

October 5, 2005

To the Editors:  
Current Newspaper  
Washington, DC

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 deserve to be included in the planning. In particular, the Park Service must consider the enormous potential for public recreational use of the river before this wonderful and unique riverfront is lost forever to constricted uses.

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.

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 for the Park Service to do the right thing.

David E. Winer  
5827 Onondaga Road  
Bethesda, Maryland