

Text of a letter to the editor by Sally Strain published by *The Current Newspapers* on March 21, 2012

Boathouses should avoid C&O Canal Park

The National Park Service is conducting a feasibility study for a non-motorized boathouse zone along the Georgetown waterfront, for an area extending from 34th Street to 1,200 feet upriver from Key Bridge and inside the C&O Canal National Historical Park.

This study provides a great opportunity for everyone who appreciates the waterfront to suggest ways to enhance the area and accommodate the needs of boating, biking, walking, running, touring and other activities.

Defenders of Potomac River Parkland — a coalition of more than 20 conservation, recreation and historic preservation groups — was established in 2003 in opposition to a private Georgetown University boathouse proposed for a site within the C&O Canal Park.

Our group has submitted these comments to the Park Service for the feasibility study:

- Protect the C&O Canal Park from private development.
- Preserve the wooded tidal floodplain upriver from the Washington Canoe Club.
- Expand the boathouse study zone downriver to include Thompson Boat Center and other locations.

As residents of the Potomac River area, we are all stakeholders and stewards of an extraordinary national, regional and local treasure in our backyard — the C&O Canal Park. Please support the effort to protect the park while suggesting ways to enhance the waterfront.

Express your views to the National Park Service by posting your comments on the Park Service website for this project. Visit tinyurl.com/boathousezone; the deadline is March 30.

Sally Strain

*D.C. coordinator, Defenders of
Potomac River Parkland*