

September 25, 2005

Fran P. Mainella
National Park Service Director
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C St., NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Ms Mainella,

Planning for the Georgetown Waterfront Park has been carried out without participation of the wide community of citizens who should stand to benefit from this important public project. Unfortunately, parochial Georgetown groups have strongly influenced the current plan to suit their own narrow notion of public purpose.

Before construction on the park begins, the citizenry of the wider Washington area should be heard. In particular, the enormous potential for public recreational use of the river must be considered before this wonderful and unique riverfront is lost forever to constricted uses.

Please take steps necessary to insure fair representation of the public interest. The location of this property makes it ideal for extending the boathouse “zone” so it will provide access to the river by private citizens, high school rowing programs, and the local universities. If done properly, the Waterfront Park could eliminate the controversial taking of land from the C&O Canal National Historic Park for use by Georgetown University—and in such a way that everyone would benefit. There would still be plenty of space for traditional park amenities sought by Georgetown organizations.

As you undoubtedly know, the Washington community is becoming increasingly aware of the injustices surrounding the planning of these two parks. With such significant impacts on the land and the population, the projects must, by law, undergo an Environmental Impact Statement that systematically includes all the Georgetown waterfront parkland. It is time to do the right thing.

Very truly yours,

David E. Winer
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Bethesda, Maryland