



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

National Capital Region
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Feasibility Study to Implement a Non-Motorized Boathouse Zone Along the Georgetown Waterfront

Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park and Rock Creek Park

The National Park Service (NPS) is examining the feasibility of implementing a non-motorized boathouse zone within the District of Columbia along the Potomac River waterfront upstream of the Georgetown Waterfront Park.

The project area includes the waterfront land from immediately upstream of the Georgetown Waterfront Park at 34th Street, to approximately 1,200 feet upstream of the Key Bridge, including federal properties north of Water Street / K Street. The purpose of this study is to identify specific ways NPS can enhance access to the river for user groups, and complement the riverside experiences provided by the Georgetown Waterfront Park, part of Rock Creek Park, and the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park.

Through this feasibility study, NPS will be studying what structures and facilities can potentially be accommodated within this non-motorized boathouse zone (project area). The study will look at potential scenarios related to the waterfront that are consistent with the necessary and appropriate uses for this zone. This study will lay the groundwork for future decision-making regarding (1) further planning and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)/National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) compliance as necessary to implement the non-motorized boathouse zone; and (2) potential development/improvement of NPS facilities.



UNDER THE KEY BRIDGE - PHOTO CREDIT: THE LOUIS BERGER GROUP, INC.

COME LEARN ABOUT THE STUDY!

A public informational meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 13, 2011, from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at the Washington Harbour, 3050 K Street, NW, Suite 200, Washington, DC 20007. The meeting will consist of an open house with a short presentation. NPS staff will be on hand to visit with you and answer questions. NPS will not be accepting public comments at this informational meeting.



GEORGETOWN WATERFRONT NON-MOTORIZED BOATHOUSE ZONE FEASIBILITY STUDY

What this Study Entails

THROUGH THIS STUDY, NPS WILL EXAMINE:

- What facilities and uses can be accommodated in the zone?
- How many facilities can be accommodated, and where might they be placed?
- Capacity of potential structures for boat storage, docks, and related facilities.
- Size and massing rather than architectural design of potential structures.
- Accommodation of multiple non-motorized boating disciplines such as rowing, canoeing, and other paddling.
- Accommodation of other uses such as walking, hiking, biking, and passive recreation.
- Access for emergency and other vehicles, such as boat trailers.
- Constraints and potential conflicts among the various land and water users in the area.

History of the Non-Motorized Boathouse Zone

1980	1985	1986	1987	1989	1995	1999 & 2000	2006	2007	2008	2011
Interest in non-motorized boating on the Potomac River, particularly rowing, canoeing, and other paddling sports, started growing coinciding with improved water quality.	NPS conducted studies to assess the demand for rowing facilities.	The plan for Georgetown Waterfront Park was approved by the National Capital Planning Commission, Commission of Fine Arts, and the DC City Council, establishing a non-motorized boathouse zone along the Potomac River in Georgetown.	NPS study assessed the demand and overall need for new boathouses along the Potomac and Anacostia rivers. The plan for Georgetown Waterfront Park was completed, and it included the development of a public waterfront park. The plan also illustrated a proposed boathouse site for Georgetown University in the proposed zone.	The Non-Motorized Boating Study, in which NPS recognized the growing demand for rowing nationwide, was completed. NPS concluded that there was a need for two additional boathouses (one for George Washington University and one for NPS) in addition to the proposed Georgetown University boathouse.	An Environmental Assessment (EA) was prepared for a proposed land exchange between NPS and Georgetown University and concluded with a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).	A Supplemental Report was prepared that reaffirmed the findings of the 1989 Non-Motorized Boating Study, and recommended three sites to be further evaluated: one for Georgetown University, one for institutional rowing, and one to be concessionaire-operated.	An EA was prepared for the construction of the proposed Georgetown University boathouse. Due to the volume and extent of comment, NPS determined that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) would be the appropriate NEPA pathway.	NPS started the EIS process for the proposed Georgetown University boathouse, but it was put on hold in 2008 pending further study of the non-motorized boathouse zone.	First section of the Georgetown Waterfront Park was opened to the public.	Final phase of the Georgetown Waterfront Park was opened to the public. The feasibility study to implement the non-motorized boathouse zone began.

Currently, there are existing facilities within the non-motorized boathouse zone, including the Washington Canoe Club, Jack's Boathouse, and the Potomac Boat Club. There is also riverfront green space and a site historically occupied by Dempsey's Boathouse, which washed away in a flood in the 1930s.



GEORGETOWN WATERFRONT - PHOTO CREDIT: THE LOUIS BERGER GROUP, INC.

NEXT STEPS FOR NPS

JANUARY 2012

Conducting interviews with key stakeholders, including rowers, canoeists, and paddlers and their related programs, as well as users of the Capital Crescent Trail and the towpath, the Georgetown Waterfront Park, and others.

FEBRUARY 2012

Conducting planning workshops with other stakeholders and the public to explore how best to accommodate the many uses and users in the available area.

SPRING/ SUMMER 2012

Developing the feasibility study.

LATE SUMMER/ EARLY FALL 2012

Holding additional public meetings to share the results of the feasibility study with the public.