

McMillan Park: Losing DC's Last Greenspace?

On the southwest corner of Michigan Avenue and North Capitol Street lies McMillan Park. This 25-acre plot of land was once a park designed by Frederick Law Olmstead, the designer of Central Park in New York. For many years the land functioned as a sand filtration site for DC's drinking water supply AND a community park. After the water treatment facilities moved west of First Street, the land was fenced off and closed to the public.

In recent years, several firms have vied for building rights on this property. It is currently being sought after by a partnership of developers -- EYA, Jair Lynch Development Partners, StreetSense, The Alexander Company, Smoot, and Urban Service Systems Corporation -- who want to build 1,200 housing units (that's six TIMES the residential units in Park Place!), a hotel, a supermarket, retail shops and several large office complexes (designed for hospital offices) -- leaving a small central greenspace for the "community."

At one time, money was allocated in the District budget for the building of a library, community center, and other community services on this land. That is still an option -- although not of interest to the developers who claim that it will require at least \$50-60 MILLION dollars of infrastructure improvement BEFORE they can build ANYTHING on this land. And although they say they don't have that necessary funding, they are requesting that the District sign over the rights to this designated parkland to them. In addition,

NONE of the community's questions about traffic, parking, or storm water management have been answered by the developers.

The McMillan Advisory Group (MAG), a committee that includes community representatives and District government liaisons, has been working with the prospective developers to address community concerns, but developers do not profit by providing "amenities." **McMillan Park Needs YOU.**

The next developer-run McMillan Park meeting is scheduled for this weekend –

Saturday, February 7th, 2009

10:00am to 12:00pm

Trinity University Social Hall

125 Michigan Avenue NE (in the Main Hall)

NEIGHBORS: This is Our Community and OUR Land

