

SAVE THE MCMILLAN PARK RESERVOIR HISTORIC DISTRICT

What is it?

The McMillan Park Reservoir Historic District is on the National Register of Historic Places and has been listed four times on the D.C. Preservation League's list of most endangered sites. Located at the intersection of First Street NW and Michigan Avenue, it spans 92 acres and includes the reservoir and sand filtration plant – including its above ground towers and vaulted underground caverns.

McMillan Park (1908) was named in honor of the Michigan Senator who was instrumental in beautifying Washington, with gardens landscaped by Frederick Olmsted Jr., son of the “Father of Landscape Architecture” who landscaped NY's Central Park.



Considered an engineering marvel when it was built, the water treatment facility operated until 1986. The Three Graces fountain, which adorned the gardens, stands today in disrepair on the reservoir side of the park.

What is the position of the Friends of McMillan Park?

- 1) The McMillan Park Reservoir Historic District is a tremendous asset for our city,
- 2) The status quo benefits no one and action must be taken to return this valuable space to public use,
- 3) Any plan approved for the site's development must provide for community amenities and public benefits and must preserve and enhance the historic integrity of this engineering marvel and national landmark park.

What is the city planning?

In 2006, the District Government awarded Vision McMillan Partners (VMP) a contract to plan a development for the site. Their plan would demolish about 90% of the historic structures (according to the Historic Preservation Review Board), erect large commercial buildings (up to 12 stories!) along Michigan Avenue and North Capitol, and place four-story townhomes over much of the site.

A Deeply-Flawed Process

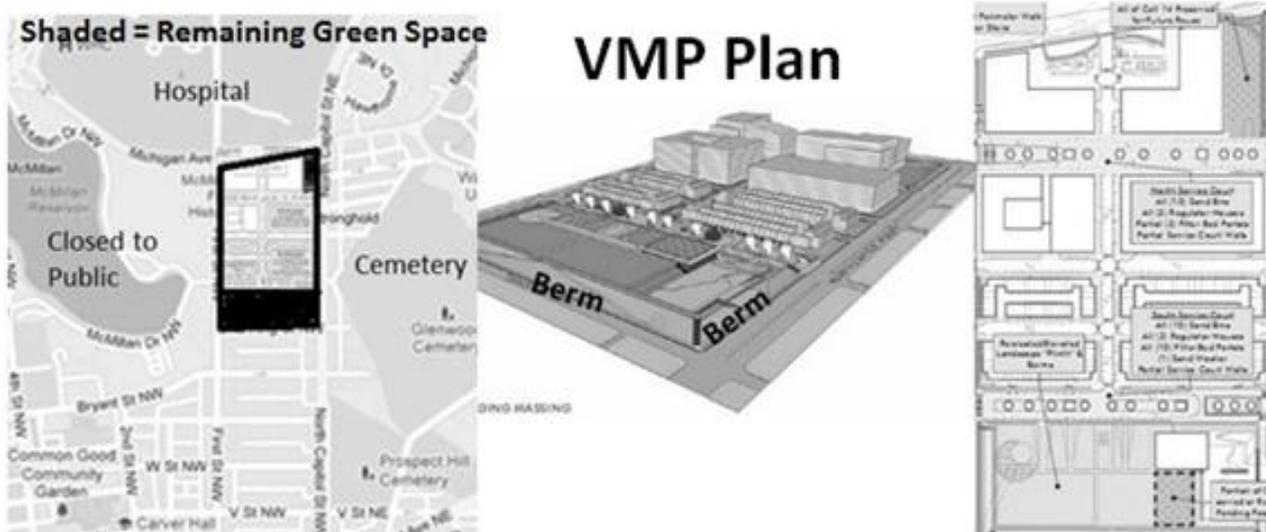
The process undertaken by the city to develop this plan lacked transparency and serious community engagement. For example, the city entered into an exclusive rights agreement with VMP to build the development if its plan is accepted. Yet, the city has refused to make the details of the agreement public, despite our FOIA request.

Last year, the city withdrew its permission for the community to continue giving tours of the historic site because of the support the tours generated for preservation and restoration.

Plan Generates Negative Reactions

The plan continues to be criticized sharply by the surrounding community and preservation and environmental groups. The Historic Preservation Review Board described it as more appropriate for “Tyson’s Corner or Rosslyn” and characterized the plan’s treatment of the few remaining structures as “tombstones of what was there.”

Alternative designs have been put forward that respect and promote the historic nature of the site while still providing options for community amenities, yet the city refuses to support an open dialogue on these alternatives.



What can you do to help?

Join us in urging the Mayor, Members of the City Council and Members of the Historic Preservation Review Board to reject the current plan and consider alternatives that truly create a world class destination worthy of this historic site and our nation’s capital. **Show your support by signing our online petition at www.surveymonkey.com/s/RG8TZH8.**

Who are the Friends of McMillan Park?

We are simply a group of community volunteers. Please visit us on the web at www.FriendsofMcMillan.org, follow us on Twitter at @McMillanPark or contact us by phone at 202-213-2690.

**WITHOUT YOUR SUPPORT,
THIS HISTORIC SITE WILL BE
DESTROYED FOREVER.**







