

Latest Update on the Park at 6th & I Streets, SW

Contributed by Tawana Shuford
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Hello everyone! Over the last couple of weeks, our office has been working with the Department of Parks and Recreation on the park at 6th & I Streets, SW. We've got some good news to share and Tommy asked me to post the latest information.

Yesterday, I spoke with Ms. Kathryn L. Russell of DPR's Critical Response Team. DPR staff has made a lot of progress and expects to have the entire park cleaned by Wednesday, June 10th.

Last week, after Tommy alerted her to the seriousness of the problems, DPR Acting Director Dr. Ximena Hartsock, visited the park firsthand to get a full understanding of the challenges. Particular attention was paid to the pond and Dr. Hartsock directed her staff to take the necessary steps to return the pond to its original state. This morning, a DPR crew installed a sump pump to remove the standing water in the pond, cleaned the drains of debris and trash, and is now developing a plan to return fresh water to the pond with regular maintenance to follow. Additionally, the grassy areas of the park have been mowed and the trash was recently collected.

In addition to the clean up, DPR is meeting with representatives from the National Park Service to get details on the mechanical functions and maintenance needs within the park (water fall operational status, pool drainage, etc.). Apparently, prior to the transfer of property to DPR, the park's drainage system and water lines had existing problems that the National Park Service had not addressed. DPR is now aware of the issues and is moving forward to correct the problems.

I will make sure I keep you up to date as we continue to monitor this park. As always, please let me know if you have any questions or need further assistance at 202-724-8072 or via email at (tshuford@dccouncil.us).