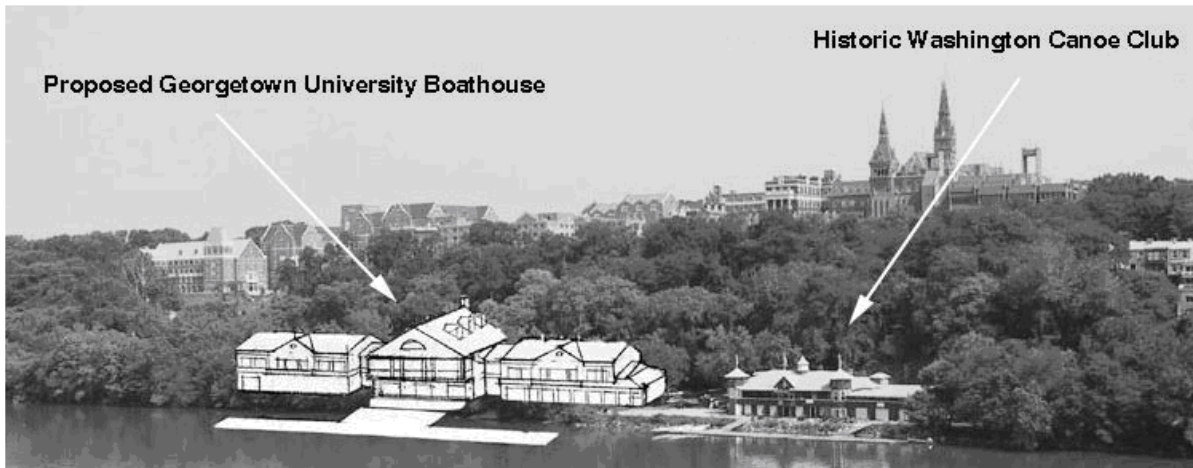


Private development threatens C&O Canal National Historical Park! *Canal, bike trail at risk*

The National Park Service (NPS) is considering a plan to transfer national historical parkland on the Potomac River (upstream from the Key Bridge, next to the Capital Crescent Trail, within the Potomac Gorge and three historic areas) for private development. The NPS is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) that may pave the way for Georgetown University to build an extremely large boathouse on a site within the C&O Canal National Historical Park.

If approved, this plan would set an alarming precedent for private development in national historical parks and loss of urban wooded areas. The building would extend almost the length of a football field, destroying trees and wildlife habitat and threatening the fragile riverbank and canal with erosion and flood damage. A massive private dock, 75 feet long, would block the route of shoreline boaters. Motorized vehicles and sixty-foot boat trailers would tangle with hikers, bikers and other trail users at the gateway to the C&O Canal National Historical Park.



(Note: The NPS “preferred alternative” boathouse design proposed in an Environmental Assessment for the facility in 2006 would be slightly lower in height than the original one shown above, but with the same massive footprint: 18,600 sq. ft.)

How you can HELP: Voice your opposition by sending a letter to Jonathan Jarvis, Director, National Park Service, 1849 C St., NW, Washington, DC 20240.

In your letter, demand that the NPS:

- Preserve historical national parkland for public use, not trade it for private development.
- Keep this private boathouse outside of C&O Canal National Historical Park.
- Identify and analyze acceptable alternatives outside the C&O Canal National Historical Park in the preparation of an EIS for this proposal.

How you can get BACKGROUND: See the independent website www.savethecanal.org for information, sample letters, and suggested comments on the impacts of the proposal.

How you can get email UPDATES: Contact Defenders of Potomac River Parkland, c/o Sally Strain at seawalk@starpower.net (see below for a list of member organizations).

Here are the ISSUES:

- Contrary to the NPS mission, historical public parkland would be traded to a private entity for their exclusive use.
- Until now, NPS has refused to adequately consider alternative locations outside the park, despite public demands for more accessible, safer, less environmentally sensitive locations downstream on K Street, on previously developed waterfront, and at other locations.
- A boathouse outside the C&O Canal National Historical Park would have technical, environmental and practical advantages for everyone, while protecting the C&O Canal National Historical Park from private development.

Why we need YOU: Many letters and comments are needed to defeat the current plan and force the NPS to seriously consider alternatives. Please voice your opinion, spread the word and help save the C&O Canal National Historical Park and Potomac Gorge from private development!

The **Defenders of Potomac River Parkland** support preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement that will seriously consider alternatives. The Defenders are individuals and these organizations:

American Canoe Association
American Hiking Society
American Whitewater Association
Appalachian Mountain Club
Audubon Naturalist Society
Canoe Cruisers Association
Citizens Committee to Save Laurel Lakes
Clean Water Action
C&O Canal Association
Coalition for the Capital Crescent Trail
Dupont Circle Conservancy
East Coast Greenway Alliance
Friends of the Earth
Global Green USA
League of Women Voters of the District of Columbia
National Parks Conservation Association
Potomac Appalachian Trail Club
Potomac Conservancy
Potomac Heritage Trail Association
Potomac Pedalers Touring Club
Quantico Orienteering Club
Rails to Trails Conservancy
Sierra Club, DC Chapter
Washington Area Roadskaters
Washington Canoe Club
Western Lands Project