



Georgetown Nonmotorized Boathouse Zone Development Plan

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND
SECTION 106 OF THE NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT

January 2015

You're Invited!

The National Park Service (NPS) is developing an implementation plan for nonmotorized boating facilities and related park improvements in the western section of Georgetown Waterfront Park in Washington, D.C. The 1987 Plan for the Georgetown Waterfront Park and the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park established a zone for boathouse facilities that has not yet been implemented. The need for such facilities was confirmed in the 2013 Feasibility Study for a Nonmotorized Boathouse Zone.

The proposed project area extends from 34th Street, NW within Georgetown Waterfront Park to approximately a quarter-mile upriver from Key Bridge. The project area encompasses both public and private land including portions of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park, Rock Creek Park, and several privately-owned parcels (the Potomac Boat Club, several private residences, and a small parcel accessible from the shoreline only).

At this time, the NPS is announcing a public scoping meeting and a 30-day public scoping period to solicit public comments on this proposal. You are invited to attend the meeting and identify any issues or concerns you might have with the proposed project so that the NPS can appropriately consider them in the preparation of the Environmental Assessment.

MEETING INFORMATION

The public scoping meeting will be held:
Wednesday, February 4, 2015
6:00pm to 8:00 pm
Palisades Public Library
4901 V Street, NW
Washington, DC 20007



PURPOSE & NEED

The purpose of this project is to establish a Potomac River recreation zone that more fully supports non-motorized recreation, increases the public's access to the river, improves functionality of the Capital Crescent Trail (CCT) as it connects to the Georgetown Waterfront Park, and respects the historic character, natural resources, and existing recreational use of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park and Rock Creek Park.

The 1987 Plan for the Georgetown Waterfront Park and the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park established a zone for rowers and paddlers along the Potomac River from 34th Street, NW to ¼ mile upriver from Key Bridge within the District. The need for such facilities and for other park improvements was confirmed in the 2013 Feasibility Study for a Nonmotorized Boathouse Zone, which found that:

- There are limited public access points for non-motorized boating and paddle sports along the Georgetown waterfront;
- There is increasing popularity for non-motorized water sports (canoeing, kayaking, rowing, paddle boarding, etc.) within this area;
- Current boathouse facilities that provide access to the river, as well as other amenities (boat storage, concessions, access facilities, boat rentals, beach, and docks) in this vicinity are being run at full capacity and demand is expected to increase; and
- Current condition of the CCT and its connection to Georgetown does not provide safe and compatible transition for pedestrians and bicyclists as they move from the trail through the nonmotorized boathouse zone, and on to Georgetown Waterfront Park.

PRELIMINARY ALTERNATIVES

These preliminary alternatives will be further developed and refined with ideas that are collected during the public comment period. We want your input regarding these alternatives.

DEVELOPMENT OF PRELIMINARY ALTERNATIVES

Preliminary alternatives were developed during the EA internal scoping process taking into consideration known issues, public input gathered during the 2013 Feasibility Study for a Nonmotorized Boathouse Zone, past and present planning efforts, and alternative management approaches.

Issues, including:

- Physical site constraints
- Existing facilities and uses
- Balancing diverse user demands
- Vehicular and pedestrian access
- Safety and use conflict in the project area
- Land ownership

Past and Present Planning efforts, including:

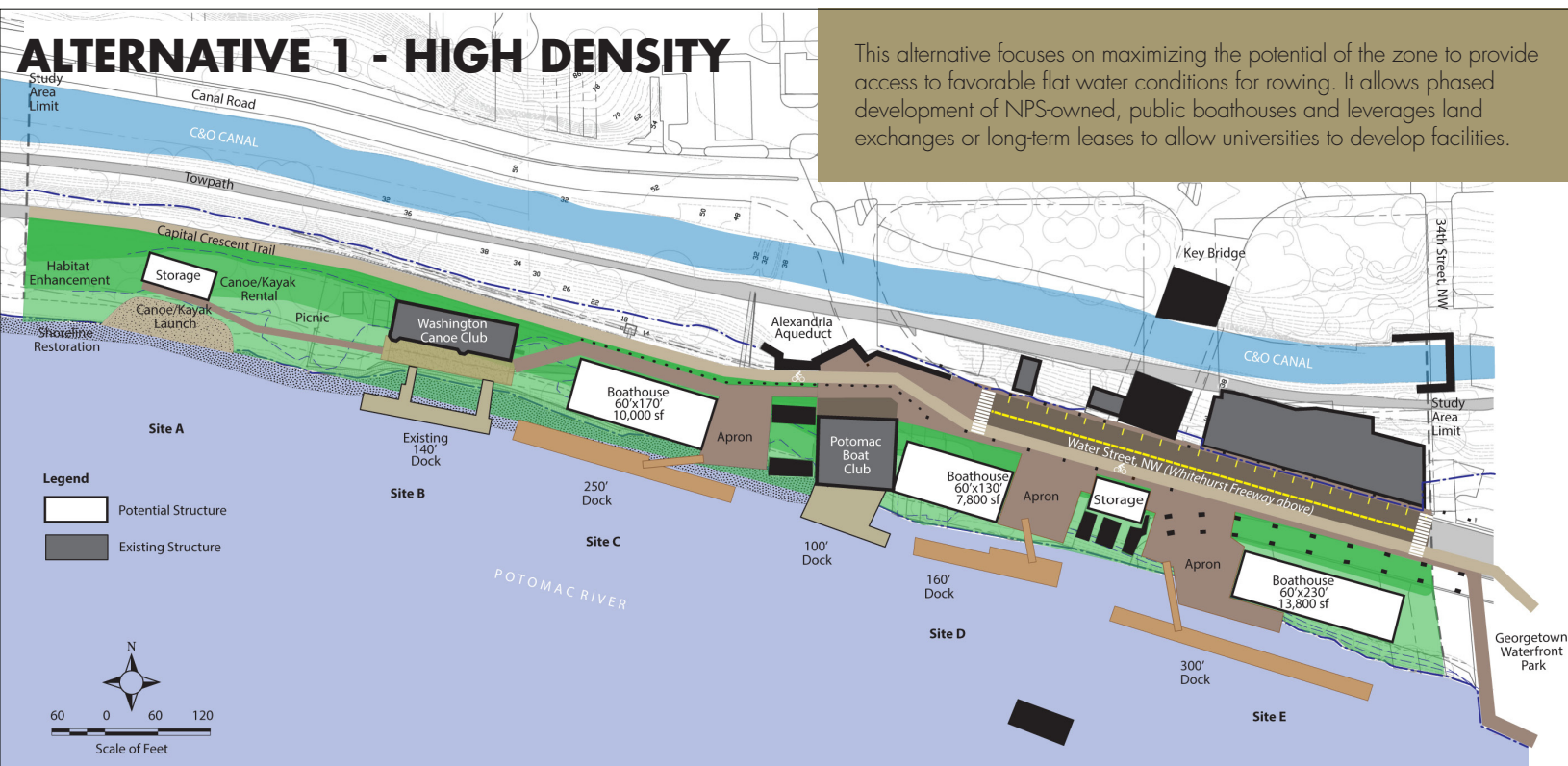
- Studies of Nonmotorized Boating Activities along the Georgetown Waterfront - 1985, 1989, 2000
- Plan for the Georgetown Waterfront Park and the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park - 1987
- Nonmotorized Boathouse Zone Feasibility Study - 2013
- Arlington Boathouse Environmental Impact Statement - ongoing

Public Comments received on the 2013 Feasibility Study, including input on:

- Use of the facilities
- Facility configuration and needs
- Development intensity

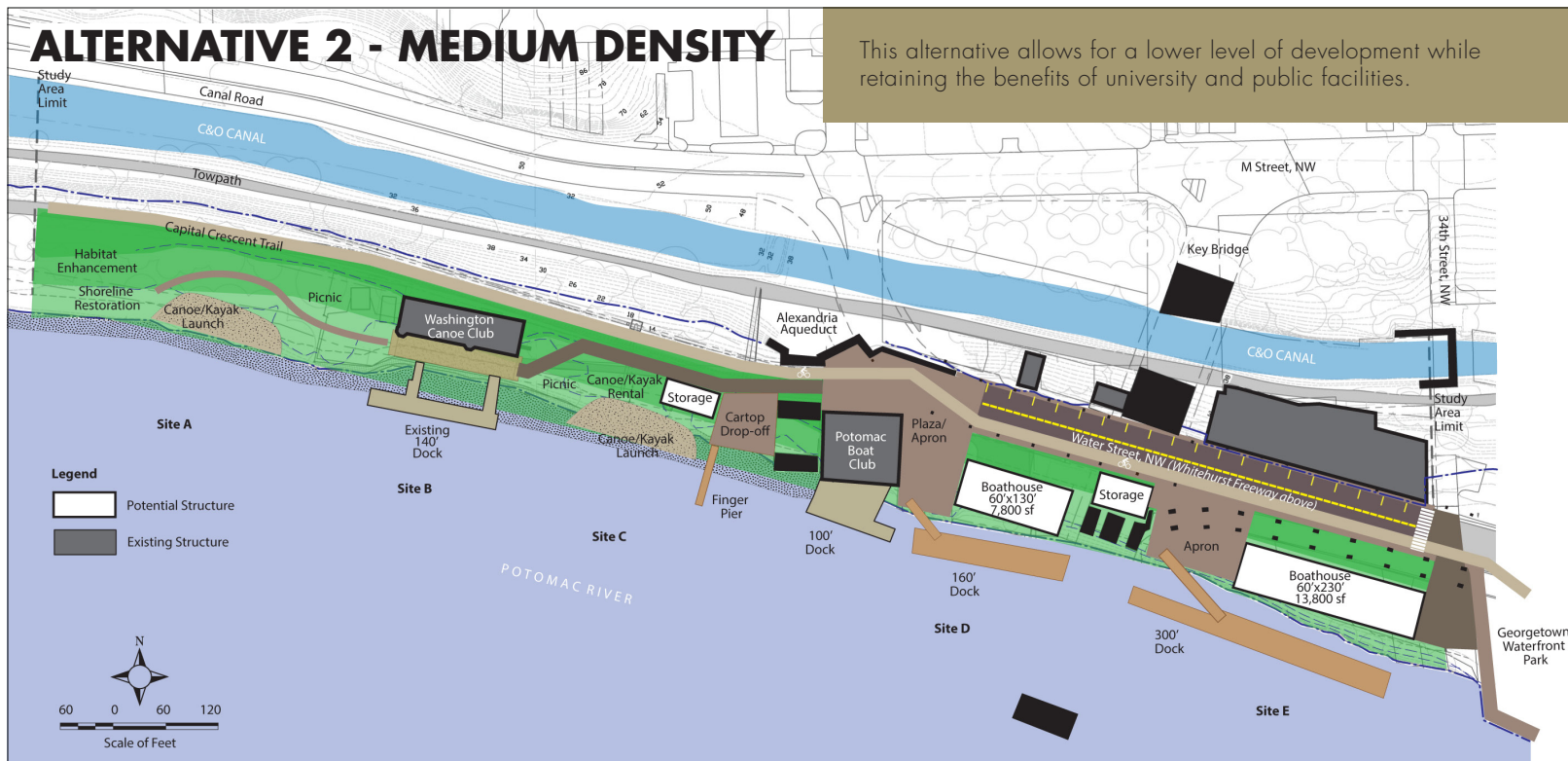
Alternative partnership/management, including:

- Cooperative management of new facilities by educational institutions
- Land management for new facilities (land exchanges, leases, partnerships, etc.)



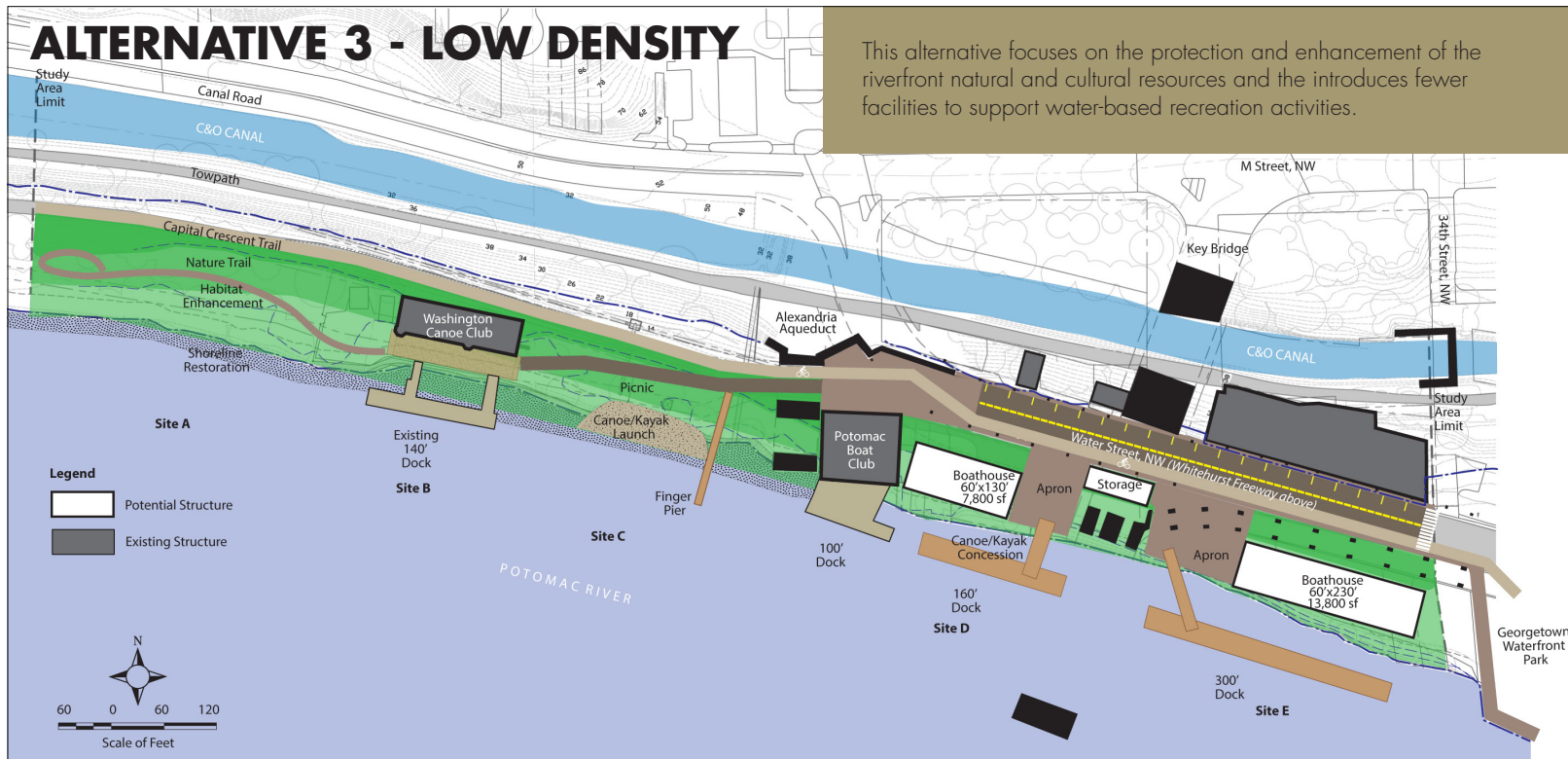
ALTERNATIVE 2 - MEDIUM DENSITY

This alternative allows for a lower level of development while retaining the benefits of university and public facilities.



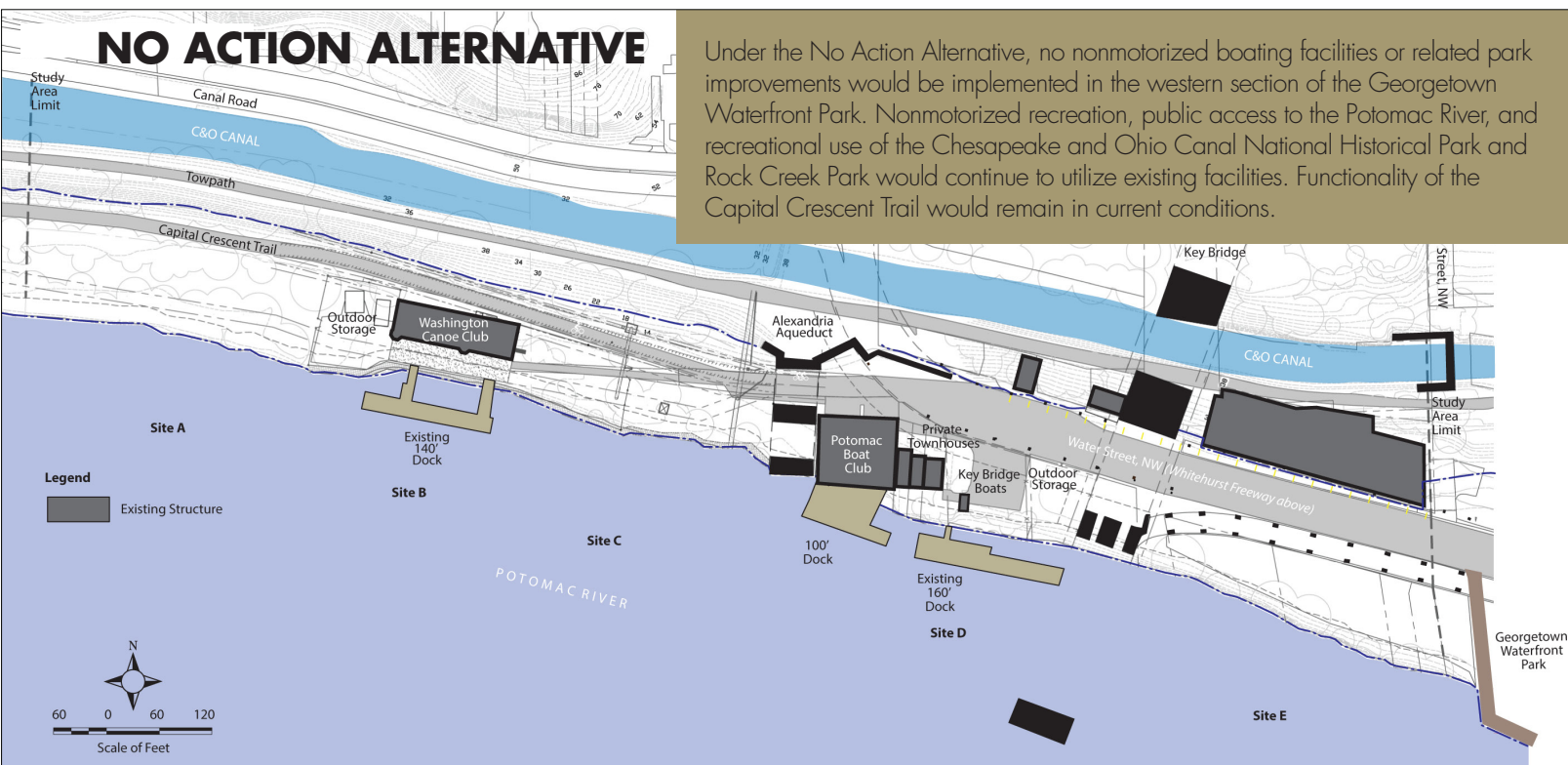
ALTERNATIVE 3 - LOW DENSITY

This alternative focuses on the protection and enhancement of the riverfront natural and cultural resources and the introduces fewer facilities to support water-based recreation activities.



NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE

Under the No Action Alternative, no nonmotorized boating facilities or related park improvements would be implemented in the western section of the Georgetown Waterfront Park. Nonmotorized recreation, public access to the Potomac River, and recreational use of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park and Rock Creek Park would continue to utilize existing facilities. Functionality of the Capital Crescent Trail would remain in current conditions.



NEPA + SECTION 106 PROCESS

WE ARE HERE

STEP 1 PROJECT INITIATION

- Develop Purpose & Need
- Develop Preliminary Alternatives
- Public Scoping

STEP 2 DATA COLLECTION

- Analysis of Existing Conditions
- Identify Needed Studies

STEP 3 ALTERNATIVES/ANALYSIS

- Refine and Analyze a Range of Alternatives

STEP 4 PRODUCE DOCUMENT

- Release EA to Public, including proposed Environmental Mitigation Measures
- 30-day public comment period

STEP 5 DECISION

- Review all public comments received on the EA and respond to comments
- Decision Document (Finding of No Significant Impact [FONSI], as appropriate)

PUBLIC + AGENCY INVOLVEMENT

Public/Agency
Involvement + Coordination

Public Involvement +
Comment Analysis

SECTION 106 PROCESS

STEP 1

Initiate Section 106 review

STEP 2

Identify historic properties

STEP 3

Avoid, minimize, and/or
mitigate any adverse effects

STEP 4

Incorporate Agreement Document into
the Final NEPA Decision Making Process

HOW TO PROVIDE COMMENTS

You may provide your comments at the meeting, via the project website, or by completing and mailing the comment form to NPS. Please provide comments by **February 19, 2015**.

www.parkplanning.nps.gov/nmbzea

OR

ATTN: Georgetown Nonmotorized Boathouse
Zone Development Plan
Tammy Stidham
1100 Ohio Drive SW
Washington, DC 20242