

Letters to the Editor
The Washington Post
1150 15th Street Northwest
Washington, DC 20071

Dear Editor:

A controversial proposal to take part of the C&O Canal National Historical Park for a private club deserves coverage as prominent as that afforded other issues recently reported in the Post. (Park Service Could Profit From Allowing Snyder To Clear His Land, by Tim Craig, March 5, page A-1).

Senior managers in the Park Service's regional office have made an agreement with Georgetown University to transfer undeveloped riverfront land inside the C&O Canal Historical Park to the university.

This plan serves private, not public interests, and is opposed by the C&O Canal Association, the nonpartisan National Parks Conservation Association, and local chapters of the Sierra Club, Audubon Naturalist Society, League of Women Voters, and nine other activist groups.

The Park Service is charged with stewardship of the C&O corridor in order to protect the environment, preserve historical sites, and provide public recreation. Exclusive, private facilities belong outside the national park.

After considerable public opposition and a lawsuit, the Park Service has agreed to an environmental review of its plan for the C&O site. But there is no indication the Park Service truly will consider alternative sites.

There's still time for the Park Service to do the right thing concerning the proposed facility on national parkland . . . just say no. The University boathouse belongs outside the C&O Canal Park either downstream or on the Anacostia.

Sincerely,

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