



Washington, D.C. Chapter

April 3, 2013

Ms. Gretchen Pfaehler, Chair
DC Historic Preservation Review Board
1100 4th Street, SW Suite E650
Washington, D.C. 20024

RE: Revised Master Plan and Design Guidelines for McMillan Reservoir Park

Dear Ms. Pfaehler:

The Sierra Club's mission includes maximizing preservation of green space for both environmental conservation and for public recreation as it contributes to public health. As such, we oppose the proposed development plan for the McMillan Park Sand Filtration Site that would replace 75% of the Park's surface area with pavement and commercial development.

Based on the results of the ANC 5C and McMillan Advisory Group door-to-door community survey of 2012, which indicates that over 85% of the surrounding community wants at least 50% of the Site retained as contiguous public park space, we would support a balanced and equitable McMillan Park development plan that achieved or exceeded the 50% park threshold. We are surprised and disappointed that the DC Government continues to ignore this loud and clear voice of the overwhelming majority of the community.

Furthermore, we acknowledge and respect the historical use and significance of McMillan Park starting with President Taft's declaration of the site as a National Park in 1913 and supplemented with the listing of McMillan Park on the National Register of Historic Places by the U.S. National Park Service in February 2013.

The Sierra Club therefore asks that the Board reject the currently-proposed master plan and design guidelines and insist on the submission of creative alternative plans that achieve a better balance of commercialization and parkland preservation.

Sincerely,

Kathy Robertson, Chair
Sierra Club Washington, D.C. Chapter