

Boathouse Update

Arlington Boathouse Foundation

December 2002

NPS Releases Feasibility Study for Arlington Boathouse

The *Facility & Site Analysis for a Boathouse on the Potomac River in Arlington County and Vicinity* was released

by the National Park Service (NPS) in August 2002. The study was initiated specifically at the request of Congress for assessing the potential siting of a boathouse within Arlington County along the Potomac River. Based on that direction, the NPS is considering allowing the construction and operation of a rowing

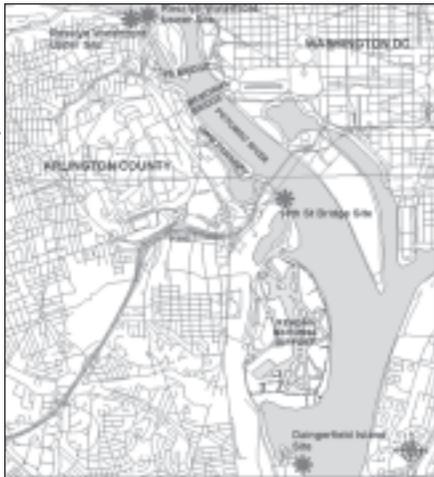
facility on the Potomac River that would include rowing equipment storage and

training facilities for the three Arlington County high school rowing programs. In addition, the facility may provide storage facilities and river access for others. The study is intended to determine the potential of locating such a facility at three areas along the Potomac River: the Rosslyn waterfront, downstream of the 14th Street bridges and along the shoreline of Daingerfield Island.

The steps undertaken to develop a program for the boathouse included a review of the study prepared by Arlington County's Water-based Recreational Facility Task Force in 1995, feedback from crew coaches at the three Arlington public high schools, and a study of three area boat-

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Courtesy of National Park Service



The stars indicate the four sites under consideration in the National Park Service study.

1101 Lee Highway Site Found Feasible

The *Facility and Site Analysis for a Boathouse on the Potomac River in Arlington County and Vicinity* (Prepared by DAW / RKK for the National Park Service in August 2002) included property known as 1101 Lee Highway as the "Rosslyn Waterfront Upper Site". It is a privately owned, open parcel of land adjacent to the old National Park Service maintenance yard near the top of the pedestrian/bicycle bridge over the George Washington

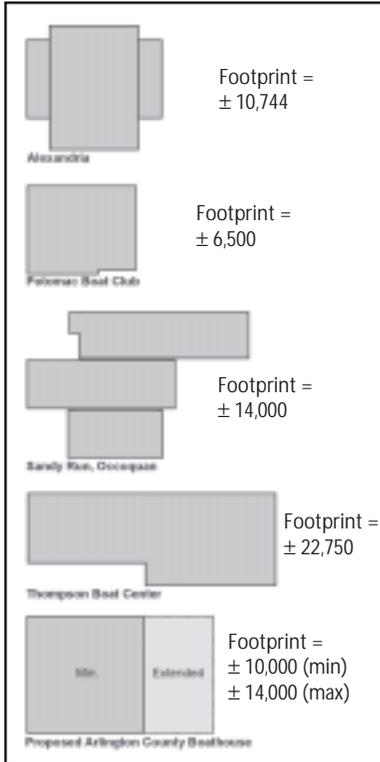
Memorial Parkway. The study found a boathouse at this site to be feasible, with the boathouse and rigging area constructed at the upper level with a staging area and docks on the waterfront. The study suggested that a second bridge across the George Washington Memorial Parkway, designed specifically for the use of rowers, could be required.

As reported in the *Boathouse Update*

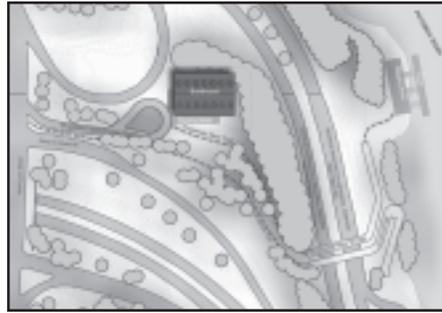
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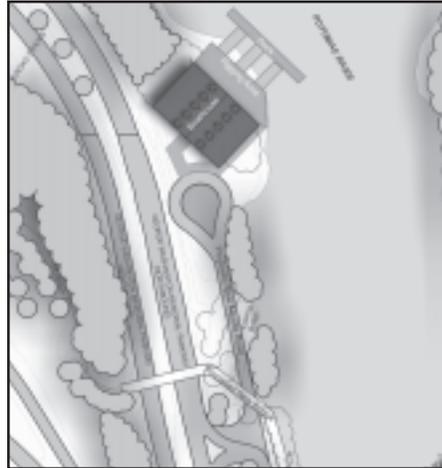




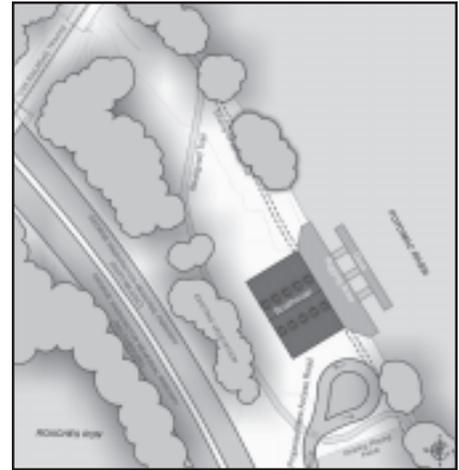
Comparison of four existing area boathouses and the proposed Arlington Boathouse (actual design still to be determined).



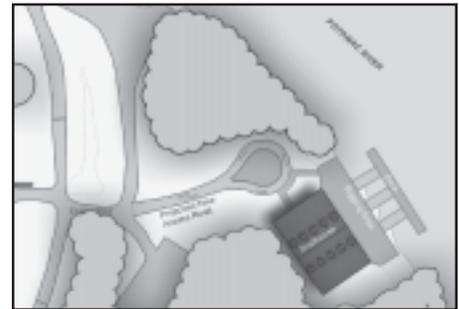
Rosslyn — Upper Site



Rosslyn — Lower Site



14th Street Bridge Site



Daingerfield Island Site

Conceptual site plan of each of the four sites considered in the NPS study.

Feasibility Study

► *Continued from front page*

houses and one area boat club. Input received during the public scoping session of Winter 2000 helped identify the various issues with locating a boathouse along the Potomac River.

Public comments related to the potential program included encouraging boathouse and river access to the general public and not just restricted to the use of the Arlington high schools. Site specific comments related to rowing conditions, proximity to the high schools, transportation access, environmental issues, aesthetic concerns and cultural/historical factors. Most commentators agreed that water conditions in the vicinity of the Rosslyn waterfront were the safest for rowing. Weather conditions and conflicting uses downstream were identified as making rowing more difficult at the downstream sites.

A facility and site analysis was completed for four alternative sites at the three identified locations: 1) Rosslyn waterfront lower site, 2) Rosslyn waterfront upper site, 3) south of the 14th Street bridges, and 4) Daingerfield Island. All sites appeared capable of accommodating a minimum and maximum boat-

house with a footprint ranging from 10,000 -14,000 square feet. Therefore, the next step as stated by the NPS will be to proceed with an Environmental Assessment of the site (a NEPA study and a National Historic Preservation Act Section 106). 🏠

The Complete study is available online at:

<http://www.nps.gov/gwmp/boathouse/>

An Arlington Community Boathouse will provide:

- a home for the rowing programs of the three Arlington public high schools, other area schools, and community rowing and paddling organizations.
- storage for individual shells, canoes & kayaks.
- opportunities for area citizens and visitors to enjoy non-motorized boating through recreational and instructional programs, and canoe and shell rentals.
- important educational opportunities for the preservation and protection of the Potomac River and the Chesapeake Bay.

Boathouses Considered for Georgetown Waterfront Park

Detailed planning for the new (and long-awaited) Georgetown Waterfront Park has now begun in earnest. This fall the National Park Service hired Wallace Roberts Todd (WRT), a Philadelphia architectural firm, to draw up plans for the Georgetown Waterfront Park. One of the elements that the Park Service asked WRT to consider is boathouse space.

On November 6, 2002, WRT made an initial "work in progress" presentation to a public meeting of the Design Committee of the Georgetown Waterfront Commission. WRT presented several possible plans for the park, each of which contained space for two boathouses — one each for the high schools and George Washington University.

Fourteen DC-area high schools have crews that row on the Potomac River near Georgetown. Thirteen of these schools row out of Thompson Boat Center (TBC), which is also home to several college crews and several active club programs.

The number of high school rowers on this stretch of river has almost quadrupled since 1985. The TBC high

school crews own about 75 boats, most of which are stored outside in a temporary fenced area known affectionately as "The Compound." The storage space will soon shrink dramatically as a new Swedish Embassy will be built at the Compound site, with construction beginning in 2005 or before. Without new space, the high school crews will be in serious trouble.

On the positive side, Georgetown University is planning to begin building a new boathouse above Key Bridge in 2003 (see architect's drawing below). ▲



WHO WE ARE

The **Arlington Boathouse Coalition** is a local citizen group comprised of alumni of the Arlington high school rowing programs, their parents and neighbors, and other local citizens, rowers and non-rowers, who support the idea of Arlington access to the Potomac River.

The **Arlington Boathouse Foundation**, registered with the State Corporation Commission in 1991, is the legal entity that has been established to receive and disburse money in support of an Arlington Community Boat-house. The current Directors are Carl Anderson, Edward Holland, John McDermott, Conchita Mitchell, Nancy Butt Packard, Carole Robinson, Allyson Rowell, Robert Swennes, and Charles Veatch.

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