliminate most of the green space and mature trees in Ward 5, in violation of DC Act 14-614 and in opposition to local and national efforts requiring sustainability and protection and enhancement of our natural environment. The district government is building a new city, for upper income new residents on the failing infrastructure, they have so incompetently mismanaged, the Bloomingdale and other area flooding, the over head power lines, failed transportation, etc.

We are making choices, the VMP plan is the WRONG choice. The DC govt. is dictating to the people that after 28 years of miserable, destructive stewardship we should hand over OUR last 25 acre green space, to these private corporate interests. First what is the market value of 25 prime acres? Any competent developer, can buy land in DC, pay for it, and still build profitable projects. Why should the public foot the bill? This is the reverse of Eminent Domain, take from the public to give to the rich corporations. Trammel-Crow is paying, DC's top lobbyists, The Carmen Group \$10,000 a month to keep the City Council from representing our interests, to "surplus" this sweetest of all deals. What is this development worth, how much does VMP profit, why aren't those \$billions even in their Financial Analysis? Legalized fraud?

The business world, mining, power, oil, manufacturing, land development are making profit driven choices destructive to the very survival of life on earth.

The world environment is in catastrophic collapse, it is finally getting to the average guy in the street, and this is a room of educated professionals. We all know carbon and methane emissions have gone beyond critical concentrations; acidification of the oceans will make life unsupportable on this planet.

1/3 to 1/2 all living plant and animal species are going extinct in the next 50 years, and we understand the choices we need to make. WE HAVE TO FIND THE COURAGE TO MAKE THE RIGHT CHOICES! For the sake of our children and grandchildren we have to face this right now, right here. The wrong choices are treason against the environment, treason against posterity!

Destruction of this Park, for years of concrete, paving, heavy equipment, truck and construction emissions, 3000 parking spaces, HOW SICK, this is the WRONG choice.

The "soft path" is right here, we make the right decisions too. The DC govt. needs to bring in the people to make this choice for ourselves; STOP DICTATING our future, McMillan has never had a democratic moment.

We have seen parallel choices made just the right way, right here in DC. When Whole Foods came to the city, they found a derelict parking garage, not even on a street, behind the old Hechinger, right at the Tenley Metro. They never added a single building, put parking and store together, been operating ever since, successful adaptive re-use existing structure, A GROCERY STORE ANNE!

It's really the atrocious job Office of Planning is doing, really. Build a park on the 11<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge with everything we need here, and hand over McMillan to demonstrably inferior designers.

In a Bloomingdale alley, on R and Lincoln, a huge lot, had been a storage yard, now empty and needing to be occupied, perfect for the "GROCERY STORE ANNE!" Walkable to all.

McMillan Coalition for Sustainable Agriculture supports revenue producing adaptive re-use of the 20 acres underground at McMillan, the same you are planning to demolish to start years of construction, the single most environmentally destructive thing. The hard choice, the wrong choice.

With proven vertical indoor growing technology we could convert the McMillan/Olmsted Park caverns to a fully functional, cooperatively owned local food production facility, making it a truly sustainable site. DC City Council Committee on the Environment supports Sustainable Agriculture, a food, nutrition and exercise hub that is perfect for McMillan. With preservation of the entire 25 acres above ground, numerous allied activities and services underground, sunset vistas intact as required by the law.

Imagine superior organic fresh fruit, no pesticides, vegetables and Family Farmed Fish freshly produced right here in DC, no longer trucked from California, Florida and Mexico. Thirty five percent of trucks on the road are transporting food!

Please see this fascinating video:

<http://youtu.be/ILzWmw53Wwo>

Our big open green space PRESERVED, a place to meet, take a stroll, sports, festivals and outdoor concerts. We need a Glen Echo type cultural/art/performance park for our families. The Glen Echo program includes 95 pages of activities and course offerings. Montgomery county and the National Park Service provide this incredible program, and restored the historic site, why aren't we getting the same from the DC govt.? What exactly does a resident of Bethedsa deserve, that we don't?

We can train young people and under-employed to gain healthy careers as masons, carpenters, landscapers, arborists and urban farmers, as we restore the park for a fraction of the cost DC govt. would spend. The program will start an urban conservation corp to rehab, and insulate our aging housing stock. The potential for benefit to DC, and the nation is unlimited.

We own it, and creative adaptive re-use is an international environmental movement of Sustainability, from Paris to Istanbul, and Seattle to the Highline in New York City. Mayor Gray's VMP development plan at McMillan will demolish the 20 acres of underground water filtration galleries, and over-urbanize the site with 50 buildings, including 13 story condos. We have to stop Mayor Gray from "surplussing" the land to VMP, this zoning commission must show the courage, to protect our city, the environment and our children. We will start a democratic, transparent, community based process for our park, our families, and our kids.

It is compromise and the rule of the almighty dollar that is destroying this planet, and our children's future. It is this Zoning Commission responsibility to protect the people of DC, REJECT A DESTRUCTIVE OVER-SIZED MORASS of hideous designs concrete, 3000 parking spaces, carbon emissions an the destruction of our 25 historic park, UNACCEPTBLE!.