

# Boathouse Update

Arlington Boathouse Foundation

June 2004

## NPS Launches NEPA Study of Sites *Public Open House to Be Held June 21, 2004*

The National Park Service has announced the initiation of the *Environment Impact Statement (EIS) for Arlington County & Vicinity Rowing Facility*.

A contract was issued to HNTB on January 30, 2004 to conduct a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) study of four potential boathouse sites on the Virginia shore of the Potomac River. Two are located on or near the Rosslyn shoreline. The third location is south of the CSX/14th Street Bridges; the fourth is on Daingerfield Island in Alexandria. Each

site was found to be feasible for a potential boathouse in the 2002 NPS study entitled *Facility & Site Analysis for a Boathouse on the Potomac River in Arlington County and Vicinity*. The 2002 analysis was initiated specifically at the request of Congress for assessing a potential siting of a boathouse within Arlington County along the Potomac River.

The goal of the EIS is to study the four sites identified in the 2002 *Facility & Site Analysis* and to determine a preferred

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## County to Consider Two Rosslyn Sites

The Rosslyn lower site for the Arlington boathouse is on the river shoreline just north of the parking lot for Theodore Roosevelt Island. The Rosslyn upper site is to the east of N. Lynn Street in Rosslyn, known as 1101 Lee Highway.

1101 Lee Highway is a privately owned parcel. A site plan for development of a high-rise residential building on the property has been filed. The proposal is currently under study by the Site Plan Review Committee of the Arlington County Planning Commission. The development proposal is tentatively scheduled to be heard by the Planning Commission on June 28, 2004 and by the

County Board on July 10, 2004.

To view the current Site Plan Review Committee schedule, go to the web site: [http://www.co.arlington.va.us/cphd/planning/applications/site\\_plans/SPRC\\_schedule.htm](http://www.co.arlington.va.us/cphd/planning/applications/site_plans/SPRC_schedule.htm)

For more information on the Site Plan review process, go to the Arlington County Planning Division's web site on Development Proposals/Site Plans: [http://www.co.arlington.va.us/cphd/planning/applications/site\\_plans/index.htm](http://www.co.arlington.va.us/cphd/planning/applications/site_plans/index.htm)

For more information on the Arlington County Planning Commission, go to their web site: <http://www.co.arlington.va.us/cphd/planning/commission/index.htm>

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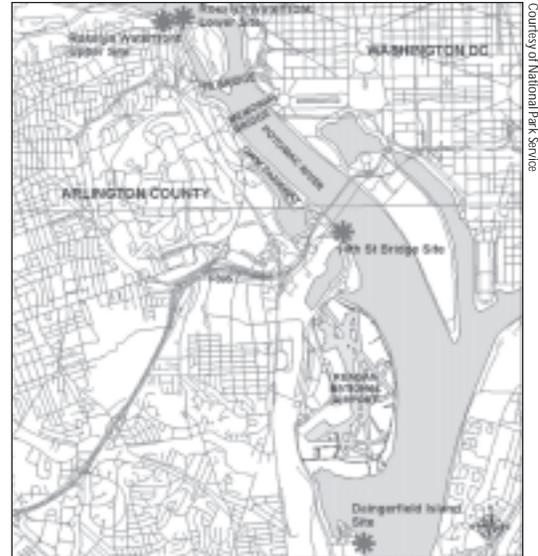


# Public Meeting/Open House for Boathouse EIS

► *Continued from front page*

alternative according to NEPA guidelines and NPS policies and mandates. A draft EIS is expected to be completed by summer 2005.

The first public open house will be held June 21, 2004 from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Arlington County Government Building, 2100 Clarendon Blvd., Conference Rooms C & D in the lobby. (Metro: Orange Line to Court House Station; parking is available in the building.) For more information, please contact Deborah Feldman, NPS Park Planner at 703-289-2500 or [Deborah\\_Feldman@nps.gov](mailto:Deborah_Feldman@nps.gov), or [www.nps.gov/gwmp/boathouse](http://www.nps.gov/gwmp/boathouse). Links to the NEPA study contract and to the earlier feasibility study are available at [www.arlingtonboathouse.org](http://www.arlingtonboathouse.org).



The stars indicate the four sites to be considered in the NPS study.

## Public Input Critical

The role of public involvement in the NEPA process is to review the planning process and comment during periodic comment periods or anytime throughout the process when beneficial input is helpful. The role of

individual citizens and interest groups is to actively participate in the process by informing the NPS about issues, concerns and opportunities regarding the alternative sites proposed for assessment.

## Why a Boathouse in Arlington?

The need for new water facilities is at an all-time high, due to an increase in participation in all water sports and across all age



groups. Currently, all of the boat clubs on the Potomac River have membership waiting lists that are several years long. Despite the recent dramatic interest in water sports, no new facilities have been created to meet the ever-growing demand.

Arlington residents currently use all of the Washington, D.C. and Alexandria boathouses for rowing or paddling. Despite abundant waterfront property, Arlington is the only local county without waterfront access for rowing and paddling. Current access points to

the river include Columbia Island power boat marina and Gravelly Point where people go to watch aircraft arrive and take off from the airport. A 1993 Arlington Riverfront Inventory & Analysis found that the most prevalent access was via pedestrian and bike trails that parallel the Potomac River.



# 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.

## 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 Boathouse. 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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With your help, the dream of an Arlington boathouse will become a reality.

Enclosed is my tax-deductible contribution in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Organization or business \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (indicate day or evening) \_\_\_\_\_

- Add my name to your mailing list for *Boathouse Update*.
- Please send me a bumper sticker (I contributed \$25 or more).
- I would like to write grant proposals.
- I would like to assist with fund-raising.
- I would like to provide annual audit.
- I would like to assist with outreach activities.
- Please call me about other ways I can help this effort.



**BUILD A BOATHOUSE  
IN ARLINGTON**  
www.arlingtonboathouse.org

To obtain additional bumper stickers or newsletters for events, please contact Carole Robinson at 703-525-4583 or email to: [robinsonce@aol.com](mailto:robinsonce@aol.com)

Make check payable to the Arlington Boathouse Foundation, Inc. and mail it to P.O. Box 7585, Arlington, VA 22207

The Arlington Boathouse Foundation, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

**Tel:** 703-525-4583    **Fax:** 703-243-6172    **Web site:** [www.arlingtonboathouse.org](http://www.arlingtonboathouse.org)

# Arlingtonians Want More Access to Potomac River, More Boating, and a Boathouse!

In June 2002, Arlington County commissioned a "Parks and Recreation Citizen Survey" of nearly 1,000 Arlington households. Here are responses to several questions relating to the Potomac River and an Arlington boathouse.

Question: *Which of 54 leisure activities and recreation programs would households participate in more often if more were available in Arlington?*

**Arlington's Answer:** Boating, Canoeing, Kayaking & Rowing in top 5

Question: *How important is each of 21 possible new park and recreation facilities Arlington could develop?*

**Arlington's Answers:**

Acquire Land for New Parks

(55% VERY IMPORTANT plus 24% SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT: = 79% TOTAL)

Improving Connections to the Potomac River

(39% VERY IMPORTANT plus 30% SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT = 69% TOTAL)

Boathouse

(22% VERY IMPORTANT plus 38 % SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT = 60% TOTAL)

Question: *Which would you use most if developed?*

**Arlington's Answer:**

Improving Connections to the Potomac River in top 3

Boathouse in top 7

Question : *Of five issues, which are the two most important to you and your household relating the preservation and protection of the natural environment in Arlington County?*

**Arlington's Answer:**

NUMBER 1 = The County should take an active role in WATERSHED PROTECTION and PROTECTING WATER QUALITY.

(Source: June 2002 Arlington "Parks and Recreation Citizen Survey" - survey of nearly 1,000 Arlington Households, statistically valid sample for all types of residents by Leisure Vision/ETC Institute)

*If you received more than one copy of this newsletter, please share it with a neighbor.*

ENCLOSED: Boathouse Update

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