

SAVE WASHINGTON, D.C.'s GEORGETOWN
WATERFRONT AS A PUBLIC PARK

The undersigned organizations recommend that all of the land along the Georgetown Waterfront from K Street to the Potomac River and from Key Bridge to Rock Creek be devoted to public park purposes under the jurisdiction of the National Park Service.

We strongly oppose the development of any of this land for residential or commercial purposes, as currently proposed. We believe that any such construction in this area would be unwise and contrary to the public interest for two basic reasons: First, all of the land is urgently needed as a public waterfront park for the enjoyment of present and future citizens of, and visitors to, the National Capital Area, as well as for protecting the environmental quality of the Potomac River and its shoreline. Many recreation-deprived Washington residents would have access to the park. Second, the land is entirely within a floodplain. Since it is national policy to discourage development on floodplains, any departure from such policy in the Nation's Capital would set a most unfortunate precedent.

This land meets the highest priority urban recreation needs identified by numerous studies -- namely, close-to-home and water-oriented recreation. The demand for close-to-home recreation opportunities takes on new significance each day, as the rising price and scarcity of gasoline sharply reduce travel to more distant areas and increase pressure on urban parks.

We are pleased to note that the District of Columbia Government recently has endorsed use of the entire Georgetown Waterfront as a park. We urge all persons and authorities, public and private, having responsibilities or interests in this matter to pursue this important objective.

The following organizations have endorsed this statement:

American Littoral Society	National Board of the YWCA
Audubon Naturalist Society of the Central Atlantic States	of the U.S.A.
American Rivers Conservation Council	National Council of La Raza
Center for Community Change	National Council of Negro Women
Coast Alliance	National Recreation & Park Assn.
Contact, Inc.	National Urban Coalition
Defenders of Wildlife	National Wildlife Federation
Environmental Action	Potomac Area Council, American Youth Hostels
Environmental Defense Fund	Public Lands Institute
Environmental Policy Center	Sierra Club (national) & Metropolitan Washington Group
Friends of the Earth	Urban Environment Conference and Foundation
Izaak Walton League of America	Washington Area Bicyclist Association
National Audubon Society	Wilderness Society