

Subject: Letter to Washington Post (DC Extra) - Fred Mopsik  
Boathouse or Bloathouse

The story on the Georgetown University boathouse omitted a very important consideration completely. The boathouse, according to the standards of the National Park Service everywhere else, including across the river in Arlington, affects parkland. In this case, the parkland is a National Historical Park dedicated to Justice William O. Douglas, the conservation of the Potomac and a very important piece of America History, the Canal building era of the first half of the 19th century.

This is more than a story of rowing, 2 million visitors a year use the park for sight seeing, hiking, enjoying nature, and many other reasons that are not rowing. A structure that is 23 feet higher than the towpath, much higher than the trees, for almost the length of a football field, only by its presence is a major degradation of the park.

It is a shame that Georgetown University and the National Park Service, by their own admission, cannot seem to respect such a treasure for our metropolitan area and are trying to do so by ignoring the environmental laws that found their origin in the park.

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