

CYLBURN ARBORETUM

Baltimore, MD USDA Hardiness Zone 7

Cylburn Arboretum is a Baltimore City public park, supported by the friends group, Cylburn Arboretum Association, Inc. Neither the City nor the Association has extensive financial resources, and we struggle to muster the paid and volunteer support to care for approximately 140 *Ilex* specimens plus 3,000 other woody plants, spread over about 55 acres (22.3 hectares).

In the last year, the holly plantings at Cylburn have endured terrible weather (severe drought in the late summer of 2017, extended bitter cold and desiccating winds in January 2018, and violent windstorms in early March 2018) in the last year. They withstood these insults quite well—but have not withstood the ravages of deer nearly as well. Only individual fencing around each plant has proved effective, and resources make that very difficult to achieve.

The Arboretum has a deer fence, but, branches fall on the fence every time there is significant wind, compromising the fence. Although regular “deer drives” are conducted, we think deer are almost always inside the enclosure, sometimes in significant numbers (7 or 9). A lot of our efforts go into deer rather than plant care.

We reported last year that in November of 2016 we applied for a government grant to obtain paid assistance to renovate the area of the traditional Holly collection; however, we did not receive this grant. We reapplied in November 2017, and if this grant is obtained, we will remove seedling trees and invasive vines and weeds, renovate the turf and add additional *Ilex* species.

We are thrilled to be a beneficiary of the HSA breeding program, and have several lovely hollies in a “cold” greenhouse where they can grow bigger before being planted out. And we continue to benefit from the wisdom, donations and expertise of Bill Kuhl and Charles Anderson, both nearby inspirations for fostering our *Ilex* collections.

Nell Strachan, Chair, Landscape Committee