

Government of the District of Columbia

Department of Transportation



DDOT - Urban Forestry Administration

To: Office of Councilmember Mary M. Cheh
John A. Wilson Building
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite 108
Washington, D.C. 20004

From: Munevver Ertem
Supervisory Urban Forester

Date: April 4, 2017

Subject: Hearst Park and Pool Improvement Project Tree Impact

This letter is intended provide a recommendation for the location of the planned pool construction in Hearst Park. There are 14 Heritage trees in the park where the swimming pool is proposed to be built. I reviewed the three options that are provided by DGS to install swimming pool and its potential impact on the trees surrounding the soccer field.

I recommend Option 1 with a slight revision that tennis court number 1 and pool locations to be rotated.

JUSTIFICATION:

- Existing tennis courts are on an elevated ground, therefore construction of the pool will not affect the roots of the heritage trees.
- By rotating the pool and the pool house with tennis courts will prevent damage to the trees.
- Construction entrance, construction activities, and access to the pool will not disturb the roots.
- I strongly recommend that construction contractor to build a 6' chain link fence (or better) surrounding the trees to separate construction activities. Fence to be located minimum 30' from the trunks to protect the critical root zone.

Design Concepts: Option 1 A



Option 2 with soccer field rotated 180 degree will impact the trees by compacting soil. Though the pool construction will not cut roots, because of the soil compaction the trees will decline in a few years.

Therefore I do not support Option 2.

Option 3 has the most direct impact on the trees, the trees will suffer tremendously. I don't support Option 3.

Munevver ERTEM
Supervisory Urban Forester