

Who would dream of shoehorning the 2nd largest Collegiate Boathouse in the country a few feet from the 176 year old historic (and fragile) C&O Canal?

Without any environmental assessment?

Without any engineering analysis?

Without a good reason?



The Boathouse is:

33,200 square feet

290 feet long

54 feet tall

85 feet wide

So big it is:

21 feet above the Canal

7 feet above Canal Road

7 feet from the river

25 feet from the Canal

ONLY The National Park Service Could be so Bold!

Call or Email the Director of the NPS, Fran Mainella at Fran_Mainella@nps.gov,

202 208 4621 and tell her to call it off!

I. What Is The Issue? The Public Will Permanently Lose C&O Canal National Historical Park Property To A Private Entity

- The development sets a precedent for loss of other publicly owned sites and parkland to a private entity.
 - The boathouse will be the first structure to be built in the C&O Canal National Historical Park (C&O NHP) since the founding of the park. The land is being swapped for unbuildable “bottomland” upstream.
 - The land at this location forms part of a busy and narrow public recreational corridor of the C&O NHP, the Potomac Gorge and the Capital Crescent Trail, valued by hikers, bikers, boaters, historians and others.
2. The Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) that the NPS issued in 1995 was only for the land swap – NOT for the boathouse. This splitting of the EIS is against Federal Regulations and flies in the face of common sense. What is the NPS afraid? That the building could damage the C&O Canal?
3. No engineering analysis exists to show that the C&O Canal won't collapse because of the construction. Is this because it's “better to beg for forgiveness than ask for permission?”
4. Why the Bloat? Even if a Boathouse is appropriate for the site, what happened to the 4,000 square foot boathouse that NPS proposed to place on the site? Do 150 University students really need a 33,200 square foot “Taj Mahal”? Where's the public interest?
5. Who Opposes The Current Location And Size For The GU Boathouse?
- Defenders of Potomac River Parkland Includes:
American Canoe Association, American Whitewater Association, Audubon Naturalist Society, Canoe Cruisers Association, C&O Canal Association, Coalition for the Capital Crescent Trail, DC Chapter of the Sierra Club, League of Women Voters of the District of Columbia, National Parks Conservation Association, Potomac Pedalers Touring Club, Washington Canoe Club, area citizens and residents of communities adjoining the Park (Georgetown, Palisades, and Foxhall Village).
7. Why did they wait till now to mobilize?
- The NPS and GU have played a masterful hand of bluff and deception.
 - What was approved in spirit is not what is planned.
 - Significantly the C&O Canal NHP Presidential Commission voted unanimously against the size and height of the structure.

8. What Can You Do?

- Contact your Congressional Representative and Senators: www.house.gov, and www.senate.gov (Suggested individuals: US Senate - Honorable Susan Collins, Barbara Mikulski, James Jeffords, Craig Thomas; House of Representatives - Honorable Roscoe Bartlett, Tom Davis, Jim Moran, Eleanor Holmes Norton, Richard W. Pombo, Charles Taylor, Chris Van Hollen)
- Contact the National Capital Planning Commission, info@ncpc.gov
- Contact the Director of the National Park Service, Fran Mainella (Fran_Mainella@nps.gov, 202 208 4621)
- Contact the Archdiocese of Washington: Bishop Kevin Farrell, chancery@adw.org
- Contact Sally Strain, seawalk@starpower.net if you'd like to get involved.

Ask them to please stop the transfer of C&O Canal NHP land to Georgetown University for the construction of a private boathouse.