



ROCK CREEK CONSERVANCY

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December 22, 2014

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District Department of Transportation

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55 M Street, SE

Suite 400

Washington, DC 20003

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Dear Mr. Thomas:

Doug Barker

On behalf of Rock Creek Conservancy (RCC), I would like to comment on the effort to plant native trees in the right of way within the Oregon Avenue NW Rehabilitation Project in Northwest Washington. Rock Creek Conservancy is a non-profit organization working to protect Rock Creek and the parklands that surround it as it flows from Montgomery County through Rock Creek Park in the District and into the Potomac River.

Tracy Bowen

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The District Department of Transportation (DDOT) has taken a significant step by incorporating environmental concerns into its planning for Oregon Avenue. The road forms the western boundary of the main section of Rock Creek Park, one of the largest forested urban parks in the nation. The rehabilitation of Oregon Avenue offers an important opportunity for the District and its residents to address problems that now contribute to the degradation of Rock Creek and Rock Creek Park, and we are encouraged by the approach demonstrated so far.

Matthew Logan

Dennis McClellan

Christine Pieper

Jorge Ribas

Katherine Schinasi

We applaud DDOT's commitment to protecting the existing tree canopy and enhancing the corridor by planting additional trees on the residential side of the road. Trees improve the area's air quality, serve as a buffer against damaging stormwater runoff, and provide habitat to wildlife. Trees have been demonstrated to benefit property values and provide energy savings to homes in their shade. We strongly support this effort to expand the tree canopy beyond the boundaries of Rock Creek Park. Furthermore, we are pleased to see the effort to plant native trees, particularly species with significant benefits to wildlife such as oaks, gums, and hickories.

Address

4300 Montgomery Ave
Suite 304A
Bethesda, MD 20814
(202) 237-8866
rockcreekconservancy.org

Mission

Protecting the lands and waters of Rock Creek and revitalizing Rock Creek Park for people to treasure and enjoy

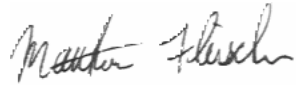
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We commend DDOT on its decisions to seek support from the neighbors and to ask private property owners to participate in the selection of trees for this program. Rock Creek Park is not an island, and successful efforts to protect its boundaries must include its adjacent communities. We urge DDOT to continue to seek ways to bring the neighbors into this process as participants.



Rock Creek Conservancy looks forward to working with you and neighbors as the project progresses. If you have any questions about our comments, please do not hesitate to contact Alex Sanders at asanders@rockcreekconservancy.org or at (202) 237-8866.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matthew Fleischer". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Matthew Fleischer
Executive Director