



September 3, 2013

Claude McCrae
Director Department of Parks & Recreation
City of Wilmington
Municipal Services Complex
500 Wilmington Avenue
Wilmington DE 19801

Dear Mr. McCrae:

The Friends of Tilton Park identify as the individuals and families who 1) live directly surrounding Tilton Park and 2) live in nearby surrounding houses. Many of us are active in our community through the Cool Spring Tilton Neighborhood Association (CSTNA); West Side Grows; and other local initiatives. As locals, we observe daily and nightly unscrupulous activities of local agitators, drug dealers, and others. While Tilton is beautifully landscaped, several of the bushes planted are cause for and facilitate/enable reoccurring problems in the neighborhood that erode our quality of life and enjoyment of the park. The Crepe Myrtles currently provide sufficient coverage for people spending the night in the park, while the Oak Leaf Hydrangeas provide cover for heroin users. Additionally, the bushes at all four corners of the park pose safety issues for passers-by.

We understand and appreciate that the Parks and Recreation Division is understaffed, and we as the Friends of Tilton Park are willing to do our part to work in cooperation with your Department to help maintain Tilton Park and make it a better place. With that in mind, we would like to propose the following:

- 1) We will trim the Crepe Myrtles bi-annually, on a schedule provided by Parks and Recreation. Parks and Recreation will then collect all trimmings. We ask that Parks and Recreation aid in the initial trimming to set the guidelines for the future.
- 2) Parks and Recreation will invest in a one-time project to permanently remove the Oak Leaf Hydrangeas on the 7th St. side of the park.
- 3) Friends of Tilton Park will work with Parks and Recreation and the Delaware Center for Horticulture to determine whether the bushes at all four corners of the park that are consistently overgrown ought to be permanently removed or trimmed on a bi-annual basis, or replaced. If a bi-annual trimming is determined most appropriate, Friends of Tilton Park will coordinate trimming days, which Parks and Recreation will then clean up.

We kindly ask that you acknowledge this offer and confirm you are amenable. We look forward to an ongoing dialogue with you on how we can enhance our parks for the betterment of our neighborhood and the City.

Below are the signatures of many neighbors who all agree to the proposed venture. We look forward to working to improve the safety of our community. Contact information is also included.

Sincerely,

Friends of Tilton Park

cc: Mark Sparagna, Superintendent

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