

**Testimony of Olga Stopher
Neighbors of Southwest Duck Pond**

B19-0186, THE “SOUTHWEST DUCK POND DESIGNATION ACT OF 2011”

**Hearing before DC Council Committee of the Whole
JOHN A. WILSON BUILDING
1350 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, N.W., Room 500
Wednesday, November 16, 2011, 11:00 am**

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Testimony of Robert Craycraft

Hello Chairman Brown and City Council Members. My name is Olga Stopher. I am a resident of Southwest Washington for almost 50 years and a Neighbor of the Southwest Duck Pond.

For a little history, I was here in the beginning when it was created as a natural urban park. We called it the "Duck Pond" because ducks would show up in the summer to the delight of all. I always assumed that was the name of the park.

Over the years the park suffered neglect and deterioration. The pond was treated with chemicals and often the fountains weren't working. The park seemed darker, more overgrown, and even a little dangerous. The ducks no longer came.

In the past two years some of us neighborhood folk began to clean the park on a regular basis. With the help of the Department of Parks and Recreation the fountain and pond were restored and the ducks returned. People who live and work in the area began to enjoy the park again. More volunteers showed up for clean-up and interest in the park grew.

As we began to move forward with more ideas, we discovered that the park was not named the Duck Pond. In fact, the park had no name at all! So we went out with petitions to legally name the park "Southwest Duck Pond".

With this identity we can go forward with plans for upkeep and restoration, and residents, workers and children in the neighborhood will continue to enjoy this beautiful space.

Thank you for the opportunity to talk about the Southwest Duck Pond.