



Welcome

TO THE PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING FOR THE

Arlington County and Vicinity

Non-Motorized Boathouse Facility

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Meeting Agenda

6:30-7:00pm	Open House
7:00-7:30pm	Presentation
7:30-8:30pm	Open House

Arlington County and Vicinity Non-Motorized Boathouse Facility Environmental Impact Statement

George Washington Memorial Parkway, Virginia



Preliminary Alternatives



No Action

Under the no action alternative, a boathouse facility and docks would not be constructed in the vicinity of the George Washington Memorial Parkway. Arlington County public high school rowing programs would continue to use area boathouses located in Washington, DC. Existing and future public demand for rowing programs and related boat storage space would be accommodated by these existing facilities, other planned rowing facilities, or would remain unmet.

Action Alternatives

1. Lower Key Bridge

A boathouse facility and floating docks for non-motorized boats would be located along the Virginia Potomac River shoreline south of the Key Bridge, east of the Parkway and north of the existing Theodore Roosevelt Island parking lot.

2. Upper Key Bridge

A boathouse facility for non-motorized boats would be located on the hillside east of North Lynn Street between Interstate 66 and the Parkway. Docks would be located along the Virginia Potomac River shoreline, east of the Parkway and north of the existing Theodore Roosevelt Island parking lot.

3. Combination Upper & Lower Key Bridge

This alternative would be a combination of the Upper Key Bridge and Lower Key Bridge alternatives. Boat storage, floating docks, and staging area would be located on the Lower Key Bridge site, while other support functions would be located in a facility on the Upper Key Bridge site.

4. CSX/14th Street Bridge

A boathouse facility and docks for non-motorized boats would be located at an area located east of the Parkway, just south of the CSX/14th Bridge and north of Gravelly Point.

5. Daingerfield Island

A boathouse facility and docks for non-motorized boats would be located on Daingerfield Island, east of the George Washington Memorial Parkway, just south of Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport, and adjacent to Washington Sailing Marina. Under this alternative, both the boathouse facility and docks for non-motorized boats would be located on the same site, adjacent to the Potomac River.

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Purpose and Need

The purpose of taking action is to identify a preferred site for construction of an environmentally sustainable public boathouse facility for non-motorized boats along the Virginia shoreline, while ensuring the protection of park natural and cultural resources, as well as visitor safety.

The selection of a preferred site and construction of a boathouse is needed to meet the direction of Congress for providing enhanced public waterfront access in the proximity of Arlington County. The construction of a boathouse facility is also needed to increase access along the Virginia shoreline for non-motorized water-based recreational activities on the Potomac River and to alleviate pressure on other area boathouses, which are currently at maximum capacity.

Project History

1993 — Arlington County completes Arlington County Riverfront Inventory and Analysis Water-Based Recreational Facility Task Force Appointed

1995 — Water-Based Recreational Facility Task Force completes Feasibility Study for a Boathouse Facility

1998 — Congress directs NPS to study potential sites

1999 — NPS begins feasibility study and needs assessment survey

2000 — NPS conducts a Public Open House

2002 — NPS issues Facility & Site Analysis for a Boathouse on the Potomac River in Arlington County and Vicinity identifying a need for an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

May 2004 — Notice of Intent for the EIS published in the Federal Register

June 2004 — Public Meeting/ Open House for the EIS

Summer 2004 — Field Work and Completion of Individual Resource Studies Decision to Prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA), instead of an EIS

Summer 2006 — EA put on hold

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NEPA and Where We are in the Process

NPS is preparing this EIS in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), which requires federal agencies to analyze impacts to the natural and human environment for any major federal actions, such as the proposed construction of this boathouse. The following table highlights important steps in the NEPA process and a tentative schedule:

Next Steps	
June 2012	Notice of Intent to re-initiate EIS published in Federal Register
June - August 2012	Public Scoping Period
July 2012	Public Scoping Meeting (We are here)
Summer/ Winter 2012	Draft EIS preparation
Winter 2012/ 2013	Draft EIS distribution
Winter/ Spring 2013	Public Review of Draft EIS and Public Meeting
Fall 2013	Prepare and Distribute Final EIS
Winter 2013	Record of Decision



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How to Comment

NPS is seeking comments on the preliminary alternatives or other aspects of the EIS. Specifically, NPS would like your input on the following questions:

- 1) If you intend to use the facility, what would your requirements be?
- 2) Do you have any concerns regarding the preliminary alternatives and proposed site locations presented?
- 3) What additional information or other comments do you have?

Please submit comments through the project website at
<http://parkplanning.nps.gov/arlingtonboathouse>,
or send your comments to:

Superintendent
Attn: Arlington County & Vicinity Boathouse EIS
George Washington Memorial Parkway
700 George Washington Memorial Parkway
Turkey Run Park Headquarters
McLean, Virginia 22101

The comment period will close August 31, 2012.

Please include your full name and e-mail/address with your comments so we may add you to our mailing list for future notices about this process. Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, however, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

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Potential Impact Topics

Potential impact topics address those resources that are currently affected or could be affected by the proposed construction of a non-motorized boathouse facility in Arlington County and vicinity.

- Soils
- Water quality
- Vegetation — including important communities (e.g., riparian) and invasive plant species
- Wildlife and wildlife habitat
- Land use
- Socioeconomics
- Environmental justice
- Visitor use and experience
- Views/ vistas
- Traffic
- Cultural resources (Archeological sites, landscapes, structures)
- Health and safety
- Park management and operations

