



WASHINGTON D.C. CHAPTER

September 24, 2012

Ms. Catherine Buell, Chair  
Historic Preservation Review Board  
1100 4th Street, S.W. Suite E650  
Washington, DC 20024

By Email

Please Reply To:  
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Conservation Chair  
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RE: McMillan Park Reservoir Site

Dear Ms. Buell:

On behalf of the Sierra Club and its 2,500 members living in the District of Columbia, I write to express our concerns regarding the proposed master plan and design guidelines for development of the McMillan Park and Sand Filtration Site.

In our view, the present design plans do too little to preserve the parklike characteristics that dominate the present space. Though the site has, regrettably, been fenced off over the past decades, its vast green vistas have always given us hope that the inevitable commercial development plans would honor that tradition and provide nearby neighborhoods with the myriad blessings of accessible parkland. A more balanced plan for the McMillan Park site would devote half or more of the surface to contiguous park and park-like use. Further, this park space should be unfenced and thus available for the use and enjoyment of all of the City's residents and visitors.

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

Sincerely,