

RESOLUTION OF ARLINGTON COUNTY CIVIC  
FEDERATION REGARDING USE OF 1101 LEE HIGHWAY  
PROPERTY IN ROSSLYN

WHEREAS: In 2014, the Arlington County government purchased a privately-owned property located at 1101 Lee Highway in Rosslyn.

WHEREAS: The 1101 Lee Highway property presently contains a upland woodland that is located east of N. Lynn Street between the George Washington Memorial Parkway to the north and I-66 to the south.

WHEREAS: The property's natural area is presently visible and accessible to the many users of the nearby Custis Trail.

WHEREAS: The County's May 13, 2014, news release that announced the County Board's approval of the property's acquisition stated that the County was considering using the property as:

(1) an ancillary boathouse facility containing educational and recreation facilities that would complement a potential lower boathouse site on the Potomac River shoreline;

(2) a possible realignment of a bicycle trail to improve safety and access; and,

(3) an open space for passive recreation use

([newsroom.arlingtonva.us/release/county-board-approves-acquisition-of-lee-highway-property-along-potomac-river/](http://newsroom.arlingtonva.us/release/county-board-approves-acquisition-of-lee-highway-property-along-potomac-river/)).

WHEREAS: The County’s 2014 news release stated: “ Any planning efforts will include a comprehensive public process.”

WHEREAS: At its regularly scheduled meeting on December 5, 1995, the Arlington County Civic Federation passed a resolution recommending that a boathouse not be built at the shoreline site below Rosslyn and across from Theodore Roosevelt Island (the Lower Rosslyn Site) because of its adverse environmental impacts on the shoreline and nearby natural areas ([www.civfed.org/boathouse.htm](http://www.civfed.org/boathouse.htm)).

WHEREAS: The Civic Federation reaffirmed its opposition to the construction of a boathouse at the Lower Rosslyn Site in a March 12, 1998, letter to the Chairman and other members of the Arlington County Board and in a July 22, 2004, letter to the Superintendent of the National Park Service’s George Washington Memorial Parkway ([www.civfed.org/boathouse.htm](http://www.civfed.org/boathouse.htm)).

WHEREAS, in May 2018, the National Park Service (NPS) issued a draft environmental assessment (EA) for an "Arlington County and Vicinity Non-Motorized Boathouse Facility" ([parkplanning.nps.gov/document.cfm?parkID=186&projectID=13418&documentID=89109](http://parkplanning.nps.gov/document.cfm?parkID=186&projectID=13418&documentID=89109)).

WHEREAS, The draft EA states: “The National Park Service (NPS), in cooperation with the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC) and Arlington County, is evaluating the proposed development of a boathouse and related facilities on the Virginia side of the Potomac River”.

WHEREAS: The “preferred alternative” in the draft EA

identifies the use of the County's 1101 Lee Highway property (the Upper Rosslyn Site) as a support facility for a boathouse to be constructed on the Potomac at the Lower Rosslyn Site.

WHEREAS: The draft EA describes the planned uses for the Upper Rosslyn Site as follows:

“A support facility containing office space, locker rooms, restrooms, and space for education and outreach would be developed on site in Rosslyn out of the floodplain, between Lynn Street, the I-66 off ramp, and the George Washington Memorial Parkway.”

WHEREAS: The draft EA describes another alternative that would construct the boathouse on the Lower Rosslyn Site without using the Upper Rosslyn Site. Under that alternative, the boathouse would have the same footprint and facilities as would the boathouse constructed under the “preferred alternative”.

WHEREAS, There is no need to destroy the County’s natural resources and tree canopy on the 1101 Lee Highway property when a functional boathouse can be constructed at the Lower Rosslyn site without impacting this property.

WHEREAS, The County government has cooperated with the NPS in the development of a “preferred alternative” that would use County property for a boathouse support facility without first conducting the comprehensive public process that the County’s 2014 news release described.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Arlington County Civic Federation urges the Arlington County Board to immediately initiate the comprehensive public planning process that the County's 2014 news release regarding the County's purchase of the 1101 Lee Highway property described.

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, to help assure that the County completes its public planning process for the property in a timely manner, the Arlington County Civic Federation recommends that the Arlington County Board ask the National Park Service to defer any further consideration of the use of the Upper Rosslyn Site for a boathouse support facility until such time as the County government has complete its public planning process for the property.