

cox graae + spack architects

2909 m street nw ■ washington dc 20007 ■ 202.965.7070 ■ fax 202.965.7144

HEARST PARK AND POOL IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT

Hearst Park currently serves Ward 3 as a multi-purpose public open space suitable for passive and active recreation. The park currently includes the following amenities:

1. Three (3) tennis courts with a separate tennis practice wall.
2. A non-regulation natural grass field. The field is predominantly utilized for soccer, but the neighborhood frequently uses it as a dog run as well. An existing chain link baseball backstop is located at the southwest corner of the field. The backstop is in fair condition but seldomly used.
3. A concrete walking trail on the east side of the park connects Idaho Avenue to Hearst Elementary School.
4. A series of heritage Willow Oak trees are located along the east and south edges of the field. These trees are the most significant element of the park and provide a distinct identity for the space in conjunction with the steep slopes on the west and north side of the field.

Directly north of the park is the Hearst Recreation Center, Hearst Elementary School and associated playground and sports areas – basketball court and small turf field. Currently there is on-street parking along all three Right-Of-Way frontages to the park; 37th Street, NW, Quebec Street, NW and Idaho Street, NW. Sidwell Friends School is located directly across 37th Street, NW from the park.

Background to Pool Project:

Ward 3 is the only ward in the District that does not have an outdoor public swimming pool. The need for a pool, in addition to the opportunity to upgrade the existing park, made Hearst a prime candidate for this project.

Overall Design Intent:

The project team is directed by the District Department of General Services (DGS) and the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) to provide full design services for park improvements/ upgrades and a new outdoor pool with accompanying pool house for Hearst Park. The intent of the design is to maintain the passive character of the park, while providing enhanced facilities for structured / organized sports including soccer and tennis.

The program of uses and components for the site include:

1. A high school regulation size soccer field
2. Maintain the existing mature Willow Oak heritage trees
3. New tennis courts and a tennis practice wall
4. Walking paths with benches
5. Bio-retention areas to capture drainage runoff from site
6. A six lane, 25-meter pool with a zero-edge walk-in area
7. Pool house containing restrooms and showers, offices for DPR staff and pool equipment rooms
8. Upgrades to the playground including adding shade structures

Careful consideration to a variety of factors has been taken into account in this design including:

1. Zoning requirements

cox graae + spack architects

2909 m street nw ■ washington dc 20007 ■ 202.965.7070 ■ fax 202.965.7144

2. Accessibility
3. Safety
4. Loading and service
5. Preservation of the heritage trees
6. Maintenance
7. Sensitivity to the adjacent community
8. Capturing storm water runoff

New concrete walkways will be placed away from the roots of the existing heritage trees to ensure greater survivability of the majestic trees. Where the walkways do cross near the trees, a raised walkway concept will be provided to limit the impact on the existing roots.

The pool and pool building are situated along the southwest area of the site to allow for the center of the park to remain as a large open play field. Additionally, careful placement of the pool and pool building has been considered so that the heritage trees will not be impacted by excavation and construction.

The tennis courts will share the south area location with the pool to take advantage of the existing tennis court locations. The slopes on the south and west side of the site will be cleared of invasive and re-planted to enhance the visual character of the park.

Benches, trash and recycle bins, bike racks, sign kiosk and drinking fountains will be included in the design package per DPR standards.

The playground will receive new shade structures over selected play equipment offering protection from the harsh summer sun. In addition, the existing wood trellis structures will be covered with a solid roof likewise providing additional protection from the elements.