Public Comments for East Potomac Park Golf Links

Total comments: 308

November 27, 2026 12:11 pm

Name: Angela Beckham
Date: November 27, 2026 12:12:49 pm

I strongly oppose the plan to turn east potomac park into exclusively a large golf course. East Potomac park is my favorite place in DC to ride my bike and run. I have also enjoyed bringing my family there to play mini golf, tennis and for picnics.

Losing the opportunity to do these wonderful things at East Potomac park would make my life as a DC resident, and the lives of many other residents worse.

Please do not allow the development plan to proceed as proposed.

Name: Thomas Ginn
Date: November 27, 2026 9:44:43 am

I'm writing to strongly oppose the proposed changes to East Potomac Park. In the 7 years I've lived in DC, I've spent countless hours playing golf with friends at all skill levels. It's a gathering place for my friends in the DMV and a place I bring friends visiting the area.

One of Trump's arguments for tearing it apart is that the course is in terrible shape. First, it was already scheduled for a renovation, as you know. But second, this misses what I, and so many others, love about public golf. I don't want - much less need - a "championship level course". I love having a set of unpretentious, relatively environmentally friendly courses to play with a group of friends, as do so many others.

The current plan to move to 18 "championship" holes is terrible. First, DC public golf is already so crowded on nice weekends (Langston, Rock Creek, and EP), and it would get so much worse if you approve eliminating at least 18 holes. But realistically, it would be killing all 36 holes, even if this new course ever gets built. The Trump administration blatantly lies about everything - only a fool would believe their promises that DC residents will get discounted rates, and even if that's true, they'll be much more difficult to get.

The most likely outcome is that the courses that we love get destroyed and nothing gets built in its place. The engineering issues are well-documented, and it's obvious this administration won't listen before they destroy it, as we've already seen with tearing down so many trees and skirting court orders. They would tear it apart, and then these "plans" will fall apart in construction before being abandoned.

The administration's plans also include destroying the rest of Hains Point, including the running and bike trails that so many people in this community dearly love. It's unconscionable that as inequality reaches unprecedented levels, anyone would allow one of the most used public parks in the nation's capitals to be destroyed to give Donald Trump what he - and only he - wants. He's the president, but there are supposed to be checks and balances to protect the public interest from madness. In this situation, your committee is one of the most important checks, and it's your responsibility to carry out your duty and reject this insanity. Shame on anyone who supports this abomination.

This proposal is outrageous and completely unacceptable. It's a desecration of public space that outrages almost all of the city's permanent residents, for something only one billionaire who will soon live in Florida wants. We are begging you to stand up to this madness and protect our community.

Name: Eleanor Savage
Date: November 27, 2026 9:22:26 am

One of the things I've always appreciated about living in the DMV is the amount of accessible green spaces there are for all to enjoy for free. This would set a precedent for the President to continue to take away these spaces, as well as loosing such an important location for many people, including myself.

Name: Sean O'Leary
Date: November 27, 2026 9:09:56 am

Subject: Public Comment Opposing the Proposed East Potomac Park Golf Course Redevelopment

Dear Members of the National Capital Planning Commission,

I am writing as a Washington, DC resident, homeowner, competitive distance runner, and new father to express my opposition to the proposed redevelopment of East Potomac Park Golf Course. I urge the Commission to consider the broader implications of this proposal for public access, historic preservation, and the long-term recreational value of one of our city's most treasured public spaces.

As a former Division I collegiate runner who continues to compete in marathons and local road races, including the Cherry Blossom Ten Mile Run, I have come to regard Hains Point as one of Washington's most valuable recreational assets. The Ohio Drive loop is an integral part of my year-round training, as it is for countless members of DC's running community. Its uninterrupted stretches of road, waterfront views, mature cherry trees, and separation from the city's congestion make it an exceptionally special place to run.

But what makes East Potomac Park truly remarkable is that it serves far more than just runners. On any given weekend, I share the park with cyclists, golfers, anglers, birdwatchers, families enjoying picnics, and visitors experiencing our nation's capital. This diversity of use is precisely what makes it such a successful public space, and it should be a central consideration in any planning decision affecting its future.

My wife and I recently purchased a home in Washington and welcomed our first child. As we put down roots in the District, I find myself increasingly appreciative of the public amenities that make this city such a wonderful place to live and raise a family. I look forward to taking my son to Hains Point in the years ahead, whether to ride a bike, learn to play golf, or simply spend an afternoon along the waterfront.

The proposed redevelopment threatens much of what makes those experiences possible. The prospect of replacing accessible golf facilities with a championship-oriented course, removing mature cherry trees, and fundamentally altering Ohio Drive raises serious concerns about whether this project serves the broader public interest.

I recognize that the National Capital Planning Commission has a responsibility to consider federal land use, transportation, historic preservation, and the long-term planning interests of the nation's capital. From that perspective, I believe the proposed redevelopment warrants significant scrutiny. East Potomac Park should not be viewed simply as a golf facility with opportunities for modernization, but as a nationally significant public landscape whose value extends well beyond any single recreational activity.

To be clear, I am not opposed to thoughtful investment in the park or improvements to its golf facilities. However, those investments should complement the park's existing recreational uses rather than come at their expense. A high-quality public golf facility, an accessible waterfront, a beloved running and cycling route, and a historically significant landscape can and should coexist.

Congress intended East Potomac Park to serve the recreation and pleasure of the people. I hope the Commission will uphold that principle by prioritizing public accessibility, preservation of the existing tree canopy, protection of Ohio Drive, and compatibility with the park's historic character.

I respectfully urge the Commission to reject the proposed redevelopment in its current form and support an alternative that better balances recreational improvements with the preservation of this irreplaceable public resource.

Thank you for your consideration and for your work on behalf of the nation's capital.

Sincerely,

Sean O'Leary
Washington, DC

Name: M Hildreth
Date: November 27, 2026 8:56:37 am

Please keep the integrity of the park. We cannot take nature for granted. Incorporating it into urban life is especially important in urban areas. Trees are essential for our well being. The proposed change will take no time. Correcting the change will take a lifetime.

Name: Marchant Wentworth
Date: November 26, 2026 10:16:07 pm

Name: Nicole Mogul
Date: November 26, 2026 10:03:56 pm

Keep Hains Point open to the public. This is a national treasure that belongs to everyone. Closing it for a golf course deprives the people who bike, walk and hike there. Keep it open to the public.

Name: C Conn
Date: November 26, 2026 9:28:03 pm

This is our (DC public) park. I love being able to drive down here and see the cherry blossoms in the spring, and use the playground with my children. I've always felt this was a "secret" bonus to living in DC...because this was an area only known to locals. I've lived in DC for 15+ years, my son was born in DC. I've never heard of this park known as "trash island" and I've never heard of people wanting a championship golf course. I don't play golf but it seems like a great idea to have a place where regular people can learn to love a sport . Please leave this area as it is, there is absolutely no need for a professional golf course.

Name: Jane LINDHOUT
Date: November 26, 2026 8:47:30 pm

“We the people” deserve to have places to gather and recreate. The pros of the world, and their rich buddies don’t need another spot. Believe it or not, there are more of us that wouldn’t be able to play than there are of the rich that wouldn’t be the beneficiaries of this change.
WE THE PEOPLE ask you to consider all of us.

Name: Copeland Smith
Date: November 26, 2026 8:18:37 pm

Please do not turn this park into an expensive private space. It is so important to have spaces that are accessible to the general public. Listen to the masses and do not approve this plan.

Name: Arlo Smith
Date: November 26, 2026 7:57:25 pm

hi I am a 8 year old boy. I think you should save this park for people like me. making it a golf course for rich people is not fair. Thank-you,
Arlo

Name: Joseph LoRusso
Date: November 26, 2026 6:59:48 pm

I urge you to reject the proposed redesign of East Potomac Park Golf Links.

I am a distance runner who uses Hains Point (East Potomac Park) on a regular basis, running the Ohio Drive loop to train for races year-round (especially local races such as: Cherry Blossom Ten Miler, Marine Corps Marathon, DC Half, National Women's Half Marathon and District 19--each of whose respective courses have included the Ohio Drive loop for years, if not decades). I share the park with bikers, birders, anglers, BBQ-ers, tourists, families, and, of course, golfers.

The proposed re-design would destroy this historic landmark. Quite simply, it would eliminate parkland Congress intended for EVERYONE. It would replace 3 golf courses (and a mini-golf course) open to players of all levels, with a championship course for skilled players only...not to mention the catastrophic loss of the park's mature cherry trees and iconic Ohio Drive loop that attracts runners and cyclists from around the world (literally). In fact, according to the popular fitness app Strava, Ohio Drive’s 'Gate to Gate' loop has 2,057,049 cycling attempts by 37,006 people AND 66,463 running attempts by 15,505 people to date. Further, according to Strava's own year-end data, this segment is the SECOND MOST POPULAR STRAVA SEGMENT IN THE U.S. (only bested by NYC’s Central Park). And this represents only a snapshot of the many, many people who use Hains Point for recreation outside of golf (most individuals with Strava accounts who navigated this point in this direction); and for whom the proposed redevelopment would have an immeasurably negative impact.

There is no federal interest in a pro-level, golf-only peninsula. Any changes should preserve the historic course's essential features, protect the trees, and keep the park open "for the recreation and pleasure of people," as Congress intended. On behalf of myself and the countless members of the public who have and currently enjoy East Potomac Park, I ask you to protect this cherished green refuge and reject the proposed design.

Name: ixchelle waite
Date: November 26, 2026 6:42:10 pm

Please take into consideration that this was the first public integrated golf course and it is affordable for everyone. There are lots of nature trails and forested areas. Building this championship golf course would take away all the joy that families experience.

Name: Heidi Hemming
Date: November 26, 2026 6:31:21 pm

Please do not allow the current administration to destroy this beautiful community resource. Haines Point is a natural and social space that is enjoyed by many people and the city does not need a premium golf course. Nobody I know wants this plan. Seriously. Say no.
Thank-you!
Heidi Hemming

Name: Allison Olberding
Date: November 26, 2026 4:35:57 pm

No one is asking for east Potomac to be burned into a championship golf course. The lack of affordable golf in the area is already high and the vast majority of people are not looking for high caliber golf. We want to be able to get off work, grab a peer, and play a round of golf without breaking the bank. This is a vanity project by the president because his other actions are not popular with the refiners of the area.

Name: Jaime Harris
Date: November 26, 2026 2:16:18 pm

I have been using East Potomac Park for running and cycling for many years, and it's a very important and special place for many of my friends and neighbors who also exercise there. It's a wonderful respite from the city and only a short distance away.

Beyond that, the golf course and driving range are incredibly important and valuable to many golfers in DC, myself and my wife included. We have enjoyed many rounds there, on all courses. It's by far the most convenient course for many DC residents.

I think it's important that there remain multiple golf courses of varying difficulty and length, as the easier or shorter courses are an important way for new golfers to experience the joy of a round of golf. Similarly, the practice facilities have recently been upgraded with great ball tracking technology, and many have heaters, making it an ideal place to practice in the winter.

Please keep East Potomac Park and the existing courses and practice facilities. If nothing else, it's critical to keep the loop accessible for people to continue exercising and enjoying the outdoors.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Jaime Harris

Name: Alan Pyke
Date: November 26, 2026 2:06:59 pm

Hains Point is a special place that provides an oasis for of relaxation and activity for all kinds of people: the social butterfly and the solitary biker, the new arrival who needs rec sports to find their people and the ten-toes-down multigenerational DC family who wants to cook out and listen to the Commanders game on a sunday. In my 15 years in DC, the park was a touchstone of community and respite, a space to escape tourist hoarders and asphalt and granite. Eventually I took up golf and EPGC itself became a similar refuge from stress and opportunity for affordable silliness and cameraderie. Please do not let some New Yorker who loves molesting teenagers take that away from the District and the people who make it special.

Name: Eric Bartheld
Date: November 26, 2026 2:06:27 pm

I write as a resident of Washington, DC, about the proposed design of East Potomac Park and urge you to retain cherished aspects of its current configuration in any plans going forward. Keep the course open and do not turn this park into a championship golf course that serves a small subset of potential users. Cyclists, runners, birders and picnickers all value this park, and to discard this highly popular design to favor only championship golfers seems contrary to the mission of public parks. Please please take a broader view of this beloved space.

Name: Stephen Yaeger
Date: November 26, 2026 2:03:23 pm

I wholeheartedly disapprove of the proposed changes to East Potomac Park. As a DC resident of twelve years, I spend time in East Potomac Park on a very regular basis, and have for many years, not as a golfer, but as a cyclist and runner. DC has a thriving cycling and running community and Haines Point is a centerpiece of the city's (and country's) infrastructure for those activities. The proposed renovation would destroy the most memorable part of several iconic DC running races (including the Cherry Blossom Ten Miler and Marine Corps Marathon), as well as a place where hundreds of people run and bike every single day. I ask that any changes to the park leave Ohio Drive and the cherry trees lining it untouched, so that this landmark can continue to be used for generations to come.

Name: Anita Moore
Date: November 26, 2026 1:41:13 pm

This is our park. It was set aside in 1897 for everyone. Turning it into a tournament golf course takes it away from the people who use it every day. Costs will rise, and fewer people will get in. A course built for pros won't be the cheap, walk-up public course people learn on.
We can keep the courses we have. Today there are 36 public holes on three courses, including two 9-hole courses for beginners and quick rounds. The plan cuts that to a single 18-hole course. Keep the current layout and every hole.
The public does not want this, this is the wish of the President who is focused on remaking this city into his image. This city and its parks are FOR THE PEOPLE.

Name: Cameron Beene
Date: November 26, 2026 1:31:21 pm

Save East Potomac Park from destructive and devastating proposed changes. This is our park, not a vanity project for an individual. I have been coming to this park for over a decade with my friends to run, walk, ride, and enjoy the beautiful outdoors. The proposed changes will ruin our ability to do this.

Name: Robert Walter
Date: November 26, 2026 1:27:11 pm

The 3 courses, putt-putting, picnic, and buking/walking paths and all Cherry Tress should be kept open to the Public for their benefit, at a reasonable rate. This is a public park, not a country club.

Name: Nate Graham
Date: November 26, 2026 1:21:55 pm

To the National Capital Planning Commission:

I am a DC resident and a runner, cyclist, and birder who enjoys East Potomac Park multiple times a week. I am highly concerned about the proposed plans and particularly the elimination of Ohio Drive. I urge you not to approve this plan, which would irretrievably rob the DC region of one its most prized cultural assets.

Although the Department of the Interior has discussed alternatives to Ohio Drive at West Potomac Park and the Tidal Basin, it is no exaggeration to say the road would be impossible to replace, even if the government sincerely wanted to. There is simply no conceivable substitute for three miles of uninterrupted views of the Washington Channel and the Potomac River, with a wide road that accommodates hundreds of runners and cyclists per day, provides river access for anglers, birders, and countless families barbecuing on summer evenings, and is lined with iconic cherry blossoms every spring.

Personally, as a runner I have circled East Potomac Park on Ohio Drive more times than I can count. This includes three

Marine Corps Marathons, in which the park is host to the Blue Mile. During this mile, runners solemnly pass posters with the faces of fallen service members. This is the most powerful moment of one of the country's largest races, with nearly 25,000 finishers in 2026. Overall, usage of East Potomac Park by runners and cyclists likely already exceeds usage by golfers, which itself is threatened by the proposed plan, as other commenters will surely explain.

I also currently search for birds at Hains Point more than once a week because, at the confluence of the Potomac and Anacostia Rivers, it is the best birding location in the city. The eBird public database shows that East Potomac Park has recorded 272 species, more than any other location in DC, and that only Rock Creek Park and Kenilworth Park and Aquatic Gardens have recorded more visits by birders. It is also the single best spot in DC to find rarities. For example, in May of this year, it produced DC's first recorded fork-tailed flycatcher, a species that is rare anywhere in the United States and attracted hundreds of observers. Unfortunately, the government has already cut down the tree where the bird was first observed.

In light of the above, not to mention the historic nature of the current park, I urge you not to approve this plan. The public record has already shown that very few people support the plan and an enormous number of people oppose it. The elimination of Ohio Drive would be an irredeemable loss to the DC region and I hope you will do everything in your power to ensure it does not happen.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Nate Graham

Name: Axel Spies
Date: November 26, 2026 12:44:25 pm

Getting rid of Ohio Drive with its access to Haines Point also needs to be rejected because it provides access to the victims and loved ones of the recent plane crash. Haines Point is the only place where they can see the location of the plane crash from a shorter distance. Therefore, Ohio Drive needs to be maintained as it is.
Regards,
Axel Spies

Name: Ian Denjs
Date: November 26, 2026 12:04:12 pm

I urge you to reject the proposed redesign of East Potomac Park Golf Links.

I am a distance runner who uses Hains Point (East Potomac Park) on a regular basis, running the Ohio Drive loop to train for races year-round (especially local races such as: Cherry Blossom Ten Miler, Marine Corps Marathon, DC Half, National Women's Half Marathon and District 19--each of whose respective courses have included the Ohio Drive loop for decades). I share the park with bikers, birders, anglers, BBQ-ers, tourists, families, and, of course, golfers.

The proposed re-design would destroy this historic landmark. Quite simply, it would eliminate parkland Congress intended for EVERYONE. It would replace 3 golf courses (and a mini-golf course) open to players of all levels, with a championship course for skilled players only...not to mention the catastrophic loss of the park's mature cherry trees and iconic Ohio Drive loop that attracts runners and cyclists from around the world (literally). In fact, according to the popular fitness app Strava, Ohio Drive's 'Gate to Gate' loop has 2,057,049 cycling attempts by 37,006 people AND 66,463 running attempts by 15,505 people to date. Further, according to Strava's own year-end data, this segment is the SECOND MOST POPULAR STRAVA SEGMENT IN THE U.S. (only bested by NYC's Central Park). And this represents only a snapshot of the many, many people who use Hains Point for recreation outside of golf (most individuals with Strava accounts who navigated this point in this direction); and for whom the proposed redevelopment would have an immeasurably negative impact.

There is no federal interest in a pro-level, golf-only peninsula. Any changes should preserve the historic course's essential features, protect the trees, and keep the park open "for the recreation and pleasure of people," as Congress intended. On

behalf of myself and the countless members of the public who have and currently enjoy East Potomac Park, I ask you to protect this cherished green refuge and reject the proposed design.

Name: Bob Gordon
Date: November 26, 2026 12:01:32 pm

I want to register my opposition to replacing or alternating the current park. My family and friends have enjoyed the use of the park, for picnics, fishing, biking and golfing. The plans as proposed would change both the welcoming public space and its use cases for the community.

Can anyone show you the public's desire for these changes as demonstrate by the public in a poll, survey or other means. The executive present a plan that involved no planning. Please stop, deny or send this back for revisions.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best,
Bob

Name: Sharon Saydah
Date: November 26, 2026 11:23:14 am

Please do not allow the proposed renovation by the Trump administration of East Potomac Park to go forward. I am a resident of the District of Columbia and East Potomac park is an integral part of our community. I have spent hours there running, biking, walking, enjoying the views, and participating in races. My son learned to play golf at East Potomac Golf course and went on to play in high school. East Potomac is a place where everyone across the city gathers. The golf course is unique in our country and serves as a model of what golf courses should strive to be. National Links Trust had a plan to improve the golf courses and keep East Potomac park accessible to everyone. The current plan is likely infeasible given the environmental constraints (as evidenced by recent attempts to renovate the East Potomac Park pool), will cost a significant amount of money for no clear purpose, and will destroy a fundamental part of the community. I beg you, DO NOT allow this proposal to go forward. Keep East Potomac Park open to all- runners, bikers, picnicers, walkers, and most of all golfers.

Name: Robert He
Date: November 26, 2026 10:59:37 am

Keep it public

Name: Fred Bowen
Date: November 26, 2026 9:42:57 am

I should start by saying I am a long-time golfer who has played EPP and it is certainly not the "dangerous" course described by some. My last round there (2025) was one of the most enjoyable of my season. The course was in good shape and very playable.

But the best part of EPP is the vibe surrounding the course. It is a casual, affordable muni that attracts a variety of customers. DC lawyers squeezing in a quick 9, retirees enjoying lunch after 18 and, of course, all the rest of us who are trying to get better at this confounding game. It has been my experience that you just don't that at an expensive and exclusive golf club.

President Trump has an opportunity at East Potomac Park to leave Washington a golfing legacy people will remember fondly. Keep all three existing DC courses, improve them, and make East Potomac a first-rate public golf facility worthy of its extraordinary setting. For a President who genuinely loves golf, that could be a crowning achievement.

But please don’t improve golf by destroying everything else people love about Hains Point. Ohio Drive belongs to the people—runners, cyclists, walkers, anglers, road races, and countless Washingtonians—who simply come to enjoy the park.

Keep EPP as an affordable golf course and a park where all kinds of people gather to be together and have fun.

Name: Andrew Richards
Date: November 26, 2026 8:14:29 am

To: National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC)

Subject: Public Comment: Preservation of Public Access and Perimeter Trails at East Potomac Park

Dear Members of the Commission,

I am writing as a resident of the National Capital Region—having lived for years in downtown Washington, D.C., and now residing in Springfield, Virginia—to express my strong opposition to any redevelopment proposal for East Potomac Park that would restrict public access, compromise the outer perimeter trails, or prioritize private golf course expansion over open public parkland.

For the past seven years, East Potomac Park has been an indispensable recreational haven and vital green space in my daily life. Because I do not drive and rely on walking, running, public transit, and my electric bicycle to navigate the region, connected and accessible waterfront parkland is essential to my health and well-being. I regularly run and cycle along the park’s perimeter paths and spend hours down at Hains Point taking in the scenery, enjoying quiet picnics, and observing local wildlife and aircraft along the flight path to Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport.
East Potomac Park sits on a remarkable, irreplaceable peninsula that offers sweeping, unobstructed views stretching from the Washington Monument to the Woodrow Wilson Bridge, framed by both the Potomac and Anacostia rivers. Every spring, I visit to walk and bike beneath the blooming cherry blossom trees, and throughout the summer, Hains Point provides a rare sense of tranquility—a place where residents and visitors alike can feel completely removed from the congestion of the city without ever leaving the metropolitan area.

Converting or restricting this treasured public commons to accommodate expanded golf infrastructure would be a profound loss for the vast majority of the public who do not play golf. The outer perimeter of the park belongs to everyone: runners, cyclists, walkers, families, and nature observers across the region.

I urge the Commission to reject any plan that privatizes, fences off, or diminishes the public perimeter of East Potomac Park, and to preserve full, uninterrupted, and equitable access to Hains Point and its waterfront trails for generations to come.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and stewardship of our nation’s capital.

Sincerely,

Andrew Richards
[redacted]
Springfield, Virginia 22151
[redacted]

Name: Sandy Kramer
Date: November 26, 2026 7:35:04 am

I am an avid cyclist and am angered by the possibility of eliminating the biking and running paths at Haynes point!. Haynes Point is a heavenly green area in the middle of DC and restricting the access is criminal. In the Spring when the cherry trees are in blossom it is amazing! Don't touch my Haynes Point!!!

Name: Michael Cormier
Date: November 25, 2026 9:49:31 pm

I've been biking around Hanes Point for 40 years as a form of exercise from my house in Columbia Heights. Loosing this beautiful stretch to DC residents will be devastating! Non of us are professional golfers! Leave it for the middle class, rich people aren't gonna drive into DC to use it when we lose it.

Name: Damian Hackett
Date: November 25, 2026 7:34:04 pm

I urge you to reject the proposed redesign of East Potomac Park Golf Links.

I am a distance runner who uses Hains Point (East Potomac Park) on a regular basis, running the Ohio Drive loop to train for races year-round (especially local races such as: Cherry Blossom Ten Miler, Marine Corps Marathon, DC Half, National Women's Half Marathon and District 19--each of whose respective courses have included the Ohio Drive loop for years, if not decades). I share the park with bikers, birders, anglers, BBQ-ers, tourists, families, and, of course, golfers.

The proposed re-design would destroy this historic landmark. Quite simply, it would eliminate parkland Congress intended for EVERYONE. It would replace 3 golf courses (and a mini-golf course) open to players of all levels, with a championship course for skilled players only...not to mention the catastrophic loss of the park's mature cherry trees and iconic Ohio Drive loop that attracts runners and cyclists from around the world (literally). In fact, according to the popular fitness app Strava, Ohio Drive's 'Gate to Gate' loop has 2,057,049 cycling attempts by 37,006 people AND 66,463 running attempts by 15,505 people to date. Further, according to Strava's own year-end data, this segment is the SECOND MOST POPULAR STRAVA SEGMENT IN THE U.S. (only bested by NYC's Central Park). And this represents only a snapshot of the many, many people who use Hains Point for recreation outside of golf (most individuals with Strava accounts who navigated this point in this direction); and for whom the proposed redevelopment would have an immeasurably negative impact.

There is no federal interest in a pro-level, golf-only peninsula. Any changes should preserve the historic course's essential features, protect the trees, and keep the park open "for the recreation and pleasure of people," as Congress intended. On behalf of myself and the countless members of the public who have and currently enjoy East Potomac Park, I ask you to protect this cherished green refuge and reject the proposed design.

Name: Jack Whetstone
Date: November 25, 2026 7:08:28 pm

I urge you to reject the proposed redesign of East Potomac Park Golf Links.

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Name: Katie Crowe
Date: November 25, 2026 5:45:47 pm

Dear Commissioners and Staff of the National Capital Planning Commission,
For 15 years, East Potomac Park and the loop around the Golf Links have been my proving ground. As an ultrarunner, I have logged thousands of miles here. For a decade and a half, Hains Point has been an irreplaceable, safe sanctuary where early-morning runners, cyclists, families, and municipal golfers coexist.
It is outrageous that this vital public artery is being threatened by backroom agendas and elitist redevelopment. Let's be brutally clear about what is happening: federal agencies and public officials are actively attempting to dismantle a public treasure that does not belong to them.
When Congress established East Potomac Park in 1897, the law was explicit and non-negotiable: it was to be "forever held and used as a park for the recreation and pleasure of the people." When the Golf Links opened in 1920, it was intentionally built for everyday Washingtonians—not as a gated, exclusive playground. In 1941, Black golfers fought and won to desegregate these very fairways, cementing East Potomac Park as hallowed civil rights ground that opened all National Park facilities to the public.
Shutting down public access, tearing down mature trees, and handing over an egalitarian community space to exclusive interests is a blatant, shameful violation of federal law and over a century of civil rights history. Public officials are supposed to be stewards of the public trust, not accomplices to privatization.
The NCPC must do its job, stop the rubber-stamping, and hold these officials accountable:
• Block Any Closure of Public Access: Guarantee that perimeter roads and multi-use paths remain permanently open to runners, cyclists, and walkers. Zero multi-year shutdowns. Zero privatization.
• Stop the End-Runs Around Oversight: Reject every attempt by the Department of the Interior and the National Park Service to bypass standard NCPC review, environmental laws, and public input.
• Enforce the 1897 Mandate: Uphold the law. East Potomac Park belongs to the people—not private developers, and not a select wealthy few.
I have run these roads for 15 years, and I will not stand by while public officials strip away our rights to our own parkland. Do your duty, protect this community, and keep East Potomac Park open to the people.

Name: Kathleen Crowe
Date: November 25, 2026 5:41:14 pm

For 15 years, East Potomac Park and the loop around the Golf Links have been my proving ground. As an ultrarunner, logging thousands of miles requires a safe, uninterrupted space. For a decade and a half, Hains Point has been that sanctuary—where early-morning runners, cyclists, families, and municipal golfers share the riverfront side by side.
Now, that vital public artery is under threat, and we must hold our public officials accountable to the law that created it.
When Congress established East Potomac Park in 1897, the mandate was unmistakable: it was to be "forever held and used as a park for the recreation and pleasure of the people." When the Golf Links opened in 1920, it was built as an accessible, egalitarian space for everyday Washingtonians—not an exclusive enclave. In 1941, it even became hallowed civil rights ground when Black golfers successfully desegregated its fairways, opening all National Park facilities to everyone.
Replacing an accessible community park with an exclusive redevelopment—and shutting down public access in the

process—is a direct betrayal of that 1897 promise.
We demand accountability from the Department of the Interior, the National Park Service, and Congress:
• Protect Public Access: Keep the perimeter roads and multi-use paths permanently open to runners, cyclists, and walkers without multi-year closures.
• Demand Transparency: Stop bypassing public input and planning commissions over tree removal and privatization.
• Honor the 1897 Mandate: Preserve East Potomac Park as an open, affordable space for all residents, not a select few.
East Potomac Park belongs to the runners logging 20-mile mornings, the families by the water, and the everyday golfers who have kept it alive for a century. Keep it open, keep it accessible, and keep it for the people.

Name: Karolin Lages
Date: November 25, 2026 5:40:37 pm

I urge you to reject the proposed redesign of East Potomac Park Golf Links.

I am a distance runner and use Hains Point (East Potomac Park) on a regular basis, running the Ohio Drive loop to train for races year-round (especially local races such as: Cherry Blossom Ten Miler, Marine Corps Marathon, DC Half, National Women's Half Marathon and District 19 which also attract runners from across the nation). I share the park with bikers, birders, anglers, BBQ-ers, tourists, families, and, of course, golfers.

The proposed re-design would destroy this historic landmark. Quite simply, It would eliminate parkland Congress intended for EVERYONE. It would replace 3 golf courses (and a mini-golf course) that is open to players of all levels with a championship course for skilled players only...not to mention the catastrophic loss of the park's mature cherry trees and iconic Ohio Drive.

There is no federal interest in a pro-level, golf-only peninsula. Any changes should preserve the historic course's essential features, protect the trees, and keep the park open "for the recreation and pleasure of people," as Congress intended. On behalf of myself and the countless members of the public who have and currently enjoy East Potomac Park, I ask you to protect this cherished green refuge and reject the proposed design.

Name: Sina Mollaan
Date: November 25, 2026 5:19:21 pm

East Potomac Park – Restore What We Love, Preserve What We Have

Dear Members of the National Capital Planning Commission,

My connection to East Potomac Park goes back to the 1980s. I still remember spending three hours washing our cars just to drive down to Hains Point and cruise around. People would park, socialize, play music, and enjoy each other’s company. There was such an incredible energy there. It was a gathering place for people from all walks of life.

Although there were a few years when I stopped going, over the past 15 years, Hains Point has become an integral part of my life again, this time as a cyclist. After finishing work on 14th Street in Logan Circle, I often ride or walk down to the park and spend hours doing laps. It has become my playground, my backyard, and my escape from the demands of everyday life. It genuinely feels like home to me.

But this is about far more than cycling. It’s about the runners, walkers, fishermen, families enjoying picnics, tennis players, golfers, and generations of Washingtonians who have made this place their own.

I fully recognize that East Potomac Park needs significant investment. The seawalls need substantial work, and many of the recreational facilities could benefit from modernization. I welcome those improvements.

But why fundamentally redesign something that already serves its community so beautifully?

Why not rebuild the seawalls, restore the existing infrastructure, improve the landscaping, preserve the golf courses and miniature golf, modernize the tennis facilities, and perhaps introduce pickleball and basketball courts? We have an incredible opportunity to make East Potomac Park even more beautiful, accessible, and welcoming without sacrificing its identity.

I am not opposed to progress. I am opposed to losing something irreplaceable in the name of progress.

Let's work together to restore, revitalize, and enhance East Potomac Park while preserving its existing character and the diverse recreational opportunities it provides.

Public spaces like this are part of the soul of Washington, DC. Their value cannot be measured solely by the prestige of a championship golf course, but by the countless everyday experiences they make possible for ordinary people.

For me, this is more than a park. It holds nearly four decades of memories, and I want future generations to have the opportunity to create their own.

Let's rebuild it. Let's beautify it. But above all, let's preserve what makes it so special.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Sina Mollaan

Name: Jordan Swift
Date: November 25, 2026 4:41:17 pm

I do not believe it this plan for East Potomac Park should be approved. Hains Point is a beloved destination for my family and for my community. I have run regularly along the point since I arrived in the city and have treasured bringing my son to this special place. My husband regularly golfs at this public courses and as a family we will lose the ability to pass these traditions on if the current plan is approved. These public 9 hole courses are critical to keeping affordable and accessible golf in our community

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Name: Craig Schumpert
Date: November 25, 2026 4:20:23 pm

I have lived in Washington, DC for 35 years, and East Potomac Park has been a constant in my life for nearly all of them. I write as a longtime resident and regular user of this park to urge that it remain open and accessible to the public.

For me, the park's greatest value is that it is affordable and open to everyone. I play the golf course regularly, often deciding on a light mid-week workday to head over for a round. It is a rare place where a local resident can enjoy a quality course without the cost or commitment of a private club. Beyond golf, I use the park's outer perimeter for cycling, road running, and viewing the cherry blossoms, all of which are free and open to the public.

Converting East Potomac Park into a high-end, "world-class" venue would put at risk the very access and affordability that make this park valuable to the community.

Please find my detailed comments attached.

Name: Bill Russo
Date: November 25, 2026 4:04:36 pm

I started golfing when I was six. It was a way to bond with my Dad. I picked up the game at par three courses and cheap munis - the place where a kid can take 10 shots to go 100 yards and there’s no pressure or problem with it. Eventually we graduated to bigger and better courses. I eventually played competitively in high school. But mostly I played with my Dad.

My dad is gone now but I have kids of my own. There aren’t many places in DC I can bring them to find that same learning and bonding experience I had. East Potomac is one of the only ones. And if they don’t end up loving golf, that is fine. There’s mini golf and park space to explore and run around.

This plan for East Potomac would destroy all of that. The park space, the amusement, the range of golf experience for kids like mine to learn to play. It would replace it with a singular course that might be fun for me to play, but at much too great a cost.

I love golf, but I care so much more about my community and my family than I do a course that we simply don't need. End this project now.

Name: Melanie Miller
Date: November 25, 2026 3:56:17 pm

Please keep the non-golf amenities that this course has. Stop cutting down trees.

Name: Victoria Hutter
Date: November 25, 2026 3:53:07 pm

I urge members of the commission to prohibit the president's plans for privatizing East Potomac Park Golf Links. I have lived in Washington, DC for 26 years and throughout that time I have regularly ridden my bike from my home in Woodley Park to and around Haines Point. I always see golfers, families picnicking, people fishing, and LOTS of cyclists, the PUBLIC enjoying a PUBLIC amenity. It is vitally important to maintain this green space for anyone to access and not give it away to satisfy one man's current obsession.

The people of DC DO NOT want this. The government's mission is to provide for the people via their tax dollars and this vanity project flies in the face of that mission and its means. DC stands to lose one its greatest natural assets if nothing is done to stop it from happening.

Name: Anthony Massey
Date: November 25, 2026 3:37:55 pm

Hello,

I am writing pertaining to the East Potomac Golf Links. In particular, the potential of closing Hains Point to runners, bikers, and walkers. This location has been a staple in the wellness space for several years. The scenic views, the open road, it is truly a remarkable area that's served as a place of escape from one's day to day albeit from work, or personal grievances. It would be a huge loss to take away such a landmark in favor of a golf course expansion, when the majority of the area's populous, utilizes Hains Point for everything else, but golfing.

Save Hains Point.

Name: Christine Reilly
Date: November 25, 2026 3:33:17 pm

Don't change the East Potomac park and golf courses from their current status to that of a PGA golf course. The people of Washington, D.C. should be our concern, and the best use of the park, in toto, is its current use where it is accessible by way more than the rich, and has multiple uses.

I think we all know whose idea this is, and he's going to be gone by the beginning of 2029. He won't live in Washington, D.C., and to be honest, half the time he's not there anyway, preferring his resorts and golf courses to governing.

This would be a waste of taxpayer money to make something less accessible to taxpayers, and more elitist.

Name: Aaron Lewis
Date: November 25, 2026 3:01:53 pm

I urge you to reject the proposed redesign of East Potomac Park Golf Links.

I am a distance runner and use Hains Point (East Potomac Park) on a regular basis, running the Ohio Drive loop to train for races year-round (especially local races such as: Cherry Blossom Ten Miler, Marine Corps Marathon, DC Half, National Women's Half Marathon and District 19 which also attract runners from across the nation). I share the park with bikers, birders, anglers, BBQ-ers, tourists, families, and, of course, golfers.

The proposed re-design would destroy this historic landmark. Quite simply, It would eliminate parkland Congress intended for EVERYONE. It would replace 3 golf courses (and a mini-golf course) that is open to players of all levels with a championship course for skilled players only...not to mention the catastrophic loss of the park's mature cherry trees and iconic Ohio Drive.

There is no federal interest in a pro-level, golf-only peninsula. Any changes should preserve the historic course's essential features, protect the trees, and keep the park open "for the recreation and pleasure of people," as Congress intended. On behalf of myself and the countless members of the public who have and currently enjoy East Potomac Park, I ask you to protect this cherished to green refuge and reject the proposed design.

Name: Christian Melendez
Date: November 25, 2026 2:58:33 pm

I urge you to reject the proposed redesign of East Potomac Park Golf Links.

I am a distance runner and use Hains Point (East Potomac Park) on a regular basis, running the Ohio Drive loop to train for races year-round (especially local races such as: Cherry Blossom Ten Miler, Marine Corps Marathon, DC Half, National Women's Half Marathon and District 19 which also attract runners from across the nation). I share the park with bikers, birders, anglers, BBQ-ers, tourists, families, and, of course, golfers.

The proposed re-design would destroy this historic landmark. Quite simply, It would eliminate parkland Congress intended for EVERYONE. It would replace 3 golf courses (and a mini-golf course) that is open to players of all levels with a championship course for skilled players only...not to mention the catastrophic loss of the park's mature cherry trees and iconic Ohio Drive.

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Name: Danielle Tergis
Date: November 25, 2026 2:49:55 pm

As a native Washingtonian, East Potomac Park has been part of my life for as long as I can remember. I've used it for rollerblading, cycling, to meet up with friends, training for and participating in triathlons, and simply enjoying one of the most unique public spaces our city has to offer. It's more than a park to me and many others. It's part of the fabric of this community. And my story is just one of probably thousands if not millions of Americans who have enjoyed the park. I've heard many marathon runners say East Potomac Park is their favorite part of running the Marine Corps Marathon.

That's why I'm deeply concerned about the proposal to transform East Potomac Park into a tournament-style golf course designed for elite, professional events. This park was created for everyone, and generations of Washingtonians like me and countless Americans who have used it for recreation, exercise, family activities, and connecting with nature. Converting it into a course built for major tournaments would make it inaccessible to the very people who love it and use it every day. No one asked for this or wants this.

East Potomac Park is one of the few places where people can bike, run, fish, picnic, enjoy the cherry blossoms, play mini golf, or learn the game of golf on affordable public courses. Reducing the existing courses and replacing them with a facility geared toward professional play would diminish opportunities for residents and visitors alike.
Just as concerning is the lack of meaningful public engagement. A decision that will have such a major impact on a beloved public space should not be rushed through without fully hearing from the people who rely on and care about this park.

East Potomac Park belongs to the community, not one person who isn't even a resident of the district and probably has zero connection to it. It should remain an accessible, welcoming place that serves the broad public, not be redesigned primarily to accommodate elite tournaments and one man's egolomania.

I urge decision-makers to preserve the park's current character and ensure it continues to be enjoyed by future generations. Do not approve this plan.

Name: Nick H
Date: November 25, 2026 2:35:38 pm

This park and golf course are foundational to the DC community. This was founded one the basis that it's accessible to as many people as possible. Removing the park and 18 holes of golf along with hiking prices undermines that mission/purpose.

Name: James Goedert
Date: November 25, 2026 2:14:38 pm

East Potomac Park, in its current configuration, is my Garden of Eden. It is the perfect place to stroll among the cherry blossoms at the end of March, and this also marks the time that I again start riding my bicycle around the perimeter road, getting great exercise (at age 75) and wonderful views of the river, fishermen, and picnicking families. Yes, the sea wall needs to be shored up, but please don't destroy my park.

Name: Drury Tallant
Date: November 25, 2026 2:10:29 pm

I oppose the plans for Potomac Park/Hains Point until the plans are more fully explained. Most important is maintaining full public access, not a golf course for the priviledged. The bike and walking paths must remain free and open to the public.

Name: Carol Bonkosky
Date: November 25, 2026 1:43:03 pm

I think the public is best served if the East Potomac Park and links remain a multi use Park, as it is now. To turn it into a pro golf course ignores the many users who would no longer be able to use the park. Runners, bikers, walkers, and families would no longer be served. The scenic drive and cherry blossom trees would be gone. An elite golf course is not a good fit for this space.

Name: Sara Carioscia
Date: November 25, 2026 12:49:39 pm

Please do not approve the development plan. East Potomac Park is a huge part of my life in DC. As a local resident for over 13 years, I most enjoy times I can gather with friends and family to enjoy the local resources and scenery in a safe and pleasant way. East Po Park offers just that - I regularly cycle there (3+ visits per week), picnic, walk, and play mini golf. It is an excellent place to meet up, and view the monuments and cherry trees from different angles. It is used by a

wide variety of people and should remain for use as an open public park and space. For golf, currently there are 36 holes and all are open to the public. Transforming it into a private golf course (expensive, exclusive) will result in a loss of a public park and gathering place, and myself and others will lose a valuable part of my health, exercise, and social life.

Name: Matthew Manousoff
Date: November 25, 2026 11:35:56 am

I have been a DC resident for 13 years and, despite never having played golf, am a frequent visitor to East Potomac Park. The park provides unique recreational opportunities and public amenities that extend far beyond the golf course. It is a place where residents can gather, fish, run, bike, and barbecue. These are valuable public spaces and experiences for which there are few, if any, comparable alternatives in this part of the city.

I run the Cherry Blossom Half Marathon each year, and the course through East Potomac Park is one of my favorite parts of the race. I also bike around the park regularly and consider its paths among the most scenic and safest places to ride in DC. These experiences are a meaningful part of what makes living in this city special.

I am deeply concerned by the proposal to transform East Potomac Park into an expansive championship golf course that would effectively eliminate public access for everyone who does not play golf. This would fundamentally change the character of the park and take away a unique public resource from the thousands of DC residents who enjoy it for reasons that have nothing to do with golf. It is difficult to justify dedicating an entire public park to a single recreational use at the expense of so many others.

I recognize that golf is a legitimate recreational use of East Potomac Park, and I am not opposed to investing in or improving the existing golf course. But there is a significant difference between renovating a public golf course and transforming an entire public park into a golf facility. Improvements to the course should not come at the expense of the park's broader public use and accessibility.

East Potomac Park belongs to all of us, including residents who may never pick up a golf club. I urge the Commission to oppose the proposal in its current form and ensure that any renovation preserves the park's character as a public space, with meaningful access for all residents to enjoy its paths, waterfront, open spaces, and recreational amenities.

East Potomac Park is so much more than a golf course. Its future should reflect that.

Name: Wade Sovonick
Date: November 25, 2026 11:34:39 am

Hains Point is one of the best and most popular fishing spots in Washington, DC. My wife and I have been fishing there for over 20 years. Please don't take this away from us!

Name: Brian McKeon
Date: November 25, 2026 11:25:21 am

I have lived in the DC area for most of the last 40 years. I am a retired US government employee who occasionally plays golf (though less so since suffering a shoulder injury). In the past, I played golf or used the driving range at East Potomac park, and valued the open space and views of the river, even though the quality or challenge of the golf course was not high.

The entire park is an incredible asset and public good for the residents of DC and the surrounding area. To end the multiple-use nature of the park in order to build a championship golf course would be a tragedy -- elevating one use (golf) over all others. Moreover, the construction of a championship course will lead to higher fees and lower availability for local golfers -- even if locals are given preferred rates. So who wins in this scenario? A small minority of golfers, many from outside the DC area. Why would the government take a public park and make it less available for the broader population?

Name: Katie Young
Date: November 25, 2026 11:21:27 am

The Kwanzaan cherry trees at East Potomac Park are extremely meaningful to me, and the planned project would ruin my enjoyment of them. It's already devastating that so many trees were razed. Please keep East Potomac Park as it is. It is a rare and important gem in the Washington, DC landscape.

Name: Tonya Meyer
Date: November 25, 2026 10:45:30 am

As a resident of the DMV for many years I have visited East Potomac Park many times. Every major running event, we run around that park. It is a beautiful traffic free section of DC often considered a sanctuary to residents and visitors alike. As a cyclist I visit the park frequently for traffic free rides alone or with others. The park can’t be beat for lack of traffic, views, and location. Additionally while visiting I enjoy seeing everyday people playing golf. It’s an interesting mix of demographics you don’t see at any other golf course. It seems to be both welcoming and affordable. I don’t get that the intended renovation of this park will allow that to continue, or even allow me to continue to use the park in the same way. Please do not allow it to be turned into a golf course used only by the wealthy. Let’s leave the park as it is, a public haven for athletes, pedestrians, bird watchers, and regular people looking for a PUBLIC golf course.

Name: Mallory Bates
Date: November 25, 2026 10:33:50 am

East Potomac Park is the best place in the DMV area to bike. No where else do I feel as safe as I do when I do my laps of Hains Point. I ride there twice a week, and no matter the weather, there are many people of the community recreating in many ways. I see runners, roller skaters, fellow bikers, fishermen and women, and people just enjoying the outdoors with a picnic or cookout. This green space is imperative to the community and destroying the open space to expand the golf course would be a huge mistake and take away from so many peoples lives.

Name: Daphne Panayotatos
Date: November 25, 2026 10:33:17 am

Dear Members of the National Capital Planning Commission,

I am writing to urge you to reject the proposed redesign of the East Potomac Park Golf Course. It would destroy the landmark, transforming a beautiful, outdoor refuge freely enjoyed by Washingtonians and visitors of all kinds into an exclusive, single-purpose space. The District should be committed to preserving and even improving accessibility to East Potomac Park--this design does the opposite.

I have lived in Washington, DC for the last ten years, and previously as an undergraduate student at Georgetown University. When I moved back from New York City more than ten years ago, I had picked up distance running and lamented the absence of an uninterrupted running route easily accessible from my downtown apartment. My then-roommate recommended Hains Point, and I was thrilled--I could run along the water in a three-mile loop without traffic lights or too much traffic; with access to public restrooms and resources; and feeling the camaraderie of neighbors running, biking, walking, fishing, or simply enjoying the outdoors.

I have gotten emotional while running the "Blue Mile" during the Marine Corps Marathon and, later, the 50K. Multiple times, I have felt the excitement of emerging from Hains Point to see my run crew's "cheer squad" ready to send me off into the final half-mile of the Cherry Blossom 10-miler. As a member of the organizing committee for my run crew's annual 19K and 19-mile race, I know how useful it is to be able to send our runners around Hains Point for three quieter/safer miles when the rest of the course isn't closed. I have cheered on friends' athletic feats--from the Chocolate City Relay to the "DIY Speed Project"--that reflect the city's character. I have taken outdoor yoga classes in the grassy field. And although I am not a golfer myself, the mini-golf course has long been on my bucket list.

But one of my favorite memories is of enjoying a late-summer cookout with friends, grateful for a shady place to relax and enjoy each other's company. On the drive over, my Uber driver, an elderly man who said he has been born and raised in DC, told me about how he had grown up going to Hains point with friends and family for cookouts, especially in the summer; how the field used to be packed with groups doing the same. When we arrived and he saw my friends doing exactly that, his face was full of joy and nostalgia--he very nearly accepted my offer to join us for a burger.

I am also an advocate for running to become a more inclusive and accessible sport. Those who say you can run anywhere are not conscious of the safety concerns that all runners face, due to traffic, lighting, street/sidewalk conditions, sexual harassment, and various other factors. Hains Point provides one place where runners of all levels can feel comfortable going.

So many will lose so much if East Potomac Park is converted into a place just for pro-level golfers. Any changes should preserve the course's essential features; protect the trees and natural beauty of the area; and keep the park open "for the recreation and pleasure of people," as Congress intended--including by maintaining pedestrian and cyclist routes.

I urge you again to reject this re-design.

Thank you.

Name: John Klim
Date: November 25, 2026 10:14:49 am

I urge you to reject the proposed redesign of East Potomac Park Golf Links.

I am a distance runner who uses Hains Point (East Potomac Park) on a regular basis, running the Ohio Drive loop to train for races year-round (especially local races such as: Cherry Blossom Ten Miler, Marine Corps Marathon, DC Half, National Women's Half Marathon and District 19--each of whose respective courses have included the Ohio Drive loop for years, if not decades). I share the park with bikers, birders, anglers, BBQ-ers, tourists, families, and, of course, golfers.

The proposed re-design would destroy this historic landmark. Quite simply, it would eliminate parkland Congress intended for EVERYONE. It would replace 3 golf courses (and a mini-golf course) open to players of all levels, with a championship course for skilled players only...not to mention the catastrophic loss of the park's mature cherry trees and iconic Ohio Drive loop that attracts runners and cyclists from around the world (literally). In fact, according to the popular fitness app Strava, Ohio Drive’s 'Gate to Gate' loop has 2,057,049 cycling attempts by 37,006 people AND 66,463 running attempts by 15,505 people to date. Further, according to Strava's own year-end data, this segment is the SECOND MOST POPULAR STRAVA SEGMENT IN THE U.S. (only bested by NYC’s Central Park). And this represents only a snapshot of the many, many people who use Hains Point for recreation outside of golf (most individuals with Strava accounts who navigated this point in this direction); and for whom the proposed redevelopment would have an immeasurably negative impact.

There is no federal interest in a pro-level, golf-only peninsula. Any changes should preserve the historic course's essential features, protect the trees, and keep the park open "for the recreation and pleasure of people," as Congress intended. On behalf of myself and the countless members of the public who have and currently enjoy East Potomac Park, I ask you to protect this cherished green refuge and reject the proposed design.

Name: Gail Fast
Date: November 25, 2026 9:59:49 am

To the NCPC, East Potomac Park has always been a retreat for all residents of the District of Columbia. The park belongs to all Americans as it was set aside in 1897 for EVERYONE to enjoy.
Turning into a tournament golf course is a ridiculous waste of beautiful park land which is home to many of the Cherry Blossom trees that folks from all over the world come to enjoy.
I will lose a park I love. You can ride or walk the loop, picnic by the water, fish or play mini golf.
You will be taking it away from people who use it EVERY DAY!
As a golf course it will become something built for pros and will become too expensive for everyday Americans to play or learn on.

This whole process has been rushed and steamrolled without listening to the people who use the park.
Do not approve the change to the golf course.

Name: Carol Goodloe
Date: November 25, 2026 9:54:52 am

Please leave East Potomac Park alone and stop Trump’s stupid and destructive remake of the golf course. I have biked around Hains Point for decades, seeing others bikers, runners, and bird watchers enjoying the park. I have golfed there for years with my son, grandson and friends. Please fix the sea wall. Otherwise, leave the park and golf course alone.

Name: Robert Brook
Date: November 25, 2026 9:50:44 am

I urge you to reject the proposed redesign of East Potomac Park Golf Links.

I am a distance runner who uses Hains Point (East Potomac Park) on a regular basis, running the Ohio Drive loop to train for races year-round (especially local races such as: Cherry Blossom Ten Miler, Marine Corps Marathon, DC Half, National Women's Half Marathon and District 19--each of whose respective courses have included the Ohio Drive loop for years, if not decades). I share the park with bikers, birders, anglers, BBQ-ers, tourists, families, and, of course, golfers.

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Name: Joan Slettvet
Date: November 25, 2026 9:45:14 am

Dear Committee,
Please do not allow the proposed changes to East Potomac Park. I use the area for biking and walking.
In the past I have golfed there as have other family members. It is also a lovely part of the Bike DC route which would be a shame to change.
Thank you for your time and attention,
Joan Slettvet

Name: Chris Gretchen
Date: November 25, 2026 9:13:12 am

To the Members of the Commission and Reviewing Officials:

I do not approve of the closure of East Potomac Golf Links or a redevelopment plan that would sacrifice affordable, accessible public golf in favor of a championship-focused facility. As an Arlington resident and member of the greater Washington community, I urge you to preserve East Potomac's public-serving mission and ensure that golf operations continue while any proposed changes undergo meaningful public review.

East Potomac's value is not measured by whether it can host a major tournament. Its value is in giving ordinary people a place to learn, practice, play, and enjoy public parkland. Beginners, experienced golfers, families, younger players, and people who cannot afford private clubs should remain central to decisions about its future—not become an afterthought.

The proposal to replace three courses of varying difficulty with a single championship-style layout raises a fundamental question: Will this project improve golf for the community that uses East Potomac, or replace it with a different experience intended for a narrower audience? A course can remain technically "public" while becoming less accessible through higher prices, greater difficulty, reduced playing capacity, or fewer opportunities for beginners. Public access must mean more than simply allowing the public to pay for a tee time.

I recognize that maintenance, infrastructure repairs, and legitimate safety concerns deserve attention. But acknowledging those needs does not establish that a comprehensive closure or wholesale redesign is the only reasonable solution. Before restricting access, the responsible agencies should publicly demonstrate why targeted repairs, phased construction, temporary operating arrangements, and preservation of unaffected facilities cannot meet those needs.

I ask the reviewing agencies to require the following:

• Maintain or promptly restore staffed golf operations through a qualified operator while planning, legal review, and required approvals proceed, except where specific, documented hazards require narrowly tailored restrictions.
• Evaluate and publish alternatives that prioritize rehabilitation of the existing public golf facilities, including phased work that minimizes disruption.
• Preserve affordable rates, opportunities for beginners, practice facilities, and meaningful access for golfers of different abilities.
• Disclose the full project cost, funding sources, anticipated closure periods, operating model, and proposed pricing before approving a redevelopment plan.
• Protect the wider park's recreational uses, historic character, trees, and public access, rather than treating the property solely as a potential tournament venue.
• Give public comments a meaningful role in shaping the outcome before irreversible decisions are made.
Keeping the grounds nominally accessible while leaving the clubhouse, driving range, and other golf services closed is not an adequate substitute for operating a public golf facility. The community needs a functioning course—not simply permission to enter an unstaffed property.

I support responsible investment in East Potomac. I oppose an unnecessary or open-ended loss of public golf and a redevelopment process that fails to protect affordability, accessibility, and continuity of service.
Please preserve and improve East Potomac for the people who use it. Its future should be measured by how well it serves the public every day—not by the prestige of the tournaments it might someday host.

I had always wanted to learn how to play golf, but for a long time, I didn't know where to start. East Potomac gave me a place to take that first step—and the confidence to keep going. What began as a desire to learn something new became a meaningful part of my life. Looking back, East Potomac didn't just give me a place to practice; it helped me build a skill that has changed my life for the better.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Name: Gwen Parks
Date: November 25, 2026 9:04:05 am

I urge you to reject the proposed redesign of East Potomac Park Golf Links.

I am a distance runner who uses Hains Point (East Potomac Park) on a regular basis, running the Ohio Drive loop to train for races year-round (especially local races such as: Cherry Blossom Ten Miler, Marine Corps Marathon, DC Half, National Women's Half Marathon and District 19--each of whose respective courses have included the Ohio Drive loop for years, if not decades). I share the park with bikers, birders, anglers, BBQ-ers, tourists, families, and, of course, golfers.

The proposed re-design would destroy this historic landmark. Quite simply, it would eliminate parkland Congress intended for EVERYONE. It would replace 3 golf courses (and a mini-golf course) open to players of all levels, with a championship course for skilled players only...not to mention the catastrophic loss of the park's mature cherry trees and iconic Ohio Drive loop that attracts runners and cyclists from around the world (literally). In fact, according to the popular fitness app Strava, Ohio Drive's 'Gate to Gate' loop has 2,057,049 cycling attempts by 37,006 people AND 66,463 running attempts by 15,505 people to date. Further, according to Strava's own year-end data, this segment is the SECOND MOST POPULAR STRAVA SEGMENT IN THE U.S. (only bested by NYC's Central Park). And this represents only a snapshot of the many, many people who use Hains Point for recreation outside of golf (most individuals with Strava accounts who navigated this point in this direction); and for whom the proposed redevelopment would have an immeasurably negative impact.

There is no federal interest in a pro-level, golf-only peninsula. Any changes should preserve the historic course's essential features, protect the trees, and keep the park open "for the recreation and pleasure of people," as Congress intended. On behalf of myself and the countless members of the public who have and currently enjoy East Potomac Park, I ask you to protect this cherished green refuge and reject the proposed design.

Name: Gabrielle Richichi
Date: November 25, 2026 8:49:17 am

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Name: Sean Ferguson
Date: November 25, 2026 8:46:21 am

Stop the destruction and preserve the park. Put it back to its original state. It is for all to dnjoy.

Name: Helga Luest
Date: November 25, 2026 8:41:13 am

Clearly, there is some remediation that needs to take place to prevent total flooding of East Potomac Park, but preserving precious green space that so many Washingtonians enjoy is essential. I have been running on that stretch of Haines point for many years and have taken my mother, my children, and many guests out there as one of the most beautiful places to experience the Potomac River and Washington DC. Please don't take away such an important landmark for the people who enjoy it the most on a regular basis. There are other ways to remediate and protect the space. This is in a monument to one person, but a part of our city that the people should be able to enjoy.

Name: Shelley Norman
Date: November 25, 2026 8:23:32 am

I am opposed to the plan to reduce public access to East Potomac Park. The current facilities and access are important parts of DC life; walk-up golf, affordable and at all levels of play, the best training loop for runners and cyclists in town, the site of iconic events like the Marine Corps marathon, and a place to relax, picnic, fish, watch birds or airplanes, and be part of a community. I sometimes ride my bike there on Fridays with a group of women cyclists who get together for coffee nearby afterwards. I go with my work friends to see the cherry blossoms there every year. I train for bike races in the evenings riding intervals around the Ohio Drive loop, away from heavy traffic. I watch the golfers and the parents and the folks on dates. I am far from alone in this. Hains is never empty during daylight. It is a critical space for the people of DC, none of whom were consulted about this plan to limit access to a few golfers with the money and skills to play at a high level while it was being developed. There is no replacement that offers what East Potomac park offers to DC, and has offered for generations. I ask that you require any changes to retain the road loop for pedestrians and cyclists and the 36 holes of golf currently available to players (and the putt-putt and the cherry trees). Many thanks for your consideration.

Name: David Wertz
Date: November 25, 2026 8:03:10 am

I urge you to reject the proposed redesign of East Potomac Park Golf Links.

I am a distance runner who uses Hains Point (East Potomac Park) on a regular basis, running the Ohio Drive loop to train for races year-round (especially local races such as: Cherry Blossom Ten Miler, Marine Corps Marathon, DC Half, National Women's Half Marathon and District 19--each of whose respective courses have included the Ohio Drive loop for years, if not decades). I share the park with bikers, birders, anglers, BBQ-ers, tourists, families, and, of course, golfers.

The proposed re-design would destroy this historic landmark. Quite simply, it would eliminate parkland Congress intended for EVERYONE. It would replace 3 golf courses (and a mini-golf course) open to players of all levels, with a championship course for skilled players only...not to mention the catastrophic loss of the park's mature cherry trees and iconic Ohio Drive loop that attracts runners and cyclists from around the world (literally). In fact, according to the popular fitness app Strava, Ohio Drive's 'Gate to Gate' loop has 2,057,049 cycling attempts by 37,006 people AND 66,463 running attempts by 15,505 people to date. Further, according to Strava's own year-end data, this segment is the SECOND MOST POPULAR STRAVA SEGMENT IN THE U.S. (only bested by NYC's Central Park). And this represents only a snapshot of the many, many people who use Hains Point for recreation outside of golf (most individuals with Strava accounts who navigated this point in this direction); and for whom the proposed redevelopment would have an immeasurably negative impact.

There is no federal interest in a pro-level, golf-only peninsula. Any changes should preserve the historic course's essential features, protect the trees, and keep the park open "for the recreation and pleasure of people," as Congress intended. On behalf of myself and the countless members of the public who have and currently enjoy East Potomac Park, I ask you to protect this cherished green refuge and reject the proposed design.

Name: William Ferguson
Date: November 25, 2026 7:34:09 am

This park is one of the few remaining open spaces for the rapidly expanding DC population. It has been used continuously by a large portion of our community for decades. It does need improvement and maintenance but be kept accessible to the general population not only for the elite. There are few places like it in the country let alone DC metro. Please keep the park accessible, available and affordable to all.

Name: Kevin Ferguson
Date: November 25, 2026 7:25:14 am

Been in DC for years, ran the USMC marathon and Hains point many many times. Hains Point should be a public space for public use. This golf course idea is disgusting. It’s a Terrible waste of resources.

Name: Christopher Bain
Date: November 25, 2026 7:23:38 am

I urge you to reject the proposed redesign of East Potomac Park Golf Links.

I am a distance runner who uses Hains Point (East Potomac Park) on a regular basis, running the Ohio Drive loop to train for races year-round (especially local races such as: Cherry Blossom Ten Miler, Marine Corps Marathon, DC Half, National Women's Half Marathon and District 19--each of whose respective courses have included the Ohio Drive loop for years, if not decades). I share the park with bikers, birders, anglers, BBQ-ers, tourists, families, and, of course, golfers.

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Name: William Ferguson
Date: November 25, 2026 7:18:46 am

Restore the golf course that provided access for all skill level of golfer. Don’t restrict access for biking, walking, fishing birdwatching, or any activity. We don’t want an exclusive golf course there.

Name: John-Louis Pane
Date: November 25, 2026 7:16:22 am

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Name: Lander Allin
Date: November 25, 2026 7:13:07 am

Potomac Park is the people's park. It's regularly used by runners, walkers, cyclists, fishermen, picnickers, golfers and mini-golfers - all regular folks. I use it for cycling, and I used to run there.

Trump's plan would turn it into a high-end playground for the rich and privileged.

The park needs to be kept as it is, but with long deferred maintenance work performed to put it back in good repair.

Please save our park by putting a stop to Trump's plan.

Name: Parker OBrien
Date: November 25, 2026 6:39:53 am

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Name: Caroline Rusinski
Date: November 25, 2026 6:32:08 am

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Name: Allie Baum
Date: November 25, 2026 6:17:17 am

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Name: Alex Orr
Date: November 25, 2026 5:04:33 am

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Name: Albert Hunt
Date: November 25, 2026 3:47:25 am

I have used East Potomac Park for many years as a golfer, walker and for picnics. I have been impressed by the improvements to the golf course, until recently.

The proposal to make a new golf course will end my opportunities for a quick game at a price I can afford, and eliminate my biking, casual walks and picnics.

Please save East Potomac Park by denying approval of the proposed golf course.

Thank you !.

Name: Jacqueline Kasal
Date: November 25, 2026 1:20:49 am

I urge you to reject the proposed redesign of East Potomac Park Golf Links.

I am a distance runner who uses Hains Point (East Potomac Park) on a regular basis, running the Ohio Drive loop to train for races year-round (especially local races such as: Cherry Blossom Ten Miler, Marine Corps Marathon, DC Half, National Women's Half Marathon and District 19--each of whose respective courses have included the Ohio Drive loop for years, if not decades). I share the park with bikers, birders, anglers, BBQ-ers, tourists, families, and, of course, golfers.

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Name: Mark Simonsen
Date: November 25, 2026 12:46:38 am

Haines point is one of those gems of the city that make DC special. This past summer my wife and I trained for our Ironman by doing laps on Ohio drive. Had Haines point not been a safe, beautiful, multi use park for us to train, we would not have been able to accomplish our goals.

Going on runs when the cherry blossoms are in bloom. Remembering fallen soldiers during the marine corps marathon. Cycling around it for hours without having to dodge cars. All of these are incredibly important for the community and my love of the city. Taking that away in favor of improving the golf course would be an absolute negative trade off.

The fact that the President’s wishes are attempting to circumvent the wishes of the public spits in the face of what public parks are meant to accomplish. Throw out plans to ruin this amazing park, or expect to see us out there every day, protesting the effort, and voting you out of office.

Name: Kate Sham
Date: November 25, 2026 12:20:55 am

"Living within 1 mile of a golf course was linked to 126% higher odds (more than double) of developing Parkinson's disease compared to living more than 6 miles away, with risk generally declining as distance increased."

"Golf courses use pesticides, herbicides, and insecticides to maintain turf, and researchers suspect runoff or leaching into groundwater—as well as potential airborne drift—may contribute to neurotoxic exposure. As the American Parkinson Disease Association notes, the study shows an association rather than direct proof of causation."

As a resident of the Wharf, I think the humble size of the golf course before was fine. Going to this extravagant size now concerns me about greater risks of Parkinson's.

Name: Paul Chirles
Date: November 24, 2026 11:37:02 pm

I am writing to voice my opposition to this plan. And you, too, must not approve this plan.

This is the American public's park. It was set aside in 1897 for everyone. Turning it into a tournament golf course takes it away from the people who use it every day.
We will lose something we love. Our loop rides, picnic spot, fishing by the water, mini golf with the kids, the cherry blossoms - the staple beauty of Washington DC!
It will cost more, and fewer people will get in. A course built for pros won’t be the cheap, walk-up public course people learn on.
Keep the courses we have. Today there are 36 public holes on three courses, including two 9-hole courses for beginners and quick rounds. I taught my wife to play golf on the 9-hole course - perfect for beginners. Keep the current layout and every hole.
Nobody asked us. This is being rushed through with almost no chance for the people who use the park to be heard.

Do not approve this plan.

Name: Maeve Pierson
Date: November 24, 2026 10:30:41 pm

I urge you to reject the proposed redesign of East Potomac Park Golf Links.

I am a competitive distance runner who uses Hains Point (East Potomac Park) regularly, running the Ohio Drive loop to train for races year-round (especially local races such as: Cherry Blossom Ten Miler, Marine Corps Marathon, DC Half, National Women's Half Marathon and District 19--each of whose respective courses have included the Ohio Drive loop for years, if not decades). DC is so lucky to have amazing access to such a wonderful public space, right in the city, and taking away access to the park, not to mention destroying natural elements such as the loop's historic cherry blossom trees, would be a tradgedy for runners, bikers, birders, anglers, BBQ-ers, tourists, families, and, of course, golfers of ALL LEVELS alike.

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behalf of myself and the countless members of the public who have and currently enjoy East Potomac Park, I ask you to protect this cherished green refuge and reject the proposed design.

Name: Daniel Blamer
Date: November 24, 2026 10:24:18 pm

I've used Hains Point to train for charity bike rides, taught my kid to golf, and drove my parents through the cherry blossoms when they couldn't walk around the Tidal Basin. It's irreplaceable. If Trump wants to do something for the game of golf, invest in improving the current layout. But maintain the current level of accessibility and hands off the park loop.

Name: Michael Foster
Date: November 24, 2026 10:04:00 pm

For years we have used Hains Point / East Potomac Park as a safe space for families to come and learn about the sport of Onewheel. We have events and encourage riders to learn on the soft, undeveloped, soft grasses to cushion falls if they occur. The slower car traffic and the added bike lanes create an incubator for so many riders of varying degrees. This sacred space allows for a full range of community participation; pedestrians, skaters, cyclists, runners, automobile drivers, etc.

Please choose wisdom over wealth.

This is your legacy and opportunity to shape it.

Godspeed,
Michael D.B. Foster

Name: Campbell Ross
Date: November 24, 2026 9:56:13 pm

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I am a distance runner who uses Hains Point (East Potomac Park) on a regular basis, running the Ohio Drive loop to train for races year-round (especially local races such as: Cherry Blossom Ten Miler, Marine Corps Marathon, DC Half, National Women's Half Marathon and District 19--each of whose respective courses have included the Ohio Drive loop for years, if not decades). I share the park with bikers, birders, anglers, BBQ-ers, tourists, families, and, of course, golfers.

The proposed re-design would destroy this historic landmark. Quite simply, it would eliminate parkland Congress intended for EVERYONE. It would replace 3 golf courses (and a mini-golf course) open to players of all levels, with a championship course for skilled players only...not to mention the catastrophic loss of the park's mature cherry trees and iconic Ohio Drive loop that attracts runners and cyclists from around the world (literally). In fact, according to the popular fitness app Strava, Ohio Drive’s 'Gate to Gate' loop has 2,057,049 cycling attempts by 37,006 people AND 66,463 running attempts by 15,505 people to date. Further, according to Strava's own year-end data, this segment is the SECOND MOST POPULAR STRAVA SEGMENT IN THE U.S. (only bested by NYC’s Central Park). And this represents only a snapshot of the many, many people who use Hains Point for recreation outside of golf (most individuals with Strava accounts who navigated this point in this direction); and for whom the proposed redevelopment would have an immeasurably negative impact.

There is no federal interest in a pro-level, golf-only peninsula. Any changes should preserve the historic course's essential features, protect the trees, and keep the park open "for the recreation and pleasure of people," as Congress intended. On

behalf of myself and the countless members of the public who have and currently enjoy East Potomac Park, I ask you to protect this cherished green refuge and reject the proposed design.

Name: Eric Siddle
Date: November 24, 2026 9:25:20 pm

East Potomac park is a wonderful space for many uses. I bicycle the loop frequently. There is no comparable traffic light, flat, large area to bicycle in DC or nearby Virginia. Turning this space into a golf course will take away the park from the bikers, birders, picnickers, fishers, walkers, and runners. It’s truly special to bike through the cherry trees lining the road when they blossom every spring. I oppose any major changes that reduce the uses of this park

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Name: Fogell Ladson
Date: November 24, 2026 9:20:55 pm

I urge you to reject the proposed redesign of East Potomac Park Golf Links.

I am a distance runner who uses Hains Point (East Potomac Park) on a regular basis, running the Ohio Drive loop to train for races year-round (especially local races such as: Cherry Blossom Ten Miler, Marine Corps Marathon, DC Half, National Women's Half Marathon and District 19--each of whose respective courses have included the Ohio Drive loop for years, if not decades). I share the park with bikers, birders, anglers, BBQ-ers, tourists, families, and, of course, golfers.

The proposed re-design would destroy this historic landmark. Quite simply, it would eliminate parkland Congress intended for EVERYONE. It would replace 3 golf courses (and a mini-golf course) open to players of all levels, with a championship course for skilled players only...not to mention the catastrophic loss of the park's mature cherry trees and iconic Ohio Drive loop that attracts runners and cyclists from around the world (literally). In fact, according to the popular fitness app Strava, Ohio Drive’s 'Gate to Gate' loop has 2,057,049 cycling attempts by 37,006 people AND 66,463 running attempts by 15,505 people to date. Further, according to Strava's own year-end data, this segment is the SECOND MOST POPULAR STRAVA SEGMENT IN THE U.S. (only bested by NYC’s Central Park). And this represents only a snapshot of the many, many people who use Hains Point for recreation outside of golf (most individuals with Strava accounts who navigated this point in this direction); and for whom the proposed redevelopment would have an immeasurably negative impact.

There is no federal interest in a pro-level, golf-only peninsula. Any changes should preserve the historic course's essential features, protect the trees, and keep the park open "for the recreation and pleasure of people," as Congress intended. On behalf of myself and the countless members of the public who have and currently enjoy East Potomac Park, I ask you to protect this cherished green refuge and reject the proposed design.

Name: Michael Waller
Date: November 24, 2026 9:07:25 pm

I’ve been going to the park all my life. To my parents bringing me to play on Poseidon before it was taken away to cycling and running before the bike lanes were around the loop to now having it to help me pursue my dreams to be a professional cyclist. Even when I don’t use it to bike I use the loop to be at peace, have alone time and even have family time. People don’t just want this park to stay we need it to stay for another 100 years!

Name: Scott Johnston
Date: November 24, 2026 8:26:24 pm

This is a park that we thoroughly enjoy, and want to continue enjoying. It was set aside in 1897 for everyone. Turning it into a tournament golf course takes it away from the people who use it every day. I'll lose something I love.

Your loop ride or run, a picnic spot, fishing by the water, mini golf with your kids, the cherry blossoms. Name it. It will cost more, and fewer people will get in.

A course built for pros won't be the cheap, walk-up public course people learn on.

Keep and improve the courses we have! Today there are 36 public holes on three courses, including two 9-hole courses for beginners and quick rounds. The plan cuts that to a single 18-hole course.

Keep the current layout and every hole.

Nobody asked us taxpayers for our opinion. This is being rushed through with almost no chance for the people who use the park to be heard.

Name: William Katt
Date: November 24, 2026 8:08:24 pm

The proposed plan for the East Potomac Park golf course is unacceptable. The current layout afforda access to individuals pursuing a wide range of activities. As a runner, the Ohio Drive loop is beloved by runners. The Cherry Blossom 10 mile race supports numerous charities and uses the road as part of the course. Displacing the miniature golf course and playground is also an unfair imposition on families who utilize these facilities. Any alternations should be limited to the golf course and maintain the other facilities, particularly those utilized by runners.

Name: Timothy Hughes
Date: November 24, 2026 7:53:42 pm

Dear Members of the National Capital Planning Commission,

I urge you to reject the proposed redesign of the East Potomac Park Golf Course.

As a distance runner and cyclist who utilizes Hains Point (East Potomac Park) on a regular basis, I rely on the Ohio Drive loop year-round to train for local endurance events—such as the Cherry Blossom Ten Miler, the Marine Corps Marathon, the DC Half, the National Women's Half Marathon, and District 19—which draw runners and visitors from across the nation to Washington, DC. As an athlete moving through the park on foot and on bike, I share this space daily with birders, anglers, families, tourists, picnickers, and golfers of all skill levels.

The proposed redesign threatens to fundamentally destroy this historic public landmark. Quite simply, it would eliminate accessible parkland that Congress intended for everyone. Replacing three community-accessible golf courses and the historic mini-golf facility with an exclusive championship course for skilled players only runs counter to the democratic spirit of our capital's parks. Compounding this loss is the catastrophic removal of the park's mature cherry trees and the disruption of iconic Ohio Drive, which is vital to non-motorized recreation.

There is no federal interest in converting a vibrant, multi-use public peninsula into a pro-level, golf-exclusive zone. Any changes should preserve the historic course's essential features, protect our mature tree canopy, and keep the park fully open "for the recreation and pleasure of people," as Congress originally intended.

On behalf of myself, fellow athletes, and the countless members of the public who cherish and utilize East Potomac Park, I ask you to protect this irreplaceable green refuge and reject the proposed design.

Sincerely,
Timothy Hughes

Name: Becca Schendel Norris
Date: November 24, 2026 7:47:03 pm

I am a Ward 7 DC resident who has lived in the District since 2007. I've spent so many pleasant weekend mornings running, riding my bike, and enjoying the green space of East Potomac Park with my family - I don't want to lose this wonderful public space that is currently open to all! One of my most cherished DC memories is the year the Cherry Blossom 10-mile road race perfectly coincided with peak bloom, and I got to run around Hains Point taking in the hundreds of incredible cherry blossom trees for mile after mile. It's really a special and uniquely beautiful space in the District. I strongly oppose the proposed plan to build a golf course that would eliminate public space, including the road around the park and the beautiful cherry trees that line it. Please vote no.

Name: Kristen Walker
Date: November 24, 2026 7:06:50 pm

I write as a concerned DC resident and park user to OPPOSE the plan under review at East Potomac Park in Washington, DC. I urge you to halt the plan immediately.

East Potomac Park – or Hains Point, as many of us call it – is one of my favorite places in DC. It's close enough that I can bike there from home, and provides better riverfront access than anywhere else in the city. On warm weekend afternoons, there's nothing better than a slow bike ride around the loop, followed by napping and reading in my hammock at the edge of the river for a few hours. Part of what I love so much about Hains Point is that it draws such a broad cross-section of Washingtonians, and it gives prime outdoor access and JOY to just about everyone. If you go to the park on a nice warm afternoon, you'll see families picnicking everywhere, big groups gathering, people fishing in the river, bikers whizzing by, birders strolling around, kids playing, people watching the planes landing and taking off at National Airport, and so much more. This is truly a community park that brings people together in a shared, public space to enjoy the natural beauty of the river and the parkland, and to gather with friends and family in an enjoyable, relaxing outdoor space.

Under the proposed plans that you're reviewing, all of that would be lost. No longer would the park be open to people like me, members of the public who aren't interested in golfing. No more biking. No more picnicking. No more fishing in the river. No more riverfront access. No more strolling among the historic cherry trees. No more public use of this public space.

Instead, this plan would convert a 130-year-old public park into a single-use facility open exclusively to those who can afford to pay steep fees. It would turn a historic public park into a private country club, and exclude the public without so much as a second thought. Moreover, it upends Washington, DC's long-term plan for its public spaces, and the required environmental and historic review isn't finished.

I urge you to reject that short-sighted and exclusionary plan. Public parks are for THE PEOPLE and they need to stay that way. Given the breakneck pace of this plan, the public has had almost no real window to weigh in – and to the extent they have been able to weigh in, residents almost uniformly oppose the plan. This plan is not a plan designed in the best interests of the public or the best interests of Washington, DC.

I beg you to reject this plan and preserve East Potomac as a public park. Keep the perimeter loop and waterfront open, preserve the historic muni with common-sense improvements, and keep the rest of the peninsula a park for everyone.

Sincerely,

Kristen Walker
Washington, DC

Name: Patrick McAnaney
Date: November 24, 2026 6:42:22 pm

This is a beloved public park used for a wide variety of activities - not only golfing but cycling, running, fishing, picnicking, and more. Please do not approve a plan that closes the road and destroys all the public access that makes this

park special. We need to keep Ohio Drive and Hains Point open for all.

Name: Jennifer Jones
Date: November 24, 2026 6:35:35 pm

I'm writing due to the huge impact that Hains Point and the East Potomac Park has in the layout and city planning of Washington DC as well as the lives of every day Washingtonians. The scale and nature of a championship course was not the intention of the historic design and comes at the cost of destroying the historic monuments and legacy of the peninsula. The mini golf course is the oldest continually open mini golf in the country and part of the national register of historic places, yet would be raised to the ground with the current championship plan. The championship course does not consider or honor the history of this area.
The current designs focus on removing all the key features of the peninsula that make it special to Washington DC. The classic design of Ohio Drive surrounding the historic cherry trees with open sight lines has resulted in Hains Point being a multi use community area for major races such as the Marine Corps Marathon and Cherry Blossom Ten Miler as well as historically honoring the legacy of the cherry blossoms within the District. All that would be lost with the current design scale. Hains Point and the East Potomac Park design is rooted in providing a space honoring the landscapes of DC while providing a recreation space for residents. As a result, the design and associated scale should be rejected. Any redesign should incorporate the intent of the original design and community interfacing portions such as the mini golf course, the running and biking loop, and the picnic areas intact.

Name: Martha Rondon
Date: November 24, 2026 6:27:42 pm

I strongly oppose this redevelopment. As a runner who regularly uses Hains Point, I value having a space where people can run, walk, bike, fish, and enjoy the waterfront. It's one of the places that makes DC such a great city to live in. I'm concerned that creating a more upscale golf course will come at the expense of public access and the many people who use this space without needing to spend money. Public land should serve the entire community, not become more exclusive. We shouldn't have to give up access to a space we already enjoy just to make room for a more expensive version of something that already exists.

I urge you to reject this redevelopment plan and protect Hains Point as an accessible, public space for everyone.

Name: Adam Lewis
Date: November 24, 2026 6:20:21 pm

Removing east po as an approachable golf oasis for Washingtonians is a selfish move. As comment who has ran around the park and who golfs with regularity I enjoy the open and communal space that east Potomac offers. The last time I golfed national links trust had it in the best shape I had seen in since moving to the area 18 years ago. There is no justification for a violation of holding up their end of the bargain.

Name: Lila Sullivan
Date: November 24, 2026 6:19:32 pm

To The National Capitol Planning Commission

As a life long DC resident and an 80 year old amateur golfer I would like to voice my strong opposition to the Concept Plan for East Potomac Golf Links. The East Potomac Golf course is a gem for DC residents providing an opportunity to play golf at a reasonable cost. It would be a travesty to close the course.

Thank you so much for allowing me to voice my opposition.

Sincerely,
Lila Sullivan

Name: Brendan Stelmach
Date: November 24, 2026 6:12:21 pm

East Potomac park and its three distinct golf courses are extremely close to my heart. Having the variety of courses for all kinds of players is such a massive civic asset for the city. It breaks my heart to think of it going away. Look at how the community is caring for the park now and you will understand what it means to people. Affordable and accessible golf in the center of our capital is a great symbol of the egalitarian nature of the US. Removing that in favor of an expensive and overly difficult course, at the expense of hundreds of thousands of hours of peaceful recreation, would be a tragedy. That's not to mention the thousands of bikers, picnickers, runners, and visitors who make the park part of their lives. There are ways to improve the park but this plan simply isn't viable. This park has stood for over 100 years as a symbol of egalitarian civic life, and we can't let it slip away.

Name: Joe Sacco
Date: November 24, 2026 6:08:17 pm

Please keep this municipal course, Ohio Drive, Mini Golf as is, under current configuration, and let the residents of DMV enjoy it as it has always been, accessible to all without taking away the assets of the Park. Improve if needed for safety, but not into a colossal golf complex that may be out of reach for average people to enjoy.

Name: John Ausema
Date: November 24, 2026 6:06:42 pm

I am writing to oppose the Trump administrations proposal to renovate the East Potomac Park golf course. While the current course certainly needs to be upgraded, the administration relies on incomplete information when justifying the proposed project, and has not evaluated the negtive impacts of the project. The National Links Trust was identified several years ago as a vendor who would renovate the golf course. The administration dismissed the vendor and then convieniently leaves out this fact, implying instead that the course has been neglected and allowed to fall into disrepair, and thus the administrations proposed renovation is a reasonable solution. More importantly, the proposed renovations removed signifcant portions of the park which have been enjoyed by the public for decades. Runners and cyclists regularly train in a traffic-free environment on the scenic drive. Other park visitors enjoy picnics, fishing, bird-watching, views of the scenic river and the airport, and the cherry trees in the spring. All of these uses would be eliminated by the proposed renovation.

The loss of the running and cycling route would be particularly signifiant for me. I have been one of the many thousands of people running the loop during the Marine Corps marathon, the Cherry Blossom 10-miler, and other races over the years. In addition, I coach for competitive high school cross country and track team, and we regularly train on the low-traffic scenic drive that has no traffic lights. We can run to this location four our school. There is no other suitable alternative, and thus the loss of this park would mean the loss of an important training area for my team.

Government agencies are required by the National Environmental Policy act and (in this case) by internal National Park Service policies to undertake detailed alternatives analysis when undertaking a project of this scale. The government must follow the law and study the negative impacts of the project before moving forward.

Name: Eileen Lee
Date: November 24, 2026 6:03:36 pm

Re: redesign of east Potomac Park golf course and recreation area- the golf course should be refurbished to allow as many people to play as possible. Currently, it is a wonderful resource for people who want to learn the game and an affordable place to play for many Washingtonians. For generations, Washingtonians have enjoyed playing on the historic mini golf course along with having celebrations and family reunions in the shaded recreation area. The beautiful cherry trees

planted along the road are a gift from Japan. Cyclists, runners, walkers and fisherman make good is of the road that runs along the perimeter of the park. Please don’t take this beautiful recreation area away from the people who live here!

Name: Eileen Lee
Date: November 24, 2026 5:55:09 pm

As relating to redesign of East Potomac Park and the golf course- the course should be redesigned to allow as many people to play as possible while preserving the mini golf area, the shaded recreation area, as well as the road around the park and the cherry trees. For generations, the park has been a site of family reunions, celebrations and a course for cycling, walking and running. Please don’t take this lovely place away from Washington natives.

Name: Michael Michael
Date: November 24, 2026 5:50:47 pm

As a resident of SW Waterfront, I enjoy this park daily--if mostly from the other side of the Washington Channel. I do walk, bike or drive Ohio drive on occasion and love its access to the Potomac Point. I very much miss The Awakening sculpture.

While myself, and the community at large are not opposed to an improved golf course(s) the proposal to eliminate all the amenities that make this a welcoming space to those of whom do not golf (i.e., majority of users--bikers and walkers) is an absolute travesty. Any improvements must preserve the drive, the bikeway, walkways, picnic areas, children's playground, et al. The very assets that make it of broad benefit to the people of DC as its founding intent had been promised.

Stand your ground, grow a spine and DO NOT approve this project.

Name: Iris Eagleton
Date: November 24, 2026 5:47:26 pm

Hello,
I urge you to reject the proposed redesign of East Potomac Park Golf Links.

I am a distance runner who uses Hains Point (East Potomac Park) on a regular basis, running the Ohio Drive loop to train for races year-round (especially local races such as: Cherry Blossom Ten Miler, Marine Corps Marathon, DC Half, National Women's Half Marathon and District 19--each of whose respective courses have included the Ohio Drive loop for years, if not decades). I share the park with bikers, birders, anglers, BBQ-ers, tourists, families, and, of course, golfers.

The proposed re-design would destroy this historic landmark. Quite simply, it would eliminate parkland Congress intended for EVERYONE. It would replace 3 golf courses (and a mini-golf course) open to players of all levels, with a championship course for skilled players only...not to mention the catastrophic loss of the park's mature cherry trees and iconic Ohio Drive loop that attracts runners and cyclists from around the world (literally). In fact, according to the popular fitness app Strava, Ohio Drive’s 'Gate to Gate' loop has 2,057,049 cycling attempts by 37,006 people AND 66,463 running attempts by 15,505 people to date. Further, according to Strava's own year-end data, this segment is the SECOND MOST POPULAR STRAVA SEGMENT IN THE U.S. (only bested by NYC’s Central Park). And this represents only a snapshot of the many, many people who use Hains Point for recreation outside of golf (most individuals with Strava accounts who navigated this point in this direction); and for whom the proposed redevelopment would have an immeasurably negative impact.

There is no federal interest in a pro-level, golf-only peninsula. Any changes should preserve the historic course's essential features, protect the trees, and keep the park open "for the recreation and pleasure of people," as Congress intended. On behalf of myself and the countless members of the public who have and currently enjoy East Potomac Park, I ask you to protect this cherished green refuge and reject the proposed design.

Name: Nicole Ester
Date: November 24, 2026 5:39:57 pm

To the Members of the National Capital Planning Commission,

I am writing as a D.C. resident who lives directly across the water to urge the Commission not to approve the proposed plan to redevelop East Potomac Park into an elite, tournament-level golf course. Turning it into an exclusive venue built for major tournaments takes a vital community space away from the everyday residents who rely on it.

East Potomac Park is part of my daily neighborhood experience. I regularly jog along the peninsula, look forward to seeing the cherry blossoms there every spring, and look out at the park's green, open waterfront from right across the channel every day.

Furthermore, the current golf facilities work because they serve everyday people. Today, the park offers 36 affordable, walk-up public holes across three courses. Cutting that down to a single 18-hole championship course will drive up costs and price out local players and newcomers to the game.

Finally, a decision that permanently alters historic public land should not be rushed through without meaningful community input. Please protect public access, preserve the current 36-hole layout and open parkland, and reject this rushed dismissive proposal.

Thank you for your attention.

Name: Colleen Casey
Date: November 24, 2026 5:39:56 pm

Do not change east Potomac park. Preserve the biking access and mini golf. Preserve the public access

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Name: Richard Eisinger
Date: November 24, 2026 5:39:40 pm

I am 82 years old and have been using the golf course, and walking around Haines Point for 30 years.
There is no need for any major renovation , except perhaps for a retaining wall to prevent flooding from the Potomac
Turning the golf course into something that only high income people could afford is contrary to the raison d'etre for the course. All it needs is some upgrading, not a total renovation that would close it for years

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Name: Ryan Drysdale
Date: November 24, 2026 5:35:43 pm

I’m writing to oppose the plan to close East Potomac Park and create a new golf course. This public place is essential to the community for multiple purposes. I am an avid runner, cyclist, and golfer and use East Potomac Park regularly for all three purposes. I love seeing people picnicking, fishing, and walking as well.

East Potomac Golf Links provides a welcoming, accessible, and affordable place for people to play golf and learn how to play golf on the Red and White courses which is rare in the DC area. We need to preserve public places and affordable golf.

The lack of transparency and the lying by the Departments of Justice and Interior on behalf of the Trump Administration is concerning. There is no publicly available budget for the course renovations nor where the funds are coming from, especially for the needed upgrades to the seawall.

Rushing this project through while lying about it is a disservice to the community and to taxpayers who will be on the hook for an unknown sum of money.

The community wants to keep the park as is, with eventually needed improvements. Listen to the community who overwhelming wants to keep access to park space, running and cycling lanes, picnicking and playgrounds, and the golf facilities.

Name: Francis Schauer
Date: November 24, 2026 5:35:25 pm

I have used Hains Point for run and triathlon training for 40 years. As an 82 year old, it would be very difficult for me another place to train.

Name: antonio contreras
Date: November 24, 2026 5:29:46 pm

Me and all my colleagues of work are active users of east potomac golf. We have dozens of good memories there and it’s incredibly sad that is getting closed.

Name: Alex Delehanty
Date: November 24, 2026 5:25:42 pm

DC doesn’t need another land grab by tRump. the people of DC need to be able to continue to enjoy East Potomac.

Name: Mary Doyle
Date: November 24, 2026 5:22:12 pm

Please don’t destroy East Potomac. Yes, of course improve it along the lines of what National Trust was planning. These courses are part of what makes life in Washington so special. I, along with my friends, learned to play golf here many years ago. Taking lessons, going to driving range to hit buckets of balls, playing the red course - always fun even when I wasn’t hitting very well. I brought my 7 year old nephew here after I gave him his first set of clubs and we played the red course. Afterwards he asked if we could go to clubhouse to have a hot dog. We were sitting and eating on the porch and he looked around and said “wow, this is where real golfers play”. It is, I replied. Turning this into an expensive, difficult course will be awful. Where do all the kids and their moms and dads and teenagers and college kids and seniors play? There is nothing comparable. Please don’t do this!

Name: Ernest Pittarelli
Date: November 24, 2026 5:20:03 pm

Name: David Wyman
Date: November 24, 2026 5:11:55 pm

I strongly oppose the proposed plans for redeveloping East Potomac Park and golf course.

Reducing the complex from 36 to 18 holes — and three courses to one — will make it harder for DC, VA and MD residents to play golf in the region. The new plan will not support the nearly 125,000 rounds played at East Potomac last year, and will have a spillover and crowding effect on other regional public golf courses that are already at capacity.

The proposed plan will also remove the ability for beginners to use the new facility, limiting the universe of the public who can use this “public use” park space.

The game of golf will also take a significant hit by losing one of the region's best gateways and "feeder courses" for new golfers to learn the sport and eventually graduate to more advanced courses. It will have a long term impact on the business model of private courses in the area.

The mini golf course is on the National Register of Historic Places and is the longest running mini golf course in the nation. Removing it would remove DC's only public outdoor mini golf course.

As someone who uses the Park weekly — and used it five days per week during the pandemic for golfing, biking and tennis — I strongly oppose expanding the footprint of the existing golf facilities in a way the removes access for bikers, runner, tourists, birders, fishers and families who use Hains Point for BBQing, family reunions and more.

Name: Anne Johnson
Date: November 24, 2026 5:09:59 pm

East Potomac Park is beloved to DC residents. The park features one of the only affordable golf courses in the area, where people of all ages and levels can play. Families enjoy the running track and picnic in the park, enjoying the views and the patch of nature in the busy city. Grandparents teach their kids to fish here.
The cherry blossoms are internationally known, and are a big economic driver for DC in the springtime.
The plan to rip East Potomac Park away from the people of DC, tearing down trees and isolating it as yet another bastion of privilege for the few elite golfers and their chums who can afford it, is undemocratic and abhorrent. Like most of Trump's vanity projects, this plan stinks of elitism and careless imperiousness. I understand that the NCPC is currently just a rubber stamp for whatever Trump wants to do to turn DC into his personal extension of Mar a Lago, but I insist that you consider how immoral, wrong, and un-American it is to take a unique and well-loved public recreation area away from the people to make it exclusive for the rich. The park has been a public space since 1897, and there is no need to rush to into this poorly planned, poorly conceived project.
I urge you to leave East Potomac Park alone! Send Trump to his other golf courses and let the people of DC keep theirs.

Name: Connor Letendre
Date: November 24, 2026 5:05:32 pm

I am writing to convey my strong opposition to any plans to remove public access to east Potomac park. I have been cycling at East Potomac for years - losing access to this area would take away a valuable resource from a host cyclists that have used this as a safe place to train and recreate.

Name: Joanne Sonenshine
Date: November 24, 2026 5:04:01 pm

There is something incredibly special about East Potomac Park that is at risk of getting destroyed by this Administration. Namely the fact that the Golf Course, one of the oldest on the East Coast, offers 36 holes of golf to families, children, my kids' golf team and low income households as well. The accessibility is unique compared to so many other public golf courses and the views have made my children appreciate being from the DC area. Sure the courses could be improved, but should they be bulldozed or privatized into a golf course that is inaccessible? No. The mini golf course was just re done and is so special. It brings families from all over DC and the country. Please do not ruin that. I have loved dropping my kids off for a round of affordable golf while I walk or run around Haines Point. The loop down to the end of the park is one of my favorites because it's so beautiful and I enjoy seeing so many runners and bikers around. Families picnicking and enjoying the playground. It's one of the most beautiful parts of DC, especially next to the water, and I am absolutely devastated by the concept of it being destroyed. Could these elements be improved? Yes. Destroyed for the gain of our President who cares NOTHING about anyone but himself? No!

Name: Laura Powell
Date: November 24, 2026 5:00:10 pm

To Whom It May Concern:
I have visited the East End Park as an out of state visitor multiple times. I've smelled the Cherry blossoms and walked the perimeter many times. The last time I was there I took my grandson. We played miniature golf and had a picnic. I would like to be able to take my great-grandson in the future. Please don't approve this plan. The East End Park belongs to the people and East End is never more alive than when it is full of everyday people enjoying it.
Laura R. Powell
Kingwood, TX

Name: Michael Starr
Date: November 24, 2026 3:42:41 pm

I'm a DC resident who has run the Army Ten-Miler and the Cherry Blossom Ten Miler multiple times, bikes through the park, sees the blossoms every spring, and golfs there too. As a golfer, I was really excited about the NLT's planned renovations. So I say this as someone who wants the course to get better: under no circumstances should you all remove the road around East Potomac, or the cherry trees.

This is such an awesome space for bikers, runners, birders, literally anyone who lives in the city or visits from anywhere. The Marine Corps Marathon, the ten milers, the blossoms every spring: these are all such integral parts of the city. It would be outrageous if we suddenly lost access to this space.

If the sea wall needs repair, then by all means, let's repair the sea wall. If we want to renovate the course, let's do that too! I agree the course could use some TLC, and we could make it nicer. It would be great to have a course in better condition, maybe even one that hosts tournaments, and we could charge out-of-towners more than DC residents. The NLT plan was awesome because it brought back many of the course's historical features.

We can renovate the course WITHOUT getting rid of everything around the edges of the park.

I don't understand why this is being jammed through so quickly. As the plans stand now, the ONLY thing you'll be able to do there is golf, and far fewer people will be able to golf. This will go from a multi-use space that a ton of people use to one that very few do. Even as a golfer, I can't support that.

Please do the right thing: don't approve this plan, and listen to the overwhelming opposition to it. Think about the long-term future of this space and everyone who loves it. The choice is obvious.

Name: Darrell Smith
Date: November 24, 2026 3:30:14 pm

I am a cyclist and a runner who works out every day at East Potomac. I have circled the island thousands of times. It is one of the only roads in DC where one is safe from cars. It is beautiful and I call it my happy place! I can't believe Trump wants to destroy it to make it a haven for the fake sport of golf that attracts mostly alcoholics and out of shape men. DC does not need another golf course. It needs a place where people can engage in real sports.

Name: Viki Reath
Date: November 24, 2026 3:13:58 pm

Don't destroy DC. East Potomac Park Golf Course. In addition to broken hearts, it must be preserved as a historic landmark. ILike all but one golf course in Washington, D.C., from 1900 to 1955, East Potomac Park Golf Course was racially segregated, and barred African Americans from using the course. In 1941, several black golfers attempted to play at East Potomac Park Golf Course, but were attacked by whites throwing stones and threatening them with more violence.[13] African American golfers petitioned United States Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes for permission to play at the course, which Ickes granted.[14][15] In July, three black golfers (accompanied by six United States Marshals) played the course, but were jeered and threatened with assault.[14] But with Ickes unable to provide such high

levels of protection all the time, African American golfers rarely attempted to play there until the city's golf courses were desegregated in 1955.[16]

Name: Eduardo Ulloa
Date: November 24, 2026 2:39:49 pm

Members of the Commission,
I am writing as a District resident of nearly 15 years to urge the National Capital Planning Commission to withhold approval of the proposed East Potomac Park Golf Links redevelopment (File 8832). During this time, East Potomac Park has been an essential part of my life in Washington—a rare, accessible civic space where I have regularly played golf alongside neighbors, runners, cyclists, and families enjoying the waterfront.

The plan currently before the Commission fundamentally undermines the purpose of East Potomac Park and falls short of the planning, environmental, and public-engagement standards required for a project of this magnitude:

- Converting a 130-Year-Old Multi-Use Park into a Single-Use Facility: For over a century, East Potomac Park has been designed and managed as an open, democratic parkland serving diverse recreational needs. The proposed championship-scale golf complex treats the peninsula as an insular, single-use tournament venue rather than part of an integrated public park. By eliminating the perimeter running and biking loop, the public picnic areas, the historic mini golf course, the perimeter road, and Walter Travis's historic reversible nine-hole routing, this plan displaces everyday District residents and visitors in favor of high-end tournament infrastructure.

- Incomplete Environmental and Historic Reviews: Advancing a project that removes mature canopy trees, cherished cherry trees, open riverfront sightlines, and historic landscape features before the required environmental and historic preservation reviews are completed is premature. The Commission cannot properly weigh the irreversible impacts to this cultural landscape and the surrounding Potomac River environment without finished analyses and mitigation plans in the public record.

- Inadequate Public Review Window: Given the sweeping scale of this transformation—permanently altering how the public accesses and uses a major piece of the National Mall and Memorial Parks system—the pace of review has provided almost no meaningful window for residents and park users to examine the plans and weigh in. A change that strips away core public amenities deserves thorough, transparent public participation, not an accelerated approval process.

What We Stand to Lose:
Over my 15 years in the District, I have relied on East Potomac Park precisely because its layout accommodates every level of play and fits naturally into daily life. While I primarily play the 18-hole Blue course, the 9-hole White course gives me a quick way to get a few holes in when I am short on time or playing alongside a friend who is just starting out and building confidence. I regularly use the driving range before a round, early in the morning, or after work. Just as importantly, East Potomac's approachable layout and affordable programming have allowed me to introduce new players—including young children—to the game, and I have seen firsthand how many beginners rely on its low-cost lessons compared to private or suburban courses. Losing this accessible ecosystem—alongside the perimeter running and biking loop, picnic areas, mini golf course, and cherished cherry trees—would strip away an irreplaceable community hub in favor of restricted tournament infrastructure.

I respectfully ask the Commission to defer action on File 8832 until environmental and historic reviews are complete, a meaningful public comment process has occurred, and the design is revised to preserve East Potomac Park as a multi-use public space—keeping the running and biking loop, picnic areas, mini golf course, and accessible public golf intact.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Name: Fred Irby
Date: November 24, 2026 2:35:39 pm

I urge you to reject the proposed redesign of East Potomac Park Golf Links.

I am a distance runner and use Hains Point (East Potomac Park) on a regular basis, running the Ohio Drive loop to train for races year-round (especially local races such as: Cherry Blossom Ten Miler, Marine Corps Marathon, DC Half,

National Women's Half Marathon and District 19 which also attract runners from across the nation). I share the park with bikers, birders, anglers, BBQ-ers, tourists, families, and, of course, golfers.

The proposed re-design would destroy this historic landmark. Quite simply, It would eliminate parkland Congress intended for EVERYONE. It would replace 3 golf courses (and a mini-golf course) that is open to players of all levels with a championship course for skilled players only...not to mention the catastrophic loss of the park's mature cherry trees and iconic Ohio Drive.

There is no federal interest in a pro-level, golf-only peninsula. Any changes should preserve the historic course's essential features, protect the trees, and keep the park open "for the recreation and pleasure of people," as Congress intended. On behalf of myself and the countless members of the public who have and currently enjoy East Potomac Park, I ask you to protect this cherished green refuge and reject the proposed design.

—Fred Irby

**Fun Fact: Per the popular Fitness App Strava, the Hains Point segment (the Ohio Drive gate to gate loop) has 2,057,049 cycling attempts by 37,006 people and 66,463 running attempts by 15,505 people to date. According to Strava's own year-end data, Hains Point (specifically the backside) is the SECOND MOST POPULAR Strava segment in the U.S., landing just behind Central Park. This is just a small snapshot (i.e. individuals with Strava accounts who navigated this point in this direction) of the many people whom this project will negatively impact.

Name: Mary Beth Lee
Date: November 24, 2026 1:48:29 pm

East Potomac Park is a vital community space that provides recreational value for a variety of users, from those enjoying a picnic to training for a marathon, or taking a walk with friends. The plans to redevelop the park fail to account for its many uses and value to the community, and are worthy of the criticism they have received. Future plans must retain the same accessibility, and truly be for the benefit of the public good, rather than the wealthy few.

Name: Antonio Harris
Date: November 24, 2026 1:43:55 pm

I urge you to reject the proposed redesign of East Potomac Park Golf Course. The CFA's mission is to review how designs "affect the federal interest and preserve the dignity of the nation's capital." This design fails on both counts.
I am a distance runner and use Hains Point (East Potomac Park) on a regular basis, running the Ohio Drive loop to train for races year-round (especially local races such as: Cherry Blossom Ten Miler, Marine Corps Marathon, DC Half, National Women's Half Marathon and District 19 which also attract runners from across the nation). I share the park with bikers, birders, anglers, BBQ-ers, tourists, families, and, of course, golfers. The proposed re-design would destroy this historic landmark. Quite simply, It would eliminate parkland Congress intended for EVERYONE. It would replace 3 golf courses (and a mini-golf course) that is open to players of all levels with a championship course for skilled players only...not to mention the catastrophic loss of the park's mature cherry trees and iconic Ohio Drive.

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Name: Greta Martin
Date: November 24, 2026 1:20:50 pm

Hains Point is a huge public health benefit for DC residents. It provides space for exercise, recreation, and calm away from the city center. Please keep it open to all.

Name: Peter Kuelbs
Date: November 24, 2026 12:00:57 pm

I strongly urge the NCPC to reject any proposal which does not maintain Ohio Drive SW at East Potomac Park. I help organize a community cycling organization in DC which frequently uses East Potomac Park for our group bike rides. The proposed elimination of Ohio Drive SW around the park would be devastating for us, and thousands of other cyclists in DC, MD, and VA.

Name: Paul O'Leary
Date: November 24, 2026 11:15:49 am

Public Comment – Proposed Redevelopment of East Potomac Park

Dear Members of the National Capital Planning Commission:

I am writing as a resident of Arlington, Virginia, to express my strong opposition to the proposed redevelopment of East Potomac Park and urge the Commission to reject the proposal in its current form.

East Potomac Park is far more than a golf course. It is one of the most valuable and accessible public recreational spaces in the Washington metropolitan area. It serves cyclists, runners, walkers, fishermen, golfers, families and countless others who enjoy its open spaces and waterfront.

As an avid cyclist, I particularly value Hains Point and the Ohio Drive loop. There are remarkably few places in the Washington metropolitan area that offer comparable opportunities for uninterrupted recreational cycling. The park also supports numerous organized sporting events, including running races and cycling events, and provides a wonderful setting for enjoying Washington's cherry blossoms.

The proposed redevelopment fundamentally changes the character and purpose of the park by prioritizing a championship golf course over a diverse range of existing public recreational uses. Even if the redesigned golf course remains technically open to the public, that does not compensate for the loss of freely accessible parkland or the displacement of other recreational activities.

I am not opposed to renovating the existing golf course, repairing the seawall or improving the park's infrastructure. These are worthwhile investments. However, such improvements should enhance public access rather than diminish it.

I respectfully request that the Commission:

* Reject any redevelopment that expands the golf course at the expense of existing public recreational spaces.
* Preserve the entirety of the Ohio Drive recreational loop.
* Protect unrestricted public access to Hains Point and its waterfront.
* Preserve mature trees, historic cherry trees, picnic areas and other existing recreational amenities.
* Maintain affordable and accessible public golf within the existing golf course footprint.
* Require a comprehensive assessment of the impacts on existing park users and meaningful public participation before approving any redevelopment.

East Potomac Park is federal public land, and its future should reflect the needs of the broader public, including residents of Virginia and Maryland who rely on it for recreation.

The success of this project should be measured by how many people it benefits, not by the prestige of the golf course it creates.

Public investment in East Potomac Park should expand recreational opportunities, not take them away. I urge the Commission to reject the current proposal and pursue an alternative that preserves the park's historic character, accessibility and diverse recreational uses for generations to come.

Respectfully,

Paul O’Leary
Arlington, Virginia

Name: Jordan Corredor
Date: November 24, 2026 10:57:18 am

As a golfer who regularly uses East Potomac Golf Links, I recognize that the courses need maintenance, infrastructure improvements, and investment. However, I oppose a redevelopment plan of this scale and cost that risks compromising the broader public value of East Potomac Park.

I enjoy golfing at Hains Point, but I also value the park as a whole—cycling its roads, walking along the waterfront, fishing, enjoying the open lawns, and spending time outdoors. These amenities make East Potomac Park special because they are accessible to everyone, not just golfers.

Investment should focus on necessary repairs, safety, and improving existing facilities without sacrificing open space, restricting public access, or fundamentally changing the character of the park. The cost of this proposal is excessive, and public resources should be used responsibly to benefit the greatest number of people.

East Potomac Park belongs to all of us. It is not the President's dumping ground or a playground for special interests. It is public land, and its future should reflect the needs of the public.

I urge the National Park Service and the National Capital Planning Commission to reconsider this plan and pursue a more modest, responsible approach that maintains the golf courses while protecting the park's other recreational amenities, open space, and unrestricted public access.

Name: Vincent Tobias
Date: November 24, 2026 10:55:13 am

We need to keep this public park open for everyone, fishermen, walkers, bike riders, people sitting in their cars just want to be by the water. And reading a book\n Barbecues. People practicing for marathons for the marathons and all the races come through there, the Cherry Blossoms races. I was 10 years old when I first came to this park.I am now, 63 years old.I've been at this park my whole life the park is for everyone, even the golfers too. As well, the walkers, the runners, the bikers, the fishermen's\n People exercise people just want to come and sit by the wall to watch the planes. Watch the trains.

Name: Keyle Horton
Date: November 24, 2026 9:59:54 am

I strongly oppose the proposed East Potomac Park Golf Links redevelopment plan. The cost and scale of this project are excessive and prioritize golf facilities over the public's ability to enjoy one of Washington, D.C.'s most treasured public spaces.

East Potomac Park is more than a golf course. It is a public park enjoyed by walkers, cyclists, anglers, families, and visitors. We are unwilling to sacrifice unrestricted access to the biking and walking paths, fishing areas, open lawns, picnic spaces, and other amenities at Hains Point for an expensive golf redevelopment.

Public funds should prioritize essential repairs, safety, and maintenance—not an expansive redesign that risks reducing open space and limiting public access.

This is not the President's dumping ground. It is public land, and it belongs to the people. The park should remain accessible and welcoming to everyone, not reshaped at the public's expense to serve a narrower set of interests.

I urge the National Park Service and the National Capital Planning Commission to reject this plan and prioritize preserving East Potomac Park's open space, public access, and existing recreational amenities.

Name: CARL VON KESSLER
Date: November 24, 2026 7:50:51 am

Name: Heather Prochnow
Date: November 24, 2026 6:44:12 am

I am strongly against converting the current golf course to a “championship” level course. The proposed plan appears to eliminate the public park spaces and the road around the perimeter of the current course. East Potomac Park is not only a golf course but a public area for cyclists, runners, families gathering, picnics, barbecues, etc. It is easily accessible for those in the DMV to enjoy in a myriad of ways. While the area of land is in need of some upgrades, citizens do not want our public land taken away to become less accessible space and a park that the majority of citizens will no longer enjoy or be able to use.

Name: Craig Kalkut
Date: November 23, 2026 10:47:09 pm

I have played golf, practiced at the driving range or played the miniature golf course at East Potomac well over 100 times in the last 20 years and I vehemently oppose the current renovation plans. I have no objection to investing in the courses and facilities, but it would be tragic to: 1) remove public access, 2) have higher prices that make it unaffordable to the general public, or 3) lose the variety provided by the Red, White and Blue courses, as well as practices holes. It would also be tragic for the people of the DMV to lose access to the park for running, biking, fishing, picnicking or just relaxing. Finally, the cherry trees are sacred to Washingtonians and the nation, and some of the best areas of cherry trees in the district would be lost.

Name: James Mann
Date: November 23, 2026 10:11:53 pm

To the National Capitol Planning Commission

I oppose the Concept Plan for East Potomac Park as it takes away the joy and adventure that the current park configuration brings to residents of the Capitol area as I once was and to those of us who come, as I still do, to visit our Nation’s capitol.
Tearing out a well functioning multi-use park space to turn it into a single use facility with high entrance fees is neither good planning nor wise stewardship of public space.
Moreover it tears apart an American heritage location that I and my family plus generations have enjoyed and revered and that has hosted important events in our Nation’s long history.
I urge your rejection of the proposed plan before you and rather your calling for a rejuvenation this park for all to enjoy.
James Mann

James E Mann
[redacted]
Chicago IL 60637
[redacted]

Name: Amanda Wicker
Date: November 23, 2026 8:55:31 pm

It is un-American to take a resource away from a diverse community of walkers, cyclists, golfers, bird watchers, and tree-lovers in order to submit to delusions of grandeur that would only serve a select few. Protect and preserve Hains Point for the American people.

Name: Matt Campbell
Date: November 23, 2026 8:18:25 pm

I strongly oppose this terrible design. I grew up in the area and spent time playing golf at East Potomac as a kid. It was an accessible, welcoming place where local families and young golfers could enjoy the game without needing an expensive membership or a championship-level skill set. I want future generations of kids in this community to have that same opportunity. Unfortunately, this proposal seems to move East Potomac in exactly the wrong direction.

The proposed championship course is completely out of scale with the history and character of this park. Walter Travis designed a course that has served generations of everyday golfers. Replacing that vision with a tournament-focused facility would fundamentally change what makes East Potomac special.

The plans also sacrifice too much of what makes this a public park. Mature trees, cherry trees, open sightlines, existing roads, and valuable green space would all be affected. East Potomac is more than a golf course. It is a place for families, walkers, picnickers, and people who simply want to enjoy the outdoors. The mini golf course, walking loop, and picnic areas should be preserved, not treated as expendable to make room for championship golf.

There are also serious questions about whether the park can physically support the ambitions of this proposal. With only one access road from the south and one from the north, moving the volume of spectators expected for a Ryder Cup-caliber event would present enormous logistical and transportation challenges.

East Potomac should remain a place for the community, not be transformed into a tournament venue at the expense of the people who have enjoyed it for generations. I urge the Commission to reject this design and insist on a plan that respects the park's history, preserves its public amenities, and keeps golf accessible to everyday Washingtonians.

Name: Emily Reid
Date: November 23, 2026 5:29:58 pm

I am concerned that the plans for the redevelopment of EPP will remove cherry blossom trees and take away public access to the park. Funds for EPP are better spent on repairs and maintenance.

Name: Patrick Stillmun
Date: November 23, 2026 4:38:28 pm

The proposal is immediately limiting access to valuable public park space for everybody - golfers and non-golfers alike. The proposed project cannot support the current ~125,000 annual rounds of golf this space currently supports. The proposal would also limit access to countless others who go to enjoy a 2-story driving range, putting green, mini golf, and public park space.

The proposal mentions views of monuments. These views are already available to park goers all around the park. The proposal would instead make these views accessible for only golfers who are able to book the scarce tee times that this proposal will produce.

The case for economic development and comparisons to other public courses around the country is a weak example for the future of East Potomac. The courses cited have ample space surrounding the course for the necessary infrastructure needed to run these events. This includes grandstands, media space, and camera towers - on top of a "traveling circus" of equipment that professional golfers require at these events. Bethpage Black golf course, as an example, sits 20 miles outside of Queens and is in a 1,400 acre park. East Potomac Park cannot support this type of infrastructure.

The current routing of short courses with two 9-hole courses and an 18- hole course is an opportunity for new golfers and experienced ones to come together and enjoy a unique, beautiful part of the city. It also offers busy golfers in the city the

chance to play a shorter round of golf if they only have time for 9 holes. This proposed design will limit those opportunities for golfers while completely eliminating access to the space for the tens of thousands of people who use it for non-golf activities.

The upside is overstated, and the downside is restricting access to the land for all residents, golfers and non-golfers alike. I am a 10-year DMV resident who has called east Potomac park my favorite place in the city. If I'm not playing a full round of golf at the course, my favorite way to spend a weekend morning is to hit golf balls on the range and then go for a run around the beautiful park while watching people from all walks of life enjoy the space. I cannot understand how this redesign would make my enjoyment of the park any better.

Name: Ryan Dunn
Date: November 23, 2026 4:28:18 pm

This peninsula currently is home to 3 affordable courses, many running and cycling races along with recreational uses. What possible explanation can be found reasonable to destroy all of that for an exclusive wealthy only golf course? They keep saying it will be affordable for residents but I have 0 faith it will be near the current $48 or less. The course has improved steadily over the 7 years I've been playing there and all the lies Trump has said about it are exactly that, lies. I've played hundreds of rounds here and not a single person on this project has ever played this course. I've also run the marine corps marathon a few times and run the peninsula hundreds of times over the years. Stop this nonsense and let the public enjoy this public land. Trump can keep golfing in Florida and every other club that already exists for billionaires only.

Name: Richard McKinney
Date: November 23, 2026 3:01:54 pm

Dear Members of the National Capital Planning Commission,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the EAST POTOMAC GOLF LINKS: Concept Proposal. This proposal denies many Washingtonians the opportunity to enjoy East Potomac Park.

For more than a century, East Potomac Park has been a source of pleasure and recreation for people from every walk of life, regardless of income, race, or background. Runners, picnickers, cyclists, Frisbee players, golfers, and families have all enjoyed this wonderful public space. So have those who simply want to stroll through the park on a pleasant summer day or admire the cherry blossoms up close, away from the crowds at the Tidal Basin.

What makes East Potomac Park so special is that it belongs to everyone. It is a place where Washingtonians can enjoy the beauty of our nation's capital without regard to wealth, privilege, or political connections.

Please do not allow a treasured public park, enjoyed by generations of Washingtonians, to become the exclusive domain of a privileged few whose time in Washington may be fleeting.

I urge you to vote to preserve East Potomac Park for all the people of Washington, today and for generations to come.

Thank you for considering the interests of the citizens who live here and call Washington home.
Richard McKinney

Name: Jason Brock
Date: November 23, 2026 2:18:12 pm

This public space is for the purpose of providing a service to the people of this community. Just like the POTUS should be working in service of those same people. He once again is acting on behalf of himself and the wealthy. Please shut this ridiculous plan down!!

Name: Alyssa O'Keefe
Date: November 23, 2026 2:13:22 pm

I am writing to submit comments opposing any proposal to alter the public designation, management structure, or accessibility of East Potomac Park and East Potomac Golf Links. Established in 1920 as an affordable municipal facility, the park carries significant historical weight, including its role in the 1955 desegregation of federal public lands and housing the country's oldest continuously operating miniature golf course (1931). The site functions as a multi-use public space under the National Park Service, serving local residents, junior programs, runners, and cyclists.

Reallocating this federal land or redesigning the course into an exclusive, high-cost venue conflicts with the park's original municipal mandate to provide low-cost public recreation. Taxpayer-funded public lands held in trust by the National Park Service should not be reconfigured to cater to private preferences or restrictive user models. I request that overseeing authorities preserve East Potomac Park's historic character, maintain its listing on the National Register of Historic Places, and ensure the facility remains fully accessible to the general public.

Name: George Seltzer
Date: November 23, 2026 1:56:25 pm

East Potomac Park Proposed Golf Course Project – Comments for NCPC

As a regular East Potomac Park user, DC Resident, and concerned citizen, I respectfully and STRONGLY OPPOSE the closure of East Potomac Park and the current publicized plan for its development of a championship golf course that precludes public usage for non-golf activities.
First, I want to say that I ACKNOWLEDGE AND SUPPORT the need to repair the perimeter seawall of the Hains Point peninsula and for any positive improvements to the golf course. I STRONGLY OPPOSE the removal of Ohio Drive, the public playground, picnic areas, the seawall promenade and public access to East Potomac Park.
The Hains Point Peninsula (East Potomac Park) is a PUBLIC national treasure. It is the only land feature in the city where one can view both banks of the Potomac River, Reagan National Airport, and Fort McNair. This spectacular piece of real estate has been long utilized by the GREATER PUBLIC for rest and relaxation: by sightseers, walkers, bicyclists, picnickers, families, fisherman, and yes… golfers… all at no cost or affordable cost (for use of the golf course). It is not right to restrict this prime PUBLIC LAND to a relatively small number of golfers.
I regularly bicycle around East Potomac Park, on average twice a week. This is one of the few good bicycle routes in the area. Yes, there are a few others; W&OD trail, Nellie Custis Trail, Mount Vernon Trail, and Rock Creek trail. All are good, but Ohio Drive is unique, and with the limited number of available trails, taking away one of the foremost safe bicycling roads does not make sense, and counter to any concept of PUBLIC STEWARDSHIP.
And why does the Washington, DC area need another Championship Golf Course? I have lived in the area for over 45 years and have never heard anyone express this need. Fine, if a group wanted to develop an additional high-end course on private land, go for it, but this proposed course is on PUBLIC LAND that is used by so many for many different legitimate uses by a wide cross-section of local and visitor populations. The championship course, as proposed, will serve fewer golfers (fewer holes), likely be more expensive, will incur increased annual costs to maintain such a course, and eliminate all other non-golf uses.
My recommendation: Repair the failing seawall and do necessary repairs to the current well used golf course – and leave beautiful Ohio Drive with all its public recreation in place. Make it better, don't take away something the public loves and don't restrict the use of this national treasure to the very few. And…please, leave the remaining cherry trees that have not already been chopped down.
My wife and I love Washington, D.C. for both what it IS, and what it IS NOT. We love Washington, D.C. because it is a welcoming inclusive city with open PUBLIC SPACES in beautiful locations. We also love it because best locations are not exclusive or restricted to the very few. The National Park Service has traditionally (and by law) been the protector of public spaces. Let's keep it that way.

George Seltzer
[redacted]
Washington, DC 20007

Name: Vladimir Karamyshev
Date: November 23, 2026 11:58:37 am

We need to keep East Potomac public access for us non-golfers. Thank you.

Name: Katarzyna Stepien
Date: November 23, 2026 10:31:56 am

I strongly oppose the proposed redevelopment of East Potomac Park in its current form if it means eliminating public access to the walking, biking, and skating routes around Hains Point.

As a local inline skater, I regularly enjoy this beautiful, flat, scenic area, especially during cherry blossom season. It is one of the few places in DC where people of all ages and abilities can safely enjoy outdoor recreation, whether skating, cycling, running, or simply walking along the waterfront.

This park is a shared public space and an important part of our community. Any redevelopment should preserve continuous, safe, and accessible paths for everyone, not eliminate them in favor of a single recreational activity.

Please protect public access to Hains Point and keep its walking, biking, and skating routes open for future generations.

Name: Sarah DiJulio
Date: November 23, 2026 10:22:48 am

Hello! I am a long time resident of DC and I LOVE east Potomac park. Please DO NOT approve any plans for East Potomac park that destroy the path around the park that is used by cyclists, runners, walkers, people fishing, and more. I use this park regularly, and I am outraged by the idea you would turn this into a trophy golf course.

I absolutely support modernizing and upgrading the park - but NOT turning it into a trophy golf course which is absolutely the worst use of this public resource.

Name: Daniel O'Brien
Date: November 23, 2026 9:47:32 am

To Whom It May Concern,

Hains Point is a national treasure, especially for those who live in D.C. The idea of taking away D.C.'s most famous bike loop for cyclists, a place for families and groups to picnic and enjoy our gorgeous nature, and quite possibly the best cherry blossom area, is nothing less than an insult and a completely unjust, torturous gouge to our city and the people who not only live here but also for those who visit.

I ride around Hains Point constantly. It is the loop where I bring all my new friends when I show them how to bike in the city, and I also bring many friends to see the beautiful cherry blossoms. I enjoy group bicycle rides on Hains Point, as well. Biking past the old East Potomac Pool always conjures beautiful memories of that public "country club." This space is for us, and shouldn't be gatekept.

Please do all you can to protect this space for us.

Thank you,

Dan

Name: Alan Gambrell
Date: November 23, 2026 9:21:32 am

The Concept Proposal (East Potomac Golf Links) lacks analytical rigor necessary to justify turning this multi-recreational asset into a single use golf course. The document, which largely leads with 13 evidence-free social media opinions of the president, goes on to provide minimal documentation to support revamping the entire space as a golf course (i.e., three quotes from 1939-40 of golf course conditions); various citations from a 2017 Cultural Landscape Inventory on view obstructions; and a random collection of misleading assertions, like deeming the space as unsafe.

Completely missing is any reference to the cultural function of the space for activities other than the single use as a golf course. The DOI document makes no mention of the intended public playground function of the space, as outlined in the 1897 Act of Congress, the McMillan Plan, and the broader goals of the City Beautiful movement. Unmentioned throughout is how these plans will eliminate use for: jogging, walking, biking, fishing, driving, sitting, viewing of the annual cherry blossoms, and use as a major part of numerous income-producing runs throughout the year (e.g., Marine Corps Marathon, Cherry Blossom).

It is the duty of NCPC members to base their votes on legislation and history, not the whims of an individual. Reject this concept.

Name: Marcy Chong
Date: November 23, 2026 8:48:09 am

This is an open, democratic and accessible part of our capitol that is uniquely American. The rest of the world and the country has private exclusive facilities that are intended to keep common people from feeling like they belong. This is a park that we should be proud to keep for the people. Please leave it alone.

Name: Julie Tewksbury
Date: November 23, 2026 8:46:17 am

I oppose the Concept Plan for East Potomac Park Golf Links. The plan eliminates affordable golf courses, destroys trees and other vegetation, eliminates important community activities like running, fishing, picnicking, and birding. The plan should not be approved.

Name: Anne Hall
Date: November 23, 2026 8:45:58 am

I have enjoyed going with family and friends to Hains Point to bike and walk on the road there. Our son has enjoyed playing golf there with his son and was grateful that it is affordable.

Name: Madeleine Bodine
Date: November 23, 2026 8:21:26 am

Hains point is a well known and loved destination for everyone to enjoy. Making the location exclusively for golf is excluding everyone else. Many families go to enjoy the view and to walk the loop. Many people use the road to bike, run, and skate. Hains point is also used for the marine corps marathon each year. Claiming that displaced recreation will be relocated to existing areas in the tidal basin and west Potomac park is simply absurd and does not account for the overcrowding that would cause as well as the loss of the shared beauty of Hains point.

Name: R Edward Scholtz
Date: November 23, 2026 8:08:18 am

As a member of a local bikeriding group, I urge you to keep East Potomac Park's bike and walking lanes open, along with full public access to the perimeter of the park.at a time when affordability is a major concern, this flat waterfront loop is rare in D.C. It's safe for families, beginners, seniors and people with disabilities, it connects to the Mount Vernon Trail, and people love it for its cherry blossoms, birding and river views. Congress created the park in 1897 for "the recreation and pleasure of the people." Closing it for an exclusive $$$ golf course would hurt city biking and public health, and it would break that promise. Any redesign should keep the loop open to our numerous constituecy. Thank you!.

Name: Monica McClure
Date: November 23, 2026 7:57:55 am

The East Potomac Park has been a place of refuge for walkers, runners, cyclist, skaters (rollerskating, skateboarding, small motor wheel sport) for a significant amount of time since the roads and path were created. With the 26 zones of parking, it is also become a place for families to connect and spend time in the DC while having another space to go in the city that feels removed from the larger city at the heart of DC. Personally, I have biked and skateboarding over 800 miles on the 3 mile road that surrounds the current golf course. Not to mention the thousands of other people who have rode hundreds of thousands of miles on these road roads in just the last 10 years. Taking this park away from the people and constituents of DC and the surrounding DC area would be a loss to the community that would only benefit some, golfers, excluding the thousands of people who visit this park every year to enjoy the sites of Washington DC from a different perspective. Thank you for taking this into consideration to keep a path clear for constituents of the United States to still use outside of only the golf course.

Name: Manzour H Hazbon
Date: November 23, 2026 7:53:03 am

As a member of the Washington Area Roadskaters, a local group of skaters that meet several times a week in different locations throughout DC, Maryland and Virginia. This group is made of about 400 skaters of all ages from the area. We have a regular route every Friday evening that skates around Hains point, as well as we have other routes that vary every week. Especially on Sunday mornings, and we use this area very often.
I urge you to keep East Potomac Park's bike and walking lanes open, along with full public access to the perimeter of the park. Our weekend skates around Hains Point deepen our appreciation for the nation's capital and its openness. They also show our international members and visitors what a free, welcoming American public space looks like. This flat waterfront loop is rare in D.C. It's safe for families, beginners, seniors and people with disabilities, it connects to the Mount Vernon Trail, and people love it for its cherry blossoms, birding and river views. Congress created the park in 1897 for "the recreation and pleasure of the people." Closing it for an exclusive golf course would hurt city biking and public health, and it would break that promise. Any redesign should keep the loop open to everyone.
Thanks for your attention

Manzour Hazbon

Name: Matthew Young
Date: November 23, 2026 7:38:41 am

As a member of UNBikers, a local riding group of people from the United States and other countries, I urge you to keep East Potomac Park's bike and walking lanes open, along with full public access to the perimeter of the park. Our weekend rides around Hains Point deepen our appreciation for the nation's capital and its openness. They also show our international members and visitors what a free, welcoming American public space looks like. This flat waterfront loop is rare in D.C. It's safe for families, beginners, seniors and people with disabilities, it connects to the Mount Vernon Trail, and people love it for its cherry blossoms, birding and river views. Congress created the park in 1897 for "the recreation and pleasure of the people." Closing it for an exclusive golf course would hurt city biking and public health, and it would break that promise. Any redesign should keep the loop open to everyone.

Name: Diana Greve
Date: November 23, 2026 7:37:19 am

As a member of UNBikers, a local riding group of people from the United States and other countries, I urge you to keep East Potomac Park's bike and walking lanes open, along with full public access to the perimeter of the park. Our weekend rides around Hains Point deepen our appreciation for the nation's capital and its openness. They also show our international members and visitors what a free, welcoming American public space looks like. This flat waterfront loop is rare in D.C. It's safe for families, beginners, seniors and people with disabilities, it connects to the Mount Vernon Trail, and people love it for its cherry blossoms, birding and river views. Congress created the park in 1897 for "the recreation and pleasure of the people." Closing it for an exclusive golf course would hurt city biking and public health, and it would break that promise. Any redesign should keep the loop open to everyone.

Name: Paola Agostini
Date: November 23, 2026 7:37:00 am

As a member of UNBikers, a local riding group of people from the United States and other countries, I urge you to keep East Potomac Park's bike and walking lanes open, along with full public access to the perimeter of the park. Our weekend rides around Hains Point deepen our appreciation for the nation's capital and its openness. They also show our international members and visitors what a free, welcoming American public space looks like. This flat waterfront loop is rare in D.C. It's safe for families, beginners, seniors and people with disabilities, it connects to the Mount Vernon Trail, and people love it for its cherry blossoms, birding and river views. Congress created the park in 1897 for "the recreation and pleasure of the people." Closing it for an exclusive golf course would hurt city biking and public health, and it would break that promise. Any redesign should keep the loop open to everyone.

Name: Virginia Rowthorn
Date: November 23, 2026 7:25:56 am

As a member of UNBikers, a local riding group of people from the United States and other countries, I urge you to keep East Potomac Park's bike and walking lanes open, along with full public access to the perimeter of the park. Our weekend rides around Hains Point deepen our appreciation for the nation's capital and its openness. They also show our international members and visitors what a free, welcoming American public space looks like. This flat waterfront loop is rare in D.C. It's safe for families, beginners, seniors and people with disabilities, it connects to the Mount Vernon Trail, and people love it for its cherry blossoms, birding and river views. Congress created the park in 1897 for "the recreation and pleasure of the people." Closing it for an exclusive golf course would hurt city biking and public health, and it would break that promise. Any redesign should keep the loop open to everyone.

Name: Sara Mierke
Date: November 23, 2026 7:23:42 am

As a former resident of the DC area and now a regular visitor, I oppose the plans that remove access for walkers and bikers to the current park area. Having access for walkers and cyclists is essential to maintain the community environment and critical recreational opportunities that make the city the people’s city. This space should not be reserved for just the few but maintained and accessible for all.

Name: Charles Jedlicka
Date: November 22, 2026 10:55:17 pm

Save East Potomac!

Name: Rebecca Harnik
Date: November 22, 2026 10:13:55 pm

Dear National Capital Planning Commission team,

I ask that you keep East Potomac Park and Ohio Drive community treasures rather than letting the golf course claim them. East Potomac Park and Ohio Drive are such assets to residents of DC, Maryland, Virginia and out of town visitors. Reassigning Hains Point to golfers would be a significant loss to the city.

As a roller blader, I've adored visiting East Potomac Park over the years because it is perfectly flat and offers beautiful panoramic views. In a city with many hills and few places to safely roller blade, the protected bike lane is a treasure.

As a nature lover, I love how enchanting the East Potomac Park cherry blossoms and weeping willows are in the springtime. In peak summer the breezes off the water are a respite from my neighborhood, which has few trees; and in the fall and winter, the ample sunshine makes it a warm place for a power walk.

As someone born and raised in the DC area, I love how many people from many different walks of life come together to walk, bike, fish, picnic, host low-key celebrations, read a book and enjoy the views. I've spent decades visiting and have so many memories from different moments in my lifetime -- meeting friends to connect during holiday breaks, catching up with family, picnicking for birthdays, relishing the puffy blossoms.

Please consider the many ways that this park is used, and keep East Potomac Park open to the public! Thank you for all of your attention to this issue.

Sincerely,
Rebecca
District of Columbia Resident

Name: Lucy Layne
Date: November 22, 2026 9:32:36 pm

I use this park regularly for activities non exclusive to golf and when I do play I appreciate the accessibility of the course as I am not an experienced player.

Name: Sadequa Snowden
Date: November 22, 2026 7:53:57 pm

Dear Members of the National Capital Planning Commission,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed redevelopment of East Potomac Park and Hains Point that could limit public access and recreational use.

My connection to Hains Point goes back to childhood. I remember coming here with my family to watch the planes fly overhead, and years later, continuing that same tradition with my own child. Watching the cherry blossoms bloom each year has also been something I’ve always looked forward to. This park holds memories that span generations for me.

Today, as an avid cyclist and co-founder of Come Get Your Bike On, I regularly ride through Hains Point with our cycling group. For our cycling community, Hains Point is more than a place to ride. It’s where we build friendships, encourage one another, promote healthy lifestyles, and create a sense of belonging. Cyclists of different ages, backgrounds, and experience levels come together here through our shared love of cycling.

Hains Point provides a valuable space for group rides, fitness, and connection. Losing or restricting access to Ohio Drive would affect not only individual cyclists but also cycling groups that rely on this shared public space to ride together safely.

I have nothing against golf or improvements to the existing facilities, but those improvements should not come at the expense of public access, Ohio Drive, the waterfront, or the beautiful trees that make this park special. Public land should remain accessible to everyone, not prioritize one recreational activity over others.

I urge the Commission not to approve this plan in its current form and to protect the recreational spaces that make Hains Point so special.

For me, this is about more than cycling. It's about preserving childhood memories, strengthening our cycling community, and ensuring future generations can enjoy this treasured public space.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sadequa Snowden
Prince George's County, Maryland
Co-Founder | Come Get Your Bike On

Name: Joey McMullen
Date: November 22, 2026 7:27:48 pm

Opposition to the Proposed Redevelopment of East Potomac Park Golf Links

Project: East Potomac Park Golf Links
Applicant: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service
NCPC File Number: 8832

Dear Members of the National Capital Planning Commission,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the Trump administration's proposed redevelopment of East Potomac Golf Links.

My concern goes beyond the redesign of a golf course. It is about preserving public land for the people it was originally intended to serve.

In 1897, Congress designated East Potomac Park to be "forever held and used as a park for the recreation and pleasure of the people." Those words matter. They reflect a commitment that this land should benefit ordinary Americans, regardless of income or social standing.

For generations, East Potomac Golf Links has offered something increasingly difficult to find in the Washington area: an accessible, affordable place where working people, families, beginners, and experienced golfers can enjoy the same public recreational facilities.

I am deeply concerned that President Trump's vision of a world-class championship golf course will move this historic public space away from that mission. While the proposed redevelopment is described as remaining open and affordable, I question whether a championship-level facility will truly serve the same people who have enjoyed East Potomac for decades.

A golf course can technically remain public while becoming financially or practically inaccessible to much of the public. Higher fees, reduced opportunities for beginners, and facilities increasingly designed around prestigious tournaments rather than everyday recreation could fundamentally change the character of this park.

I am not opposed to maintaining or improving public facilities. I am opposed to transforming a historically accessible public course into something that may primarily benefit those with greater financial resources.

Before proceeding, I urge the Commission to require meaningful, enforceable guarantees of affordability, continued access for recreational golfers of all skill levels, and preservation of the park's other public amenities and waterfront access.

East Potomac Park is federal public land. Its purpose should not be redefined according to the preferences of any president, regardless of political party. It belongs to the American people.

I respectfully ask the Commission not to endorse the proposed concept in its current form and to prioritize preservation of the park's historic mission of affordable and inclusive public recreation.

Public land should serve the public, not become a privilege enjoyed primarily by those who can afford it.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,
Joey McMullen
Alexandria, Virginia

Name: Michael Rovner
Date: November 22, 2026 6:19:02 pm

I strongly oppose the plan to redevelop East Potomac Park. The park's current use as a golf course with public access walkways and bikeways should not be altered. Hains Point should remain open and free to access to the public. It should not become a private golf course for the wealthy few.

Name: Kate Connolly
Date: November 22, 2026 5:05:16 pm

Please keep East Potomac Park accessible to the public. I'm a runner and I'm have used the perimeter trails around the island for years. I don't mind occasionally, temporarily closing trails for needed repairs, but making the entire area a golf course for the wealthy defeats is a big loss for an entire ecosystem of people who use our DC parks. DC is factually one of the most active and healthy cities in America thanks to our abundance of trails and public parks.

Name: Amy Hough
Date: November 22, 2026 5:02:42 pm

Do not approve the plan to usurp East Potomac Park and turn it fully into a golf course. The public uses the roads and picnic areas heavily for recreation. The point is an integral part of the running and cycling community, making up iconic parts of the Marine Corps Marathon and Cherry Blossom 10 routes, among others.

Name: Dan Chen
Date: November 22, 2026 4:02:48 pm

The current version of the golf course is perfectly suited for beginners. The new version would deter new players and limit accessibility to the general golfing public.

Name: Steve Cortez
Date: November 22, 2026 3:56:07 pm

East Potomac Park Golf Links and Haines Point are National Capital Area treasures that are accessible to everyone. Please do not allow them to be destroyed and replaced with a single, large-scale, high-priced professional golf course that only serves the rich and well-connected. The trees that have already been felled, and the damage that has already been imposed, are heart braking to witness. Please address what needs to be repaired (e.g., the sea wall) and preserve Haines Point Park and East Potomac Park Golf Links for future generations of families of all income levels to enjoy.

Name: Elisa Walker
Date: November 22, 2026 2:50:33 pm

RE: "East Potomac Park Golf Links" (File 8832)
FROM: Elisa Walker, resident of Washington, DC
DATE: Nov. 22, 2026

To Whom It May Concern:

I write as a concerned DC resident and park user to oppose the plan under review at East Potomac Park in Washington, DC. I urge you to halt the plan immediately.

East Potomac Park – or Hains Point, as many of us call it – is one of my very favorite places in DC, bar none. It's close enough that I can bike there from home, and provides better riverfront access than anywhere else in DC. On warm weekend afternoons, there's nothing better than a slow bike ride around the loop, followed by napping and reading in my hammock at the edge of the river for a few hours.

Part of what I love so much about Hains Point is that it draws such a broad cross-section of Washingtonians, and it gives prime outdoor access and JOY to just about everyone. If you go to the park on a nice warm afternoon, you'll see families picnicking everywhere, big groups gathering, people fishing in the river, bikers whizzing by, birders strolling around, kids playing, people watching the planes landing and taking off at National Airport, and so much more. This is truly a community park that brings people together in a shared, public space to enjoy the natural beauty of the river and the parkland, and to gather with friends and family in an enjoyable, relaxing outdoor space.

Under the proposed plans that you're reviewing, all of that would be lost. No longer would the park be open to people like me, members of the public who aren't interested in golfing. No more biking. No more picnicking. No more fishing in the river. No more riverfront access. No more strolling among the historic cherry trees. No more public use of this public space.

Instead, this plan would convert a 130-year-old public park into a single-use facility open exclusively to those who can afford to pay steep fees. It would turn a historic public park into a private country club, and exclude the public without so much as a second thought. Moreover, it upends Washington, DC's long-term plan for its public spaces, and the required environmental and historic review isn't finished.

I urge you to reject that short-sighted and exclusionary plan. Public parks are for THE PEOPLE and they need to stay that way. Given the breakneck pace of this plan, the public has had almost no real window to weigh in – and to the extent they have been able to weigh in, the response has been almost exclusively negative. This plan is not a plan designed in the best interests of the public or the best interests of Washington, DC.

I beg you to reject this plan and preserve East Potomac as a public park. Keep the perimeter loop and waterfront open, preserve the historic muni with common-sense improvements, and keep the rest of the peninsula a park for everyone.

Sincerely,

Elisa Walker
Washington, DC

Name: Michael Schiavi
Date: November 22, 2026 1:22:16 pm

East Potomac Golf Links and Haines Point are National Capital Area treasures that are accessible to everyone. Please do not allow them to be destroyed and replaced with a single, large-scale, high-priced professional golf course that only serves the rich and well-connected. The trees that have already been felled, and the damage that has already been imposed, are sickening to witness. Please fix what needs to be repaired (e.g., the sea wall) and preserve the Haines Point park and East Potomac Golf Links for future generations of families (of all income brackets) to enjoy.

Name: Peter Stokely
Date: November 22, 2026 11:26:17 am

Hello:
I want to voice my opposition to the closure of East Potomac Park and the construction of any golf course that eliminates the perimeter road; Ohio Drive.

Ohio drive with its copious public parking (including critical tour bus staging areas) is a public resource used by fishermen, picnickers, local families for family reunitions, joggers and cyclists. The current golf course is a low-cost public course that should be kept that way (we already have several championship golf courses in the DC region).

I use Ohio Dive and Haines point for cycling, walking, observing the blossoming cherry trees and for group events such as the DC Bike Ride and the 50 States Ride. During the warmer seasons I see families picnicking, fishing and enjoying the free public access to the scenic waterfront. Families barbequing, laughing, playing music and enjoying the outdoors. Hundreds of cyclists ride there every day all year long as do joggers, walkers and people just having fun and enjoying a bit of nature. The views of DC and Virginia including airplane watching are amazing resources for the public to enjoy.

I certainly know of and have personally observed the decaying seawall and flooding issues that need to be addressed, as they were at the Tidal basin, a shining example of needed repairs. East Potomac Park is also need of repair.

I urge you to deny the current plan and recommend a plan that maintains public access to Ohio Drive and waterfront while implementing critical repairs to the seawall. If the golf course needs sprucing up, add that too, but not a full closure and conversion to a private golf course that eliminates Ohio Drive and this incredibly important public resource.

Sincerely,

Peter Stokely

Name: Richard Viola
Date: November 22, 2026 10:56:47 am

I am one of the thousands of DC area residents who frequently visits East Potomac Park. Please oppose any design that would close The walking/running and cycling paths that currently exist on Ohio Drive. Retaining general public access to this valuable community resource is incredibly important. The Haines Point loop is a unique resource that is cherished by cyclists, runners and pedestrians, do not allow it to be locked away simply to suit the whim of one person. Thank you

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Name: Bill Byrne
Date: November 22, 2026 10:08:00 am

Please do not approve this project

Name: Bill Heavey
Date: November 22, 2026 8:27:23 am

I have been coming to Hains Point for 49 years. I used to take lunch dates to play miniature golf here. I fished here. We had birthday party cookouts here. Now I ride my bike there. It’s the best biking loop in the city - safe, flat and smooth. It’s a place where city dwellers go to get away from the city. It’s where people who can’t afford to spend $400 on a round of golf can play.

Why would anyone want to take this away?

Name: Anthony Vence
Date: November 21, 2026 10:58:22 pm

East Potomac Golf Links is more than a golf course. It’s a golf community. By closing the course, it’s also closing off a community. And taking away a great place for players of all ages to learn how to play. And taking away one of the few affordable golf courses for amateurs to play in the area. We cannot lose East Potomac Golf Links.

Name: Martha Stapleton
Date: November 21, 2026 8:29:10 pm

I’m a resident of Washington, DC who often bikes, walks, or simply sits and enjoys Hains Point. Turning it into a golf course means it will appeal to a much smaller slice of the public than it does now. Please let’s retain this local and national treasure for the enjoyment of all citizens, not just those who are interested in and can afford a high end golf course.

Name: Randy Swart
Date: November 21, 2026 6:21:22 pm

I have been using Hains Point for more than a half-century for biking. I mourned the loss of the awakening giant statue that delighted our foreign visitors and applauded the consistently good maintenance provided by National Capital Parks. It has always been heart-warming to see how many DC families use the park for picnics and outdoor frolic. Where will those families go if the park is destroyed to build a golf course for rich men? Where will DC bike racers train on a safe street close to work and home? Who needs it more? No other national capital in the world has a golf course in it's core because it is a monumentally poor use of urban land. Please do not permit this monstrosity to continue.

Name: Russell Walker
Date: November 21, 2026 6:07:15 pm

The Potomac Park on Hains Point should be left as it is- it is a public venue and should not be limited to one recreational outlet.

It is a terrible waste of taxpayer money. The space has many uses- golf is just one; bikers, joggers, walkers, picnickers, fishermen.

Name: David Luft
Date: November 21, 2026 5:25:23 pm

Please keep the park as-is for easy, broad public multi-use. Having raised 6 kids, I value having affordable access to enjoy areas like the existing park.

Name: Jeremy Byrne
Date: November 21, 2026 4:58:10 pm

I am writing today as a concerned citizen regarding the illegal development of the East Potomac Park Golf Links. I was born in Washington DC and have spent several summers playing at East Potomac. If I wasn't playing golf, I was going to for walks and bike rides. I went on my first date to the mini golf course.

What makes this place so special is its accessibility to everyday Americans. People who love their country but may not have the funds to participate in certain activities could come to East Potomac and enjoy a day for a very reasonable price. Was the golf course perfect? No, but it was welcoming and available, and that is really important for a public course.

What is being proposed now is an abomination to the concept of democracy and the idea of the public having access to land. Closing the bike/walk path should be outright illegal. Making a course that is expensive will cut off so much access to those Americans who wish to participate in the game of golf but no longer can do so. I cannot express enough my disappointment with the National Capital Planning Commission, and I do believe this will be a stain on each and every person who approves the further desecration of our public land at East Potomac. I thought we were supposed to put all of America First, and not just the people at the top with the most money. We must protect this land for the public. If you want to golf, you should be able to golf at an affordable price. If you want to bike and walk/run, you should absolutely be able to do so at any point. If you want to fish, you should be able to fish. Please protect this land for the future of Americans to enjoy it.

Name: Kristen Sarik
Date: November 21, 2026 4:35:25 pm

This golf course, bike/ped, picnic area and third party place is an important part of the DC community. Many marathons and events also happen in this area. Historic trees would be ruined. This should be a choice of the public, not of the president. The park is for all and should stay being for all.

Name: Susan Koch
Date: November 21, 2026 4:24:48 pm

East Potomac Park is a beautiful part of DC. It should not be converted into a high end golf course. Instead it should remain open to bikers, walkers, picnickers and the like. Save East Potomac Park from Donald Trump’s wrecking ball!

Name: Brian Sullivan
Date: November 21, 2026 3:49:14 pm

I am a 68-year-old Washington native who learned to play golf as a young boy at East Potomac Park. This I’ll-considered plan to turn a more than century-old public park into an exclusive championship course is just another slap in the face for DC residents who have enjoyed walking, running, biking, fishing and picnicking on Hain’s Point for generations. Not only has this scheme been developed out of public view, it has been intentionally misrepresented to the court. This is more than an attack on a golf course, it’s an assault on working families who, like their parents and grandparents before them, are just looking to enjoy the public land that was intended for them to enjoy.

Name: Celeste Nicoletti
Date: November 21, 2026 3:08:33 pm

It will cost more, and fewer people will get in. A course built for pros won’t be the cheap. I enjoy that DC offers a walk-up public course people learn on.

Name: Connor Locke
Date: November 21, 2026 2:24:49 pm

DC residents don’t want to turn our beautiful public park into a golf course. Safe our park, our trails, and our cherry blossoms!

Name: Julia Kilroy
Date: November 21, 2026 1:37:01 pm

Please don’t let this widely used green space become private. So many DMV people recreate here - and it should be enjoyed by ALL. Not just those who can pay to get in.

Name: Max Kobernick
Date: November 21, 2026 1:28:35 pm

I strongly oppose the proposed redevelopment of East Potomac Park and believe it would be a disaster for the local community. I regularly use the park for biking, running, and enjoying the water views. The plan proposed by Interior and President Trump would deny me access to the bike and running trails, make access more expensive, and take away a historic park from Washingtonians. Further, the cherry trees along the drive are some of the most beautiful and historic trees in the city and their spring bloom is a wonderful attractions for thousands of locals and visitors alike. This plan would destroy the beloved cherry trees, an unmeasurable loss for the park and the city. The Commission MUST reject the proposed plan.

Name: Linda K Smith
Date: November 21, 2026 1:19:29 pm

I oppose the Concept Plan for East Potomac Park Golf Links. The plan eliminates affordable golf courses, destroys trees and other vegetation, eliminates mportant community activities like running, fishing, picnicking, and birding. The plan should not be approved.

Linda K Smith ([redacted])

Name: Donna Kissling
Date: November 21, 2026 12:49:14 pm

East Potomac is a PUBLIC PARK for THE PEOPLE
Bikers, walkers, canoers, bird watchers, fisher people find this park as a refuge
The cherry trees are amazing
To cut them down is a sin
To wipe out the historic mini golf which is the oldest is unfounded
We the people are fighting back for Our Lovely Park

Name: Julia Malone
Date: November 21, 2026 12:20:06 pm

Dear Members of the National Capital Planning Commission:
I oppose the plan to destroy trees and turn the affordable golf course at East Potomac Park into a championship course that few local residents can afford. The U.S. Capital is a place for serious government work and for commemorating our history and the beauty of this city, not for elite golfing.The "concept plan" eliminates activities such as fishing, walking, picnicking and birding that the community has long enjoyed as well as an accessible golf course. The plan should not be approved.

Name: Drew Farron
Date: November 21, 2026 12:17:00 pm

The current plan by the Trump administration will add to the cost of public golf on the DC area and greatly affect those it is supposed to serve. The Links Trust needs to resume its excellent work and plan and make East Potomac affordable and playable.

Btw I voted for the President 3 times and strongly support him but in this case he is wrong.

Name: Beata Fogarasi
Date: November 21, 2026 11:48:47 am

As a DC resident who has enjoyed the East Potomac Park area many times to run and recreate, I strongly urge you to disapprove the destruction of another public space. Washington DC is a city that hundreds of thousands of Americans live in. We are not a playground for a single egomaniac who runs roughshod over every law or set dressing for national news and politicians. The needs of the city must come before the gauche, selfish, exclusionary, and destructive plans of one person. Please halt and permanently disapprove any movement on the further destruction of this public space for DC.

Name: Thomas Herman
Date: November 21, 2026 11:41:10 am

Public goods are public goods. The world has enough “rich people” golf courses. Please keep this course (or rather these courses) with those who might otherwise not be able to afford tee times. I’m sick and tired of the broken idea that beautification and restoration entails catering to wealthy elites. Public golf for regular people, please.

Name: Rebecca Troth
Date: November 21, 2026 11:28:49 am

This is to comment on the President's attempt to create a professional golf course at Hains Point. I object strongly to what the President is proposing to do with a park that is supposed to be open not only to residents of the District, but visitors from all over the country. This is not what the park was intended to do, which is to serve the public. Allowing the professional golf course will serve only those with money. It will also create congestion and huge parking problems that will interfere with the public's enjoyment of public land. You must not approve this plan.

Name: Edward Berry
Date: November 21, 2026 11:04:22 am

The park was designed as a park for the public to use. The proposed plan essentially removes it as a park for the public at large to use. This plan should be rejected. Any changes to the park should only be considered after extensive input from the DC public.

Name: Michael Adsit
Date: November 21, 2026 10:55:13 am

I am firmly opposed to the proposed changes to the golf course and surrounding public area. I have used the bicycle path around Hains Point for 18-20 years. These areas, allowing public access and enjoyment must not be eliminated. A significant investment to infrastructure is needed but it should be used for maintaining the original concept and public uses of golf, biking, walking, picnicking, etc.

Name: Lori Shumate
Date: November 21, 2026 10:49:47 am

Please do not approve the proposed East Potomac Park Golf Links plan!!!

Name: Steve Rhodes
Date: November 21, 2026 10:07:33 am

This is our park not Trump's.

Donald has many golf courses he can do with what he wants (and he can buy more), but he shouldn't be able to ruin a park & then charge more for people to use it (he'll still fly to Florida, NJ, & be driven to Virginia to cheat at golf & watch himself on cable).

Name: Virginia Luft
Date: November 21, 2026 9:45:33 am

Please leave this golf course as is! It need to remain accessible to all

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Name: Allison Scaia
Date: November 21, 2026 9:20:12 am

East Potomac Park is a true gem of the DC area - home to recreation for all. The current plans would dramatically change that and make it an area for the few while also removing the cherry trees, which are such an important part of this area

While the golf course and surrounding area could absolutely benefit from some modernization, the answer is not making the area an 8000 yard championship golf course that takes away the running path / cycling path, playground, mini golf, recreation areas for picnics, and more beginner oriented golf with 9 hole courses. It would be a shame to take away the opportunity for daily recreation as well as landmark races such as the cherry blossom 10 miler, which show off this area to everyone near and far.

I ask that you do not approve the current plans and demand that the plans be re-done to ensure that the area remains "for the people." It's also imperative that golf remains affordable / accessible to people. We can accomplish making the course more of an iconic course while also keeping the recreation areas!!

Let's keep East Potomac for the people!

Name: Jennifer Hedrick
Date: November 21, 2026 9:17:31 am

The East Potomac Park is in need of upgrades to continue to make it a beloved and well-visited park amongst all across the region and those who visit our Nation's Capital. HOWEVER, destroying the park and spirit of it to build a vanity project meant to please a person who doesn't like Washington (and presumably has never been to East Potomac Park) is a mistake. Please listen to the public voices and make the reasonable changes necessary to keep the wall sustainable and allow the golf course, park, picnic areas, the exercise loop, etc to be maintained. Additionally, it would be helpful to understand where you expect all of the displaced people who exercise and play golf there to go. There is no way this will be an affordable and community focused course or park if these plans proceed as offered.

Name: David Lafferty
Date: November 21, 2026 9:04:14 am

I strongly oppose the plan/idea to close Ohio drive, the picnic areas, the playground, and East Potomac links. The seawall could use rehabilitation, but the other amenities are valued by the community and eliminating those for a championship golf course is a bad idea. As a DC resident, I used this park 3-5 times per week: biking/running around Hains point, playing the red or white course after work during the week, and the blue course on the weekend. I fell in love with the game of golf here and could afford it on a low salary. It's a treasured local asset and incredible community that would prohibit locals and tourists alike to enjoy sweeping views of the river and cherry blossoms, affordable golf, the marathon,

picnics and playing with family, and so much more. I vehemently oppose closing all of this off to accommodate a single, higher cost golf course.

Name: Lauren Lipsey
Date: November 21, 2026 7:10:46 am

East Potomac has been a sanctuary for our region for generations, providing space to gather and recreate that is distinct from anything else around. When I first moved to the region in 2012, one of the first people I met told me about Hains Point, how special it was. Since then I've spent countless hours cycling and running there and many wonderful evenings enjoying sunsets over drinks with my friends at the club house -- "the people's club house." What strikes me every time I'm there is the incredible diversity of individuals who are sharing in enjoyment of that space. It's a beautiful melting pot of our region and one of the few places in the city accessible to all. Government-funded facilities should be for nothing else. They are for the people.

Name: Katie Merris
Date: November 21, 2026 7:06:39 am

Thank you for keeping Hains Point open!! Please do not take away a great place to bike without traffic.

Name: Barry Powderly
Date: November 20, 2026 10:34:56 pm

This is our park

Name: Drew Whitehead
Date: November 20, 2026 10:31:31 pm

Terrible idea, and the developer bankrupted a casino

Name: L Mend
Date: November 20, 2026 10:12:34 pm

This project does not fit the original plan. It needs to continue to be a golf course for the public. The trees need to remain. Vote no on this ridiculously inappropriate use of this land belonging to the public.

Name: Chris Bast
Date: November 20, 2026 10:09:43 pm

We didn’t ask for this. This place is perfectly fine as is. This is a waste of tax payer money. This will be taken from us. Fees will be higher and less people will get in. This is historic ground given to the people in 1897

Name: Michael Cerney
Date: November 20, 2026 8:35:23 pm

NCPC, East Potomac park should serve the interest of the public. This was the original intention of the park and it has been successful in this respect. From personal experience I can confirm that is has served as a central thread throughout my life in the DC metro area. As a young adult I often socialized with friends and other random golfers at the driving

range and course. My wife and I, while dating, went on many dates on the island as well, both using the trails/road for running as well as teaching her the game of golf. Then our family used the parks for the playground and meetups with other friends when our children were young. And the full circle moment for me was this course serving as the course I've taught my kids how to play golf.

The accessibility for all is the park's greatest feature. And from a golf specific perspective, its junior programs and beginner courses are very unique and should be preserved as a treasure for the sport. But more importantly, the park should serve the people, not the whims of the elite. The claims of danger and despair on the island are simply not backed by the reality of the course experience (look at the # of people using the island safely and rounds of golf played). Protect this national resource and continue the incremental work of the NLT to build upon the strong experience the course currently provides for all!

Name: Ben Brooks
Date: November 20, 2026 8:32:37 pm

East Potomac is objectively the highest quality golf course of the three in DC (Langston and Rock Creek (worst condition)); there’s no reason to believe that Tom Fazio (the king of luxury golf courses) will make this course good enough to be worth its inevitable price hike for DC residents. East Potomac is one of the most affordable golf courses in the area that can still allow you to get a quality round of golf in. If you listen to the public, you’ll quickly realize that East Potomac receives overwhelming support. Don’t subject public recreational space to partisan politics. Listen to your constituents.

Name: Ryan Frasier
Date: November 20, 2026 7:53:42 pm

The course is not in need of massive upgrades. It should remain a public course accessible to all. I am looking forward to playing there with my sons in the next few years the way it has always been.

Name: Keven Wilder
Date: November 20, 2026 7:08:49 pm

I oppose the Concept Plan for East Potomac Park Golf Links. The plan eliminates affordable golf courses, destroys trees and other vegetation, eliminates mportant community activities like running, fishing, picnicking, and birding. The plan should not be approved. Thank you.

Name: Geoff Patterson
Date: November 20, 2026 6:07:04 pm

I am a regular user of East Potomac Park both on foot and by bike (and occasionally mini golf!). East Potomac Park is one of the city's most valuable public spaces for a wide cross-section of residents (e.g., runners, bicyclists, golfers, birders, football tailgaters) and tourists (e.g., Cherry Blossom Festival and Marine Corps Marathon).

Whatever the future of the park, it should include the preservation and/or enhancement of public access to the amenities and landscapes that make this such a valuable public park, including: the highly used bike/pedestrian loop, road access to picnic areas, the cherry trees, sweeping river and city views, historic mini golf course, and affordable golf access.

Name: marlene johnson
Date: November 20, 2026 3:23:19 pm

My family is a 25 year active user of the golf course, the picnic areas and the walking/biking pathways. This continues to be a natural resource of Washington that we have used consistently for everything from Sunday morning walks, weekend

golf and informal gatherings with friends. It is the most accessbile outdoor parks for a range of individual and family activites in the city/

I support maintaining the current model of Haines Point/East Potomac Park in its current frame and actively oppose the President's proposal for his version of a world class golf course. Such an entity should not be built on publis land with tax payers funds and has no place in the Nation's Capital City.

Name: Katie Hamann
Date: November 20, 2026 2:50:14 pm

Please do not make this into a golf course, this park I use with family as one of the safest places to bike around and see the beautiful sites of the Potomac, enjoy a day in nature, and have reprieve from the city life. We frequent this for celebrations, and host birthday parties and events here frequently! It is pivotal to our community here in DMV area, and it would be devastating if you took this away from the public and put a price tag on it.

Name: Bernie Leinfelder
Date: November 20, 2026 2:40:41 pm

PLEASE retain all the various uses of the East Potomac Park Golf Links, with the only 'upgrades' being to strengthen or reinforce the existing plan.

The community needs the park and golf course to be varied, open to all, and accessible. We are all steaming mad about this current adminstrations efforts at vanity projects such as this, the vanity arch, etc. Let's remember how DC has been built, planned and maintained. This is our country's capitol, and places such as this should remain for everyone to use.

Name: Jeremy Carter
Date: November 20, 2026 2:29:02 pm

I am an Alexandria resident who has lived around DC for over 8 years now. East Potomac Park is my favorite place in DC because it’s one of few places in the city that is for everyone. My friends and I love it for the running and biking on Ohio Drive, the cheap and accessible golf, and the walks through the cherry blossoms in spring. This park was set aside “to be forever held and used as a park for the recreation and pleasure of the people.” Destroying this piece of DC to make room for a golf course for the elite goes against the wishes of both the park’s founders and those who use the park every day. I am asking you to stop the construction and to maintain East Potomac Park as a place for the people, by the people who use it.

Name: Heather Mundwiler
Date: November 20, 2026 2:08:06 pm

Dear Members of the National Capital Planning Commission,

I am writing as an individual resident and regular user of East Potomac Park to urge the Commission to reject the current concept plan for the East Potomac Park Golf Links (NCPC File Number 8832) and require a revised proposal that preserves the peninsula’s multi-use public access, historic landscape, and natural resources.

East Potomac Park is one of the National Capital Region’s most vital, accessible public spaces. For decades, its flat, waterfront loop along Ohio Drive and Hains Point has served as an essential corridor for local runners, cyclists, walkers, families, and federal workers seeking daily recreation and relief from urban congestion. Any concept plan that prioritizes golf course redevelopment at the expense of shared perimeter pathways, open sightlines, and safe multi-modal circulation undermines the core mission of this public parkland.

Specifically, I ask the Commission to address three critical areas in its review:

1. Multi-Use Public Access and Circulation: The plan must guarantee uninterrupted, safe access for non-golfers—including runners, cyclists, and pedestrians—around the entire Hains Point loop. Narrowing shared roadways, eliminating buffer zones, or shifting golf holes directly adjacent to high-traffic pedestrian and cycling routes creates severe safety hazards and diminishes the experience for thousands of daily visitors.

2. Protection of Natural Resources and Mature Tree Canopy: East Potomac Park's mature trees, riverfront ecology, and open green spaces are irreplaceable environmental assets that mitigate urban heat, manage stormwater along the Potomac River and Washington Channel, and define the park's scenic character. Redevelopment should not result in the clearing of established canopy or the alteration of waterfront edges.

3. Preservation of Cultural and Historic Character: As a historic public recreation landscape designed to serve all residents and visitors regardless of background, East Potomac Park should remain welcoming and broadly accessible rather than reconfigured into an exclusive, single-purpose facility.

Following the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts' recent direction asking the National Park Service to revise its concept plan to accommodate non-golf park uses, I urge NCPC to take a similarly firm stand. Please require the applicant to return with alternatives that protect the park's trees, respect its historic multi-use design, and keep Hains Point safely open to the entire community.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and stewardship of our public parks.

Sincerely,
Heather Mundwiler

Name: Virginia Johnson
Date: November 20, 2026 2:02:06 pm

East Potomac Park & Hains Point
Testimony submitted November 20, 2026

Hains Point and East Potomac Park (EPP) are public places, not grounds of a private country club. Their existence honors residents and citizens of Washington, DC, surprises visitors, who are delighted at the openness and novelty of the place. These no-charge facilities, spaces, and grounds are part and parcel of what makes Washington unique.

I use the park to cycle around. My organization sends clients to enjoy miniature golf. Before the disastrous decision to close the pool, the best pool in the city, I used to swim there. We used to do a mini triathlon: run/walk; bike; and swim. The route to Hains Point on pedal bike, through East Potomac Park is beautiful. Please do stand up for historic preservation and public respect: do not approve this plan.

Sincerely,
Virginia Johnson

Name: David Roodman
Date: November 20, 2026 1:51:19 pm

Golfers are a minority of the users of the Hains Point park. Any changes and developments here should focus on the majority users: bikers, runners, walkers, picnickers. You can't just close the whole thing while you're making any changes to the golf course.

Name: Betzalel Newman
Date: November 20, 2026 1:24:59 pm

The historic miniature golf course should not be excluded from the new design, nor the ability of people to freely walk around the park’s perimeter and to sit at Hains Point itself, which is a uniquely beautiful green space surrounded by water in the city that should remain open to all.

Name: Alex Rose
Date: November 20, 2026 1:13:16 pm

Public Comment to the National Capital Planning Commission
December 3, 2026 — East Potomac Park Golf Course Redevelopment

Dear Members of the Commission:

I urge the Commission not to approve the proposed concept plan for East Potomac Park.

As a Washington, DC resident and father of a five-year-old, East Potomac Park holds a particularly special place in my family's life. It is where my son flew his first kite, where we held his naming ceremony, and where he has practiced roller skating and riding his bicycle. As an avid birdwatcher, it is also one of my favorite places in Washington to experience the natural world.

Part of what makes East Potomac Park so special is the opportunity to spend time alongside people from across the city and beyond. We see families gathering, children playing, people fishing, cyclists, runners and people simply enjoying the beauty of Washington. It is a place where people of different ages, backgrounds and economic circumstances can enjoy public land together.

No one in my family is a golfer, but we are not opposed to golf or to thoughtful improvements to public golf facilities. What concerns us is that the proposed redevelopment appears to diminish the access and recreational opportunities that make this park so valuable to our family and countless others.

Even from the perspective of improving golf facilities, it would be particularly tragic to destroy the historic miniature golf course. Established in 1931, it is recognized by the National Park Service as the country's oldest continuously operating miniature golf course and is part of a historic district listed in the National Register of Historic Places. It was rehabilitated as recently as 2024. It offers an affordable, accessible recreational experience that families can enjoy together, regardless of their age or golfing ability. Its preservation should be a priority, not an obstacle to redevelopment.

I ask the Commission to insist on a plan that preserves the park's historic resources, protects its natural environment, maintains broad public access and accommodates the many different ways people use this extraordinary public space.

When my son grows older, I want him to be able to return to the place where he flew his first kite and see another generation of Washington families making their own memories. That is exactly what our Congress designated the park to do in 1897.

Improving golf at East Potomac Park should not come at the expense of everything else that makes it worth visiting.

Please do not approve this plan.

Respectfully,

Alex Rose
Adams Morgan
Washington, DC

Name: Hannah Opdahl
Date: November 20, 2026 1:10:38 pm

I was forced to write a comment by Alex Rosen

Name: Brian H
Date: November 20, 2026 1:00:47 pm

This President should be ashamed of himself. Eastpo was here long before him and will be here long after, serving a wide variety of interest for residents of DC. It should absolutely not be turned into a PGA tour level golf course. Say no to this passion project of our outgoing President.

Name: Jacob Horowitz
Date: November 20, 2026 12:22:14 pm

I'm a 22 year resident of DC, and go to East Potomac Park once or twice a week to bicycle or run the perimeter road. It is beautiful, with views of the river and Wharf, tall stands of mature trees, families picnicking and barbecuing, people bird watching, fishing and golfing. It's a way to escape the city for a moment, excercise with friends, and be outside. I oppose the proposed plans for redevelopment, because they appear to wipe out most of what makes the Park so great. If the plan was to fix the perimeter wall, rebuild the swimming pool, and work on drainage, I would show up with a shovel myself to help. Please consider what I'm sure many others will ask for, and not approve this plan.

Name: James Creech
Date: November 20, 2026 12:03:56 pm

I oppose the proposed changes to the East Potomac Park and East Potomac Park Golf Links. Preserve them as they are. Thank you!

Name: Hilda Gitchell
Date: November 20, 2026 11:50:53 am

East Potomac Park was created for the public and its exclusive purpose should remain public recreation, forever. Fewer people will utilize the beautiful resources the park offers if it is not as accessible. I myself adore the biking loop, but it is used by so many people for so many reasons. Making East Potomac Park more exclusive is only beneficial to a select few, which is quite literally the antithesis of a democratic government's mission. Don't do this. Really, please, don't do this. Life is hard enough already.

Name: Anne Patrone
Date: November 20, 2026 11:50:08 am

I am submitting comments in support of keeping Hains Point open to all who enjoy this fantastic parkland, from walkers to runners to cyclists to kite-flyers, to picnickers, to fishers, to kids in the playground and to those just enjoying an open, FREE waterfront area in the DMV. It is truly a gift to those of us who live and visit here, and closing access would deprive a great number of people of a well-used and well-loved public space.

Name: John Hoag
Date: November 20, 2026 11:28:29 am

My wife and I can see Hains point from our balcony. It is astounding the amount of use we see for that space. Bicyclists are prominent, but people fishing are also evident. Walkers, joggers also make use of the space. And of course the golf courses in all their forms are heavily used. But there are also the families who make use of the grills and picnic tables. The space acts as a back yard for citizens of the South West. This space needs to be preserved as public space as is

required by the legislation which set the space aside. Time to act to keep this space available to the public is now. It is your duty to do so. Do not fail us.

Name: Ryan Miller
Date: November 20, 2026 11:09:24 am

This being a public park, recreation, and golf course and moving towards a one use golf course that will inevitably cost higher and provide less usage (3 courses to 1) is a net negative for the public. The communication on this project has been nothing but erratic by design as depicted with the sudden tree removal and “closing” of the course. Everyone can agree an investment is needed, but the organization managing the course was doing a very good job. I hope a proper planning process can convene that is beneficial for all current public uses.

Name: Peter Blair
Date: November 20, 2026 11:04:23 am

Dear Commission,

I ask you not to approve this project. I am a golfer, cyclist, and runner and have used East Potomac Park for all of those purposes over the past decade of living in the Washington DC area.

The existing golf course serves a vital purpose for the DC golf community - packing 36 holes of golf into a very small area, along with the historic mini-golf course (the longest continuously in operation in the USA), driving range, three practice greens, and three practice holes. As a result it is uniquely suited to beginner, intermediate, and accomplished players. The existing reversible Walter Travis design is an excellent example of early 1900s golf design, focused on strategic and thinking golf, and also providing an opportunity for restoration of its reversible routing.

The proposed course design would be completely unsuitable for beginner golfers, and remove an opportunity for learning the game - one of the core purposes of a municipal golf course.The proposed layout offers a shortest routing of over 6,000 yards which would be unsuitable for any junior or senior golfers, and a maximum routing of 8,000 yards which is far beyond existing US Open venues which sit closer to 7,000 yards.

The location is not well suited at all to a championship golf course - lacking much in terms of elevation change, trees, or water hazards; and accessible only via two single roads. The proposed design offers no plan for parking or transportation, and it would be virtually impossible to host a major tournament here due to the lack of access for spectators.

The existing course has many mature specimen trees - including the first shipment of cherry trees sent by the Japanese government following World War II, which were initially thought to be diseased, and so were quarantined at East Potomac until a new shipment could be sent - after which the original cherry trees were allowed to remain on the golf course and surrounding the cycling and running path. There is history to this golf course that cannot be replaced if these trees are cut down.

The mutli-use nature of East Potomac Park would also be lost in these plans. Cycling groups, runners, fisherpeople, and families all enjoy the park as it is currently configured. And it is one of the most accessible spots in the tidal basin for people with physical impairments to view the cheery blossoms.

Multiple golf, running, and cycling competitions are held at East Potomac, and all of these would be lost if these plans continue.

I strongly urge the commission to recognize the historic significance of what would be lost in this plan, and also reckon with the unsuitable nature of this site for what is being proposed. The DC area already has plenty of championship golf course venues - but it does not have a 36 hole municipal golf course, running, cycling, picnic, tennis and fishing area that serves this many members of our community.

Sincerely,

Peter Blair

Name: Colin Krum
Date: November 20, 2026 10:45:17 am

East Potomac is supposed to be for the use of multiple DMV area residents and not just golfers. Eliminating the surrounding running/biking roads and picnic areas should be a non starter to begin with, and getting rid of cherry blossoms would be the disaster cherry on top.
I am a golfer myself and actually go to East Potomac at least once a week to use the driving range. I do not support changing this course to an 8,000 yard plus championship course and eliminating the other courses. The DMV area already lacks sufficient public golf courses for the demand. Look up tee times less than a week in advance at any public course in the summer and you will find you can't get one, even playing as a single. What we don't need is even more reduction by eliminating an 18 hole course, an executive course, and a par 3 course just to create a giant championship course that won't be feasible for the average golfer to play. Golf is not meant for just the elite, and it should be open to everyone. East Potomac is currently built to be accessible to all golf levels, including beginners and kids. Don't take this treasure away from us just to build a single course designed to host tour events instead of serving the common DMV area golfer. This is not what residents want. We support renovation and even slight course redesigns. We do not support cutting down on the number of courses and taking away publicly accessible areas.

Name: Luca Paganucci
Date: November 20, 2026 10:37:52 am

I think this is a terrible idea. This is a golf course and a facility so many people in the city enjoy and have fond memories of. I think any plan that makes the course and the park less acessible to the public would be horrible for the city and I do not think we should allow the proposed plan to go forward.

Name: Daniel Rose
Date: November 20, 2026 10:37:34 am

I strongly oppose the plan to develop all of Hanes Point into a "championship level" golf course. I am a native Washingtonian, 56 years old, and have always valued Hanes Point as a public space that supports many activities. I am also an amateur golfer who plays on the East Potomac links. The proposed plan would deny me and other Washingtonians an amazing public space for biking, jigging, picnics, etc, and it likely would also result in a golf course that is too fancy and expensive for me to use. I urge you to reject the plan.

Name: Marco DiVito
Date: November 20, 2026 10:12:25 am

Do not approve this plan! This has been pushed through with remarkably low public involvement and is going to make a space that is used by so many D.C. residents totally inaccessible. I've golfed many times on the course and like the fact that there are different difficulties to attract golfers of all skill levels. Protect East Po!

Name: Allie Cho
Date: November 20, 2026 10:09:56 am

SAVE HAINS POINT. This is a park for the people and should remain free, accessible, and open to all! We do not want a professional golf course and the process has ridiculously opaque and rushed - I'm taking a stand against this construction AND against an administration that sidelines its constituents.

Name: Carolyn Zacharias
Date: November 20, 2026 9:59:59 am

I urge the Commission to reject the proposed design for East Potomac Golf Links on grounds of scale and fit. No resident has asked for this change. We do not want this public land to be taken away from the citizens it serves - as a bike loop, golf course, mini golf course, picnic area, and fishing area. A championship-caliber course built to host tournaments is fundamentally at odds with Walter Travis's historic design, which was conceived as an intimate, accessible public layout rather than a showpiece for professional play. Achieving that ambition would come at a steep cost: the loss of mature trees, including the beloved cherry trees, along with the open sightlines across the peninsula, the road that connects visitors to the water's edge, and the park itself as a shared civic space. East Potomac is a multi-use public park, not a standalone golf facility, and its design should reflect the full range of people who use it. Any plan moving forward should preserve the mini golf, the loop, and the picnic areas that make this place valuable to the whole community, not only to golfers.

Name: Kathleen Lowy
Date: November 20, 2026 9:59:52 am

I emphatically request that the East Potomac Yard be preserved AS IT IS. I am an avid bike rider and
have enjoyed riding through the park for many years. As an individual with a highly stressed job, it has helped
me relax riding through this park and enjoying the landscape. I was and am completely disgusted how
Trump had hundreds of trees cut down without permission and with no concern at all for residents and visitors, let alone the multiple species of birds that inhabited the area.
Us taxpayers have paid for these parks and still do through our tax dollars. It is up to American citizens, not one person occupying the White House, to decide the fate of this beautiful park. If this park is turned into a
"premier" golf course it would obviously become "private" in which only the well-to-do and rich can enter.
Besides which, this park is not only for golf. I WISH TO HAVE EAST POTOMAC preserved with no more tree cutting and open to the public to enjoy as a multi-faceted park, not a "premier" golf course for the rich

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Name: Amanda ONeil
Date: November 20, 2026 9:35:55 am

I urge the committee to oppose the East Potomac Park proposal. It does not serve the nearly 1 million people who use the road, bike and running lanes, playgrounds and picnic areas. Additionally it calls for the removal of hundreds of historical cherry blossom trees gifted to the US by Japan.

Golfers will also suffer if the course is reduced from 36 holes to 18. This course currently has ~100k rounds annually. Reducing the number of holes would raise demand and prices doing the opposite of what East Potomac course is intended to do.

No one wants this new course, they simply want upgrades which were already approved and funded years ago. However the DoI has acted in bad faith at every step and no one trusts them at this point. There must be a redesign presented to the public for comment, competed for via RFP and adhered to by environmental and legal standards.

Name: Andrew Korfhage
Date: November 20, 2026 9:33:33 am

East Potomac Park is a public park used by residents of DC, Virginia, and Maryland for numerous purposes other than golf. It would be wrong to redesign this public park primarily for golfers at the expense of its many other users. It would be even more offensive to do so in service of a luxury "championship course" with fees that many could not afford.

As a bicyclist, I ride the loops of the ring road regularly. It is a safe, flat, and naturally beautiful area for cyclists of all abilities to train, exercise, and enjoy being outdoors. When I am riding the loop to Hains Point, I always see multiple other cyclists, joggers/runners, rollerbladers, walkers, and others using the road, along with families and children using

the parkland, playground, and mini-golf course.

These features should not be sacrificed to advance the private interests or personal preferences of any elected official. Furthermore, I am unaware of the Administration seeking any public comment before announcing its plans to close the park. Decisions affecting a public park should be made transparently and with input from the residents who use it.

The redesign maps appear to eliminate the ring road and displace most of the park's current uses. No president should be allowed to annex a public DC park because of his interest in expanding his golf-course portfolio. Any renovation of the golf course must preserve the park and its ring road as a public resource for all DC residents and visitors to enjoy.

Thank you,
Andrew Korfhage

Name: Rob Adams
Date: November 20, 2026 9:22:58 am

Commissioners,

My name is Rob Adams, and I live in Arlington, Virginia. I'm writing to ask you not to approve the proposed plan for East Potomac Park.

I'm a golfer, and I'm not against improving East Potomac. The course needs work. But this plan doesn't improve the public course people use today. It replaces it with something else. If built as shown, the redesign would reduce East Potomac from its current three-course, 36-hole layout to a single 18-hole championship course. The plan calls for eliminating the other 18 holes on the property (a par-3 course and executive course) and potentially the historic miniature golf course. Those shorter courses are where beginners, kids, seniors, and people who can't spare five hours or a championship green fee actually learn and play the game. I grew up going to this golf course to learn how to play golf. Creating a championship course would eliminate that possibility for tens of thousands of other children in the area.

This park belongs to everyone, not just golfers. It was created by a congressional act in 1897, which established the park for the "recreation and the pleasure of the people." Moving the course to the edge of the river would take away space that runners, cyclists, people fishing, picnickers, and cherry blossom visitors use every day around Hains Point.

I'm also worried about cost. East Potomac is the busiest public golf facility in the Washington region. A course built to host major tournaments will be more expensive to play and maintain, and fewer people will get to play it, whatever discounts are promised now.

Finally, the process has been rushed. The plan leaves basic questions unanswered, including how much the project would cost. The park is a National Historic Place, and any federal project affecting such sites requires an official review and consideration of public views. That review should come before approval, not after.

Please don't approve this plan as submitted. Send it back for a full public process that keeps East Potomac affordable and open to everyone.

Sincerely,
Rob Adams
Arlington, VA

Name: Anonymous Anonymous
Date: November 19, 2026 7:43:03 pm

Attention: Management and Security

Regarding the current, egotistical, U.S. president Kind reminders:

1. The currently seated, 45th & 47th, U.S. president currently remain a court convicted rapist and business fraud with numerous court convictions. One of his more recent convictions, the "Trump University" case came just prior to being

"Sworn in" and he willfully without duress or coercion plead guilty. Another recent conviction involved misuse of campaign funds. Feel free to talk with the court clerks for details on the fraudulent U.S. president's public court conviction record. In addition to a U.S. public court conviction record, the fraudulent U.S. president also has an international public court conviction record.

2. Over exaggeration and false sincerity are common sales tactics frequently used by the fraudulent U.S. president. You can thumb through a copy of the the fraudulent U.S. president's self-published book for details on his favorite sales tactics(ie; "White lies," etc).

3. The United Nations, European Union, China, Israel, Saudi Arabia, Russian, North Korea, and Iran already know of the fraudulent U.S. president's court conviction records. Do not be surprised if the diplomats of other "Countries" are using the fraudulent U.S. president's international court conviction record against him.

4. As of 1946 and according to CHARTER MEMBERSHIP contractual agreements, the UNITED STATES is SUBJECT TO THE JURISDICTION of the UNITED NATIONS. To the United Nations, the U.S. election of court convicted fraud just proves to them that the "Republicans" are as bad as their told.

No reply needed. Feel free to tell others.

Anonymous

Name: Michael Replogle
Date: November 19, 2026 5:00:48 pm

I want to express my strong opposition to the proposed redevelopment of East Potomac Park which threatens to replace the public golf course and cycling trails and trees with a Trump-inspired golf course. This proposed project is an abomination. I enjoy cycling around the park and the proposed plan would impair my use of this public space. It has already illegally destroyed hundreds of trees. Stop the project.

Name: Doug Uhazie
Date: November 19, 2026 4:27:09 pm

Public Comment Regarding East Potomac Park Golf Links
NCPC File No. 8832
December 3, 2026 Commission Meeting

Dear Members of the National Capital Planning Commission:

I am a District resident, an avid golfer, and a frequent user of East Potomac Golf Links. I strongly support significant investment in East Potomac. The golf courses, practice facilities, Field House, drainage, irrigation, landscaping, seawall, and surrounding park infrastructure all deserve attention and improvement.

But I strongly oppose the concept currently proposed.

My objection is not to change. Quite the opposite. East Potomac deserves thoughtful, substantial investment. My objection is that this proposal takes a unique and heavily used public recreational resource and fundamentally redesigns it around the aspiration of creating a “world-class championship” golf course, rather than around the needs of the Washington community that actually uses this land.

East Potomac is special precisely because it is not just one golf course. Today it provides different experiences for different people: an 18-hole course for experienced golfers, shorter courses for beginners, seniors, families and junior golfers, practice facilities, and options for people who simply do not have four or five hours available for a full round. I am an advanced golfer and enjoy playing the Red, White, and Blue courses for different reasons. Sometimes I want to play 18 holes. Sometimes I have time for nine. Sometimes availability on one course makes another the practical option. That flexibility is not a deficiency. It is one of East Potomac's greatest strengths as an urban public golf facility.

The existing facility has 36 holes across three courses, plus a three-hole practice course, and accommodates more than

120,000 rounds annually (the NPS sites a figure of 88,000 annual rounds from pre-pandemic times when golf was popular, but not as popular as it is today). The proposed concept would replace that with one 18-hole championship course. That represents an enormous reduction in public golf capacity, yet the proposal does not convincingly demonstrate how a single 18-hole course will accommodate existing demand, much less expand access to public golf.

The proposed scale of the course is equally troubling. An 8,105-yard championship layout is wildly disproportionate to what ordinary public golfers need. Even as a scratch golfer, I rarely have reason to play a course approaching 7,000 yards. The proposal's four sets of tees measure 8,105, 7,459, 6,766 and 6,013 yards.

Those distances reveal a project designed from the top down around championship golf rather than from the bottom up around public recreation. The overwhelming majority of public golfers should be playing considerably shorter distances. Designing East Potomac around championship length means more maintained turf, more tees, more irrigation, greater maintenance requirements, greater expense and potentially slower play without providing a corresponding benefit to the people most likely to use the course.

The emphasis on attracting major championships is especially unconvincing. Washington already benefits economically from professional golf events throughout the region (Congressional CC upcoming LPGA, PGA, Senior PGA). More importantly, East Potomac has inherent physical limitations as a major championship venue. A modern championship requires far more than long golf holes. It requires enormous spectator capacity, transportation planning, hospitality areas, television and broadcast compounds, security infrastructure, temporary structures, sponsor facilities and operational space. The proposal identifies the U.S. Open, PGA Championship and Ryder Cup as events the redesigned course is intended to be capable of hosting, yet it does not demonstrate how East Potomac could actually accommodate the infrastructure associated with events of that scale. Not to mention that those championship locations are already mostly selected through 2051.

Public parkland should not be permanently redesigned around the speculative possibility of an occasional tournament.

I am also concerned that the proposal invokes the history of East Potomac without actually embracing some of the most interesting aspects of that history. Walter J. Travis's original design was conceived as a reversible links. If historic restoration is genuinely driving this project, that remarkably creative design history deserves serious consideration. Instead, the proposal appears to selectively invoke historic openness and proximity to water to justify an entirely new championship routing.

That overlooks another important part of East Potomac's history: it has been public golf in the truest sense. It has accommodated presidents and ordinary Washingtonians, experienced players and beginners, and became part of the history of desegregating federally owned recreational facilities. The proposal itself recognizes that history. That tradition of broad public access deserves at least as much weight as the visual characteristics of the golf course in its earliest years.

I am especially opposed to incorporating Hains Point into the golf course.

Hains Point is public parkland used for picnicking, walking, running, biking, fishing, recreation and simply enjoying the waterfront. The proposal would incorporate the southern tip into the golf course, including a golf hole extending to the tip. Converting Hains Point into part of the golf course would take genuinely multipurpose public space and devote it to a single recreational use.

Even more concerning is the proposal's treatment of the recreation displaced by the project. It acknowledges effects to biking, walking, fishing, open lawn, picnic areas and pedestrian facilities and proposes identifying replacement opportunities elsewhere, including areas around West Potomac Park and the Tidal Basin.

That is not an adequate mitigation plan.

Moving an activity somewhere else is not the same thing as preserving it. Before approving a planning concept that eliminates existing recreational amenities, there should be a clear accounting of exactly what will be displaced, where each displaced use will go, whether the replacement provides equivalent access and capacity, how it will be funded, and when it will be available.

The same concern applies to the waterfront. I support selectively reopening historic views of the Potomac River, Washington Channel and monuments. I do not support extending golf all the way to the seawall simply because historic photographs show a more open landscape. The proposal would place seven holes along the shoreline and extend golf to the seawall. Golf balls should not routinely be entering the Potomac River. A reasonable buffer between golf and the

waterfront, which Ohio Dr appropriately serves as now, can restore views while protecting continuous public access and maintaining East Potomac's character as a shared public park.

Tree management likewise deserves a much more thoughtful approach. East Potomac is constructed land, so photographs from the park's early decades naturally depict a younger and more open landscape. A century later, mature vegetation is itself part of the experience and ecology of the park.

There are legitimate reasons to remove invasive vegetation, unhealthy trees and selected plantings that obscure historically significant views. But that should occur through a transparent tree-management and landscape-preservation plan, not through a generalized desire to “open” the property or accommodate a new golf routing.

The characterization of the existing course as broadly unsafe also deserves much greater scrutiny. There are genuine safety and maintenance problems at East Potomac, and they should be fixed. But the government's own assessments identify problems involving the Field House, driving range, deteriorated pavement, electrical and fire safety, drainage, dead trees, infrastructure and the seawall. For example, 67 of the 84 identified fire and life-safety deficiencies are located in the historic Field House. Those conditions demonstrate the need for investment. They do not demonstrate that the existing golf-course configuration itself is inherently unsafe, nor do they establish a need to replace three existing courses with one championship course.

That distinction matters.

We should separate what East Potomac needs from what this particular concept wants. East Potomac needs a safe Field House. It needs a rebuilt driving range. It needs functional drainage and irrigation. It needs healthy turf, responsible tree management, restored views, better pathways and a reconstructed seawall.

None of those improvements inherently requires eliminating the White and Red Courses, incorporating Hains Point into the golf course, pushing golf to the seawall, displacing other public recreation, or building an 8,105-yard championship layout.

Affordability is another major unanswered question. Calling a future course “affordable” is not an affordability plan.

The proposal compares East Potomac with Torrey Pines, Bethpage Black and Memorial Park and suggests that differential resident and nonresident pricing could keep local rates lower. But the proposal does not identify the actual green fees proposed for East Potomac. Before endorsing a concept that dramatically reduces golf capacity, the public deserves to know what District residents will actually pay to play, whether nine-hole options will remain available, what juniors and seniors will pay, what practice facilities will cost, and how the operating and maintenance requirements of a championship-caliber facility will affect long-term green fees. A resident discount is valuable. But a discount from an expensive base price does not automatically constitute affordable public golf. I don't see how the plan as written could ever be an income producing golf course for NPS and the District, and there are no operators identified.

Most importantly, I believe NCPC is being asked to endorse a fundamental planning direction before the government has demonstrated that this is the best use of East Potomac Park. The government's own materials state that the environmental review is still underway and that no determination of effect has yet been made under the Section 106 process. Any plan should also outline where the toxic dirt pile (Former White House East Wing) is expected to be spread on the island property. There should be a transparent alternatives analysis comparing this proposal against a rehabilitation-centered alternative that improves the existing Blue Course while retaining shorter golf, practice opportunities, Hains Point and continuous public waterfront recreation.

East Potomac does not need to be frozen in its present condition. It also does not need to become Torrey Pines, Bethpage Black or a speculative major-championship venue to justify investment. It is already extraordinarily valuable because it provides accessible public golf and recreation in the heart of Washington. The goal should be to make East Potomac the best version of East Potomac, not to turn it into something fundamentally different.

I respectfully ask the National Capital Planning Commission not to endorse the current planning direction and instead to use its comments on the concept plan to require the National Park Service to develop and evaluate a community-centered rehabilitation alternative that improves the golf facilities while preserving multiple golf options, Hains Point, waterfront access, historic character, and affordable public recreation.

East Potomac deserves major investment.

This is simply the wrong plan.

Sincerely,
Doug Uhazie
District of Columbia Resident

Name: AMBER BENJAMIN
Date: November 19, 2026 4:25:36 pm

I am writing to oppose the plan to turn East Potomac Park and Hains Point into a championship golf course, and the removal of hundreds of trees that has already taken place.

A president is elected to serve the public, not to own it. East Potomac Park belongs to the American people. Congress reserved this land for public recreation in 1897. The President is like a tenant entrusted with its care for a limited time, and a tenant does not get to tear down what belongs to the owner. Any major change to this public park must be properly reviewed and authorized, with real input from the public, before work begins. It should not be decided by one person and carried out before anyone can object.

Instead, hundreds of trees have already been cut down, some with less than a day's notice, in a way a federal judge sharply criticized. The plans would put the historic cherry trees, the Ohio Drive loop used by runners, cyclists, and walkers, the Hains Point picnic area, the mini golf course, and the fishing spots at risk. These are places that ordinary families use and love, and once they are gone, they cannot be replaced.

Please stop the tree removal, reject this redesign, and leave East Potomac Park the way it was: a public park open to everyone.

Sincerely,
Amber
Goodyear, Arizona

Name: Anne Pearson
Date: November 19, 2026 4:11:15 pm

it's hard to believe that there is an effort to ruin the lovely local golf links that serve the people of this city. It needs to remain untouched.

Name: Jane Jorgensen
Date: November 19, 2026 1:19:46 pm

The only person who wants East Potomac Park obliterated and replaced by a fancy golf course is Mr Trump. Definitely not the tens of thousands of ordinary citizens who now use the park for cycling, running, walking, picnicking, fishing, partying, playing soccer and flag football, playing affordable golf, enjoying nature and the Potomac River. Please stop this desecration of a wonderful public park into a golf course for only the rich.

Name: Joanna Knight
Date: November 19, 2026 1:18:12 pm

Please stop the plans to steal our 130 year old public park. I am a resident of Southeast DC, and I use Hains Point and East Potomac Park as a recreational area. I don't golf, and I don't want this public park to be turned into a single use tournament venue solely for rich golfers. I bike and walk in this area, and I enjoy seeing other people barbecuing, picnicking, fishing, biking, walking, and enjoying the beauty of this area. It's one of our city's treasures, and I am one of many residents who wants to continue enjoying the multiple uses of the park long after this current president has gone.

I am concerned that the project is moving forward even though an environmental and historic review has not been completely conducted. These are important, required steps that must be completed before work begins, and the current administration has already overstepped by chopping down more that 400 trees! The pace of the planning and execution of this unwanted golf tournament venue has given the public no real opportunity to voice our wants and concerns. All of this is completely unacceptable and undemocratic.

This is a park for the public, which is widely used by the public for a multitude of uses. It is a beloved part of DC that offers recreational space for all residents of all income levels. This is what our nation's capital should offer to everyone who lives here and visits here: A place for all of us. This park should not be converted into an elite golf course for a slim minority of people who can afford it. DC residents are tired of being bulldozed by this administration. We deserve so much better. Just end this project. Please.

Name: Phil Schuler
Date: November 19, 2026 11:21:38 am

I urge the National Capital Planning Commission to reject the Concept Proposal for East Potomac Golf Links.

The proposal's plan to expand the golf course to the water pushes it beyond the original vision for the park and the historical footprint of the golf course.

A major objective of the proposal is to "Reconnect the course with the water" in line with William Travis' original design. The proposal departs from the original and historical layout of the golf course. The golf course was never physically connected to the water. Instead, it has always been bounded by the road that is now Ohio Drive and green space between the road and the river. Likewise, it has never extended to the southern tip of Hains Point, which historically has been area devoted to picnicking and open green space (including where "The Awakening" was once installed).

The redevelopment proposal's rationale for clearcutting the trees on the island to restore the original views of the water are also disingenuous. Certainly when the NPS originall planted trees in the 1920s and 1930s, these trees were too small to block the view (as shown in various photos contained in the proposal). Just as certainly, tho people planting these trees knew that trees grow and that the views enjoyed by golfers would also change over time.

The proposal's plan to expand the golf course beyond its historical boundaries would also displace a wide range of popular recreational activities that currently and historically been enjoyed in East Potomac Park. Although Washingtonian horse enthusiasts no longer race along "the Speedway," in East Potomac Park, cyclists have ridden there since the park's creation, along side runners, joggers, walkers, and more recently Ohio Drive has become popular with skaters and people riding scooters and other micro-mobility devices. Ohio Drive forms part of the routes of the annual Marince Corps Marathon runs, Cherry Blossom 10-mile run, and the Washington Area Bicycist Association 50 States bicycle ride.

Outside of Ohio Drive, the riverside green spaces, picnic areas, and the open area south of the golf course are enjoyed daily by photographers, anglers, birders, picnickers, playing frisbee. The National Park Service's own websites promote birding at Hains Point (). These users collectively outnumber golfers, whose use is considerable.

Proponents of the proposal claim that people can enjoy these activities elsewhere, but in many cases, East Potomac Park is uniquely suited for these uses. Only in East Potomac Park do birders have a 360-degree view of migratory birds flying overhead or taking shelter in the trees, for example. Ohio Drive is one of the few places blind tandem cyclists can ride safely in the DC area. And of course if Ohio Drive were eliminated, the annual WABA 50 States bicycle ride becomes the 49 States ride. This claim works both ways: there are countless locations in the greater Washington area that could be repurposed for golf championships.

The proposal's plan to repurpose the existing suite of golfing activities (three courses, driving range, mini-golf, etc.) to a national/international-championship-level golf course further limits who can benefit from golfing at East Potomac Park. In 2025, golfers played 124,500 rounds on the three main courses. This will decline substantially if the park is converted to a single 18-hole elite course.

Repurposing East Potomac Park as a golf course for holding elite-level championship tournaments falls well outside the mandate of the National Park Service. "[Its] purpose is to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wild life therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations." (National Park Service Organic Act, 1916)

And the proposal runs counter to the 1897 act creating Potomac Park established it as a *public* park to be "forever held and used as a park for the recreation and pleasure of the people." (Act Declaring the Potomac Flats a public park, under the name of the Potomac Park, March 3, 1897)

The proposal is widely acknowledged as a vanity project of and for President Trump, pitched as such to him by senior administration officials. This violates the vision of the Founding Fathers when they established a republican form of Government devoted to the common weal. To quote Thomas Paine on the objective of Government: “the public good, or the good of the whole, in contradistinction to the despotic form, which makes the good of the sovereign, or of one man, the only object of government”

Nothing characterizes this proposal better than the Bible. From the second book Samuel, chapter 12:

Then the Lord sent Nathan to David. And he came to him, and said to him: “There were two men in one city, one rich and the other poor. The rich man had exceedingly many flocks and herds. But the poor man had nothing, except one little ewe lamb which he had bought and nourished; and it grew up together with him and with his children. It ate of his own food and drank from his own cup and lay in his bosom; and it was like a daughter to him. And a traveler came to the rich man, who refused to take from his own flock and from his own herd to prepare one for the wayfaring man who had come to him; but he took the poor man’s lamb and prepared it for the man who had come to him.”

So David’s anger was greatly aroused against the man, and he said to Nathan, “As the Lord lives, the man who has done this [a]shall surely die! And he shall restore fourfold for the lamb, because he did this thing and because he had no pity.”

Then Nathan said to David, “You are the man!

Name: Christine Joy
Date: November 18, 2026 9:12:25 pm

Subject: Opposition to Proposed Construction at East Potomac Park Golf Course

Dear Members of the Commission,

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed construction and redesign of East Potomac Park Golf Course. While I recognize the importance of maintaining and improving public recreational facilities, I am concerned that the proposed changes would permanently alter the character of this historic public park and diminish the recreational opportunities it provides to the community.

I frequently walk along East Potomac Park and appreciate its open landscape, mature trees, cherry blossoms, and beautiful views. The park is a special place because it offers something for everyone, including walkers, runners, cyclists, golfers, and families. The proposed design threatens many of the features that make this space unique, including the reversible nine-hole golf routing, open sightlines, mature trees, cherry trees, and existing park roads.

I am particularly concerned that the proposal treats the golf course as a standalone facility rather than as part of a larger, multiuse public park. Any improvements should preserve the park's accessibility and existing recreational opportunities, including the miniature golf course, running and biking loop, and picnic areas. These spaces are important to the many residents and visitors who enjoy the park without necessarily playing golf.

As someone who has played golf, I also value East Potomac as an affordable and welcoming place to enjoy the sport. I would love to bring my children here to learn to play golf, hit balls at the driving range, and spend time outdoors together. Public golf facilities should remain accessible to families and recreational golfers, not become increasingly expensive or focused primarily on a more exclusive golfing experience.

I urge the Commission to reject the current proposal and require a revised design that respects the park's historic landscape, preserves its natural features, and maintains its role as an affordable, accessible recreational space for everyone.

East Potomac Park is more than a golf course. It is a treasured public space that serves the entire community. Improvements should enhance that experience, not come at the expense of the qualities that make the park so special.

Thank you for considering my concerns.

Sincerely,
Christine Joy

Name: susan bancroft leavitt
Date: November 18, 2026 5:00:25 pm

I urge you to reject the proposed redesign of East Potomac Park Golf Course. The CFA's mission is to review how designs "affect the federal interest and preserve the dignity of the nation's capital." This design fails on both counts.
I am a distance runner and use Hains Point (East Potomac Park) on a regular basis, running the Ohio Drive loop to train for races year-round (especially local races such as: Cherry Blossom Ten Miler, Marine Corps Marathon, DC Half, National Women's Half Marathon and District 19 which also attract runners from across the nation). I share the park with bikers, birders, anglers, BBQ-ers, tourists, families, and, of course, golfers. The proposed re-design would destroy this historic landmark. Quite simply, It would eliminate parkland Congress intended for EVERYONE. It would replace 3 golf courses (and a mini-golf course) that is open to players of all levels with a championship course for skilled players only...not to mention the catastrophic loss of the park's mature cherry trees and iconic Ohio Drive.

There is no federal interest in a pro-level, golf-only peninsula. Any changes should preserve the historic course's essential features, protect the trees, and keep the park open "for the recreation and pleasure of people," as Congress intended. On behalf of myself and the countless members of the public who have and currently enjoy East Potomac Park, I ask you to protect this cherished green refuge and reject the proposed design.

Thanks, Susan Leavitt

Name: Jeff Robertson
Date: November 18, 2026 2:55:41 pm

Name: Robin Walker
Date: November 18, 2026 11:26:21 am

I support meaningful investment in East Potomac Golf Course. The facility needs capital improvements and sustained maintenance. But the current proposal goes far beyond rehabilitation and risks replacing a successful, accessible public course with an oversized project that is poorly suited to its site.

First, the premise that East Potomac is essentially unplayable is overstated. The proposal’s photographs appear selected to show the course at its worst, during winter conditions. In contrast, this year’s playing conditions were the best I have seen in 20 years of golfing in Washington. The course needs work—not a wholesale transformation premised on its supposed failure.

Second, the proposal appears to disregard the prior National Links Trust concept, which included Tom Doak’s services. Doak is among the country’s leading designers of links-style golf courses and would have been especially well suited to a course on this waterfront, windswept site. A redesign should build on the site’s character and the expertise most relevant to it, rather than impose a generic “championship” model.

Third, historic images of the original course show the perimeter road that today serves cyclists, runners, walkers, and other park users. That shared-use route is part of East Potomac’s historic and public character. There is no compelling reason to eliminate it. The redesign should preserve—not displace—non-golf recreational access around Hains Point.

Fourth, Washington does not need an 8,000-yard golf course. A thoughtful renovation could extend East Potomac to approximately 7,000 yards, which would challenge nearly every golfer who uses the facility. Very few public players would regularly choose to play an 8,000-yard layout. More importantly, the site is not realistically capable of hosting a PGA Tour event, Ryder Cup, or comparable major event: it lacks the access, parking, staging space, and room for grandstands, tents, media facilities, and other event infrastructure. Designing around that unlikely aspiration would be a mistake.

Fifth, the existing model was working. Approximately 125,000 rounds per year demonstrate that East Potomac already has strong public demand. The right question is how to improve a heavily used, affordable public asset—not how to remake it into something fundamentally different.

Finally, the proposed resident-discount structure requires much more scrutiny. The examples cited—such as Bethpage and Torrey Pines—are state- or city-owned facilities. East Potomac is located in a national park and is subject to a different legal and administrative framework. Before relying on local-resident pricing as a central promise, the National Park Service should publicly explain its legal authority, eligibility rules, administration, and how it will ensure that the course remains genuinely accessible to the broader public. The proposal's cited comparison facilities operate under different ownership structures.

East Potomac deserves investment, restoration, and better maintenance. It does not need an 8,000-yard event-course concept that diminishes public access, overlooks a more site-appropriate alternative, and chases an unrealistic tournament vision. Please direct the project team to pursue a practical rehabilitation that preserves the perimeter road, protects affordability and access, respects the historic landscape, and serves the golfers and park users who already make East Potomac a success.

Name: darcy wolfman
Date: November 18, 2026 11:13:39 am

The proposed plan for East Potomac Park converts a 130 year old public park into a single use golf facility. First off, the required environmental and historic reviews have not been completed, and should be. Second, the public has had very little window to give comments based on the pace of the proposed plan. Lastly, I think it is important to recognize how many DC residents currently use and enjoy East Potomac Park and that would go away under the current plan. I personally use many facets of East Potomac Park. I take golf lessons, use the driving range and play golf at the course. The golf course as it stands is accessible to all, which is evidenced by the fact it was the busiest golf course in DC the past few years. Further, I run and bike on the path around the point. This is a heavily used biking and walking path used by causal bikers and walkers all the way to people training for marathons and professional events. If the proposed design is approved, DC residents, including me, will be unable to use this park as I expect golf prices to be significantly higher and the current design eliminates the bike and walk path. Future DC plans should include this amazing park as part of it's plan, in a way that allows all residents to enjoy it. Please consider requiring a fully accessible, public golf facility and a public bike and walk path as part of the plan, as this is an important part of DC and should be part of the future plans for DC public spaces.

Name: Randall Waters
Date: November 18, 2026 8:55:56 am

As a citizen of DC since 2017, I write to strongly oppose the conversion of East Potomac Golf Links and the Hains Point / Ohio Drive Loop to a single use golf facility. I am an avid golfer of 67 years who appreciates public walking access golf for all levels and abilities from beginners, intermediates, and seasoned players of all ages. The East Potomac facility provides a very rare combination of three distinct courses, practice area, and large driving range which cater to every level. It should be kept and appreciated as a rare gem, built for the common person, offering easy and affordable access for residents of this region, to those wishing to learn the game and the lifelong quest to improve their abilities. It gives me great joy to surround myself with golfers of all ages and abilities from every demographic, something "club" golf cannot and does not provide.

In addition to frequent golf outings, my wife and I ride our bicycles down the Rock Creek trails to the Hain Point Loop on a weekly basis. As I write this, we will be heading out on the bikes this morning. This trek is safe, scenic, and fills us with pride to live in such a beautiful and welcoming city. Removing the Hains Point / Ohio Drive loop from our lives would be a travesty. Any why, so that a Championship Level vanity project can go forward? Talk of this new venue hosting a PGA Tour event is absurd. At most, any event on tour would only happen one weekend every ten to twenty years or longer. The city would simply give away this asset for the masses for a one weekend tournament. The trade-off to exclude the public from this valuable space is not worth it.

Lastly, the green spaces around the loop are heavily used and visited and prized by those who picnic or simply want to

remove themselves from the noise and hustle of the city. The smell of grills, the sound of music and laughter, parents playing with children, fishermen wetting a line are all elements of a healthy community and are evident every time I visit the park on my bike or for golf. The green space around East Potomac and Hains Point provide an invaluable destination that should be cherished for what it is. A beautiful parkland that every DC resident is proud to share with the rest of American and the world.

Please DENY the request for the re-purposing of East Potomac Park

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Name: Lynn Enayeh
Date: November 18, 2026 8:06:54 am

Hains Point has been my safe haven to train without worrying about aggressive drivers. It's also where my long-term partner and I went on our third date and many more after it..
As a road cyclist, it feels almost guaranteed that at least one driver will go out of their way to intimidate you. Here, I can get stronger on the bike and meet amazing people while enjoying the beautiful nature and trees. I especially love seeing all the families out picnicking and the groups of runners having a good time. It's such a special place for all of us!!

Name: Elise Serbaroli
Date: November 17, 2026 10:28:52 pm

Public Comment: Preserve East Potomac Park and Hains Point as Public Parkland

NCPC File No. 8832
United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service
East Potomac Park, Washington, DC – East Potomac Park Golf Links

I am a triathlete and President of DC Tri Club, a community of more than 600 athletes across Washington, DC, Maryland, and Virginia. I strongly oppose the proposed redevelopment of East Potomac Park at the expense of its existing public recreational uses, natural environment, and historic character.

East Potomac Park is one of Washington, DC's most valuable public spaces. Hains Point serves residents, visitors, athletes, families, and community organizations throughout the year. Its value cannot be measured simply by the number of golf holes it can accommodate or the revenue a redevelopment might generate.

Improving East Potomac's golf facilities does not require sacrificing the rest of the park. The course can be modernized within its existing golf footprint—without destroying the surrounding multi-use parkland, eliminating the cycling and running opportunities along Ohio Drive, or sacrificing the iconic cherry blossom experience. We can have excellent public golf while preserving the trees, waterfront access, recreational infrastructure, and shared public spaces that make East Potomac special.

East Potomac Park should remain a public park first and foremost.

1. Hains Point is essential recreational infrastructure

As a triathlete and DC Tri Club president, I see firsthand how important Hains Point is to our community. Its uninterrupted perimeter loop offers a rare opportunity for cyclists to train without navigating regular city traffic. It serves beginner cyclists, experienced riders, triathletes, runners, walkers, families, and visitors.

DC Tri Club has hosted its Wednesday group ride here for years, along with other training and community events. Members also use the park independently throughout the week. There are dozens of running and cycling clubs that use Ohio Drive as a central training facility on a daily basis. It is also an important training destination for people preparing for events such as the Cherry Blossom 10 Mile, Army Ten-Miler, and Marine Corps Marathon.

This is not simply an event venue. The park's geography, predictable loop, and relatively safe, uninterrupted road access provide recreational infrastructure that nearby streets and parks cannot replicate.

2. East Potomac Park was created for public access and enjoyment

East Potomac Park was created from reclaimed Potomac River mudflats. Between 1912 and 1916, the Army Corps of Engineers constructed the perimeter road, originally called Riverside Drive, to provide public access around the newly created island park.

For more than a century, this landscape has served as a place for public recreation and enjoyment. The question should be how to preserve and improve this historic public park—not how to redesign it around a single recreational use.

3. A public park should serve many communities

East Potomac is shared by cyclists, runners, golfers, picnickers, photographers, anglers, families, and waterfront visitors. These uses coexist. Golf already has an established place in the park.

The miniature golf course—one of the oldest in the country and recently updated—is another beloved public amenity that should be preserved.

A public park should accommodate a diversity of users, not prioritize one group at the expense of everyone else.

4. High-quality public golf and multi-use parkland can coexist

The National Links Trust (NLT) has articulated a community-centered vision for municipal golf: accessible, affordable, high-quality facilities for the public.

NLT co-founder Mike McCartin learned to play golf at East Potomac as a child and later wrote his master's thesis, “Making a Model Municipal Facility: A Case Study of East Potomac Park Golf Course.” The NLT team also brings significant golf expertise, including world-class architect Tom Doak, whose work includes Pacific Dunes in Oregon, Ballyneal in Colorado, Barnbougle Dunes in Tasmania, and Cape Kidnappers in New Zealand. He has six courses ranked among the top 100 in the world according to the March 2021 *Golf Magazine* “Top 100 Courses in the World” list.

There is an opportunity to build on this vision and deliver excellent public golf without sacrificing the surrounding parkland. Modernizing the course within its existing footprint can support high-quality, affordable golf while protecting the trees, recreational loop, and other community uses.

We should not have to choose between great public golf and a great public park.

5. Protect the trees, landscape, and cherry blossoms

The proposal puts approximately 1,600 trees at risk. These trees provide shade, support wildlife, improve the urban environment, and define the park’s character. Mature trees cannot simply be replaced; they take decades to grow.

East Potomac is also part of Washington’s iconic cherry blossom experience. Riding or walking along Ohio Drive beneath the blossoms, with views of the waterfront and monuments, is a special part of living in and visiting this city.

The trees and landscape are not incidental features of the park. They are part of what makes it valuable. I urge decision-makers to preserve all approximately 1,600 trees.

6. The proposal does not adequately account for existing park users

The submitted plan (64-page doc under 'Submission Materials") focuses overwhelmingly on golf while treating the surrounding parkland and its many users as secondary. The alternatives analysis reinforces this concern.

On **page 53**, the side-by-side comparison of alternatives effectively removes or diminishes the existing multi-use recreational activities that make East Potomac valuable to so many people, arguably more multi-use users than golfers.

On **page 55**, the plan suggests that new opportunities for biking, walking, fishing, and picnicking could be provided “as close as feasible,” including at West Potomac Park and the Tidal Basin. These locations are not equivalent replacements for Hains Point.

Hains Point’s uninterrupted perimeter loop, predictable conditions, accessibility, and relative separation from city traffic make it uniquely valuable to cyclists—from beginners to athletes training for competition. There is no comparable nearby

substitute for this combination of features.

Telling cyclists and runners to go elsewhere overlooks why they use Hains Point in the first place. Relocating these activities also changes the character of the community that has grown around the park.

The ability of golfers, cyclists, runners, families, anglers, and visitors to share the same public space is central to East Potomac's value. New recreational opportunities elsewhere do not replace what would be lost here.

NCPC should ensure that its review considers the full scope of existing park use and the cumulative effects of the proposed redevelopment—not simply the proposed golf improvements. A planning decision of this scale should be informed by a complete understanding of who uses the park, how they use it, and what would be lost under each alternative.

7. Public parkland should not be sacrificed for a specialized destination

Golf is an established and valued use of East Potomac Park, and investment in its facilities is worthwhile. But improving public golf is different from transforming a multi-use public park into a specialized championship destination.

Public land should deliver the greatest possible benefit to the public. A plan that prioritizes one use while displacing cyclists, runners, families, and other visitors does not meet that standard.

We can invest in better golf facilities, preserve affordability, and work with experienced golf architects without sacrificing the broader park.

8. Recommendations

I urge the National Capital Planning Commission and other decision-makers to:

1. **Preserve East Potomac Park as public parkland**, prioritizing broad public access and diverse recreation.
2. **Protect the Hains Point perimeter roadway and recreational loop**, including safe, uninterrupted access for cyclists, runners, and walkers.
3. **Preserve the approximately 1,600 trees**, historic landscape, tree canopy, and waterfront character.
4. **Maintain existing recreational amenities**, including the historic miniature golf course.
5. **Retain the park's multi-use character**, including year-round cycling, running, walking, fishing, picnicking, and community athletic activities.
6. **Build on the National Links Trust's community-centered vision** for high-quality, affordable public golf.
7. **Meaningfully engage all park users**, including residents, cyclists, runners, triathletes, families, golfers, and recreational organizations.
8. **Evaluate alternatives that improve and modernize the golf course within its existing footprint**, without reducing public access, unnecessarily removing mature trees, or displacing established recreational uses.
9. **Require a comprehensive assessment of the proposal's impacts on existing park uses**, including the cumulative effects on recreational access, transportation, historic landscape, trees, and the broader public experience.

Conclusion: Hains Point Is More Than a Golf Course. It Is a Public Promise.

Hains Point is a rare public space where beginners learn, experienced athletes train, families spend time together, visitors enjoy the waterfront, and people from all backgrounds share the same landscape.

As a triathlete and President of DC Tri Club, I know what this park means to thousands of local athletes and to the broader community. It provides not only a place to train, but also a place to connect, challenge ourselves, and enjoy the natural beauty of our nation's capital.

The National Links Trust's vision demonstrates that public golf and public access need not compete. We can improve and modernize the golf course within its existing footprint while preserving the rest of the park for the many people who use it.

Please preserve East Potomac Park and Hains Point as a multi-use public park—for today's residents and for generations to come.

Public parks. Public paths. Public access.

Name: Benjamin Glickstein
Date: November 17, 2026 9:44:49 pm

I am writing to express my grave concern for the rushed and insufficient plans to completely destroy the public access to our community's beloved Hains Point. I am a former resident of the District (Capitol Hill) and current resident of Montgomery County, MD who works in and commutes through the city. My bicycle commute takes me right past Hains Point and I often take a detour to sit and take in the splendor of the intersection of our region's two great rivers. Americans from every walk of life who visit Donald Trump's renewed Safe and Beautiful DC deserve to have access to this unique location where tourists take in the splendor of the original rivers that Made America Great.

The submitted plan completely misconstrues the value of Hains Point by implying that its only public use is golfing, and failing to even mention the consequences of displacing the park's parimary beneficiaries: cyclists, walkers, tourists, birders, picnickers, fishermen, veterans, patriots, and families using the beloved mini golf course.

Improving East Potomac's golf facilities does not require sacrificing the rest of the park. We can have excellent public golf while preserving the trees, waterfront access, recreational infrastructure, and shared public spaces that make East Potomac special.

But no matter your decision, it is egregious to consider a plan that doesn't even pay tribute to the many public uses that are being destroyed. At very least, this plan needs to be rewritten by someone who understands and has ever been to Hains Point. Then, it can be brought forth for public comment. Please reject this current application which will destroy one of our best public parks.

Name: Todd & Alice Burns
Date: November 17, 2026 9:40:02 pm

Dear Members of the National Capital Planning Commission,

We are writing as an Arlington, Virginia family and longtime users of East Potomac Park to strongly oppose the proposed redevelopment of this historic public space into a championship-style golf facility. We urge the Commission not to advance this proposal without a comprehensive examination of its impacts on public access, recreational opportunities, environmental resilience, historic preservation, and the long-term stewardship of federal parkland.
Our family's perspective comes from extensive firsthand experience. Over the past decade, one member of our family alone has visited East Potomac Park more than 500 times and logged over 20,000 miles cycling around Hains Point. Few places in the Washington metropolitan area offer the same combination of safety, accessibility, natural beauty, and recreational versatility.

The Hains Point loop is one of the only places in the region where families can cycle together with minimal exposure to traffic. Vehicle speeds are generally limited to approximately 15–20 mph, there are no stoplights or major intersections to navigate, and the dedicated bike lane provides an unusually continuous, predictable riding environment.

These features make the park particularly valuable for families with young children, recreational cyclists, runners, and others seeking safe outdoor exercise. The uninterrupted loop is not simply a convenience; it is a unique public recreational resource that would be extraordinarily difficult to replicate elsewhere in the region.
Any redevelopment that removes, interrupts, or substantially alters this route would represent a serious loss to the broader community. Protecting the existing cycling and walking loop should be an explicit requirement of any future plan.

East Potomac Park also holds tremendous personal significance for our family. Our two boys are now 9 and 11, and we have made an annual spring pilgrimage to Hains Point to enjoy the cherry blossoms since they were 4 and 6 years old.

These visits have become one of our most cherished family traditions. The cherry trees, waterfront setting, and open landscape provide an experience that cannot be replicated by a purpose-built recreational facility.
Public parks have value that extends far beyond their immediate economic or recreational uses. They are places where families establish traditions, children develop connections to nature, and communities create shared memories. The long-term planning of federal parkland should recognize and protect these benefits.

We recognize that golf has a long and important history at East Potomac Park. Our family does not play golf, and we defer to the people who regularly use the course regarding the improvements that would best serve public golfers.

However, the Washington metropolitan area already has numerous private golf courses, while affordable public golf opportunities are relatively limited. There is a legitimate public interest in preserving and improving public golf facilities. There is far less justification for creating a championship-style or exclusive golf experience that diminishes the park's accessibility to everyone else.

Golfers, cyclists, runners, walkers, families, and visitors have shared East Potomac Park for generations. A successful long-term plan should preserve that balance rather than prioritize a single recreational activity.

We are also deeply concerned about the feasibility and long-term sustainability of major infrastructure investments on this flood-prone peninsula. Years ago, a project to renovate a public swimming pool at East Potomac Park reportedly involved millions of dollars in expenditures but ultimately failed amid flooding-related challenges. That experience deserves serious examination before undertaking another major redevelopment project in the same vulnerable environment.

At a minimum, the Commission should require a thorough assessment of the area's flooding history, drainage limitations, soil conditions, long-term maintenance needs, and climate-related risks. It should also examine the history and lessons of prior unsuccessful infrastructure projects on the property.

Before committing substantial resources to a championship-style golf facility, decision-makers should demonstrate that the proposed improvements are technically feasible, financially sustainable, and compatible with the environmental realities of the site.

As residents and taxpayers, we believe responsible stewardship of public land and public resources requires careful evaluation of these risks rather than proceeding with an accelerated redevelopment process.
Environmental Review, Historic Preservation, and Meaningful Public Participation
We are additionally concerned about the pace of the current proposal and the reported lack of completed environmental and historic preservation reviews.

East Potomac Park represents an important part of Washington's historic public landscape. Changes that could affect mature trees, cherry blossoms, existing roads, historic golf features, and recreational access deserve careful scrutiny.
A project of this scale should not advance before the necessary reviews have been completed and the public has had a meaningful opportunity to evaluate the proposed changes and alternatives.

We respectfully ask the National Capital Planning Commission to:
1. Decline to advance the current proposal until the necessary environmental, historic preservation, and public planning reviews are completed.
2. Require permanent preservation of the existing Hains Point cycling and walking loop, including its continuous dedicated bicycle lane and low-traffic character.
3. Protect the park's mature trees, cherry blossoms, open green spaces, and historic landscape.
4. Preserve affordable public golf while ensuring that the park remains accessible to cyclists, runners, walkers, families, and other visitors.
5. Require a comprehensive flooding, drainage, and infrastructure feasibility assessment, including an examination of lessons learned from the previous swimming pool renovation project.
6. Evaluate alternatives that improve the existing public golf facilities without converting the surrounding park into a predominantly single-purpose recreational destination.

After more than a decade of visits, including more than 500 cycling trips and 20,000 miles logged by one member of our family, we have developed a deep appreciation for what makes East Potomac Park extraordinary. It is one of the few places in the region where people of different ages, interests, and backgrounds can safely enjoy recreation and nature in a shared public setting.
Our children have grown up visiting Hains Point, and we hope that decades from now they will be able to bring their own families to experience the same cherry blossoms, peaceful cycling loop, and beautiful open landscape.
The responsibility of federal planners is not simply to determine whether a new golf facility can be built, but whether it represents the best long-term use of this irreplaceable public resource.

We strongly believe that East Potomac Park should remain a park for everyone.

Thank you for your consideration.
Sincerely,

Todd & Alice Burns Family
Arlington, Virginia

Name: Patricia Ledesma Liebana
Date: November 17, 2026 9:32:01 pm

I am a resident of DC and I have been going to East Potomac Park for exercise on business days, multiple times per week, since I moved to DC in 2014. I go there primarily to bike, at dawn, before work. I have logged about 7,000 miles riding in the 3.3 mile road loop around park. It is a unique place in the area due to its proximity to residential areas, easily accessible via public transportation and bikes, low traffic and no blind corners or busy intersections. In addition to biking, I have been there numerous times to celebrate birthdays in the club house, and in picnics with work colleagues during the pandemic. An early morning ride during cherry blossom season is one of the most sublime experiences one can have in this city. Displacing all non golf users of this park would impose a huge loss.

The project as laid out in the slides requires that users of the current golf courses also be displaced as one course will not have enough capacity. The concept is questionable from the financial point of view, as the costs to tax payers are will not to be recovered via fees unless the fees are increased substantially and the course is used for private tournaments. Even privatizing the course will it be sufficient to recover the cost to taxpayers. The park should remain a public space for the enjoyment of all. Repairs to the sea wall and facilities should be carefully planned, budgeted for and contracts awarded with due process and transparency. There is no emergency that warrants a full closure and awarding no-bid contracts.

Name: Copperthite Mike
Date: November 17, 2026 9:04:18 pm

THE PEOPLES PARK AND THE POTUS LAND GRAB VANITY PROJECT
My GG Grandfather Henry Copperthite was at the very first dedication of Hains Point, East and West Potomac Parks "THE PEOPLES PARK" in 1903 and a Judge for the Inaugural Trotting and Pacing Race on the NEW CENTURY SPEEDWAY (Ohio Drive) along with many of the cities leaders. I have been riding my bike during my lunch hour with at times hundreds of riders weekdays since 1994. In 1935 (Washington times) Iona J. Allen trained at Hains Point on her bike for the 1936 Olympics. I have pictures of my GGGrandfather and my Grandfather in a T&P Roadster on the Hains Point Loop and my grandfather told me that the Ladies after church would meet in their surrey and race for a small wager to the Tea House (I saw many times) at the end of Hains Point. I witmessed what damage to Hains Point was done during Hurricane Agnes in June 1972. I was there for the installation of the “Awakening Statue and for its removal to National Harbor. In my life time that park has had public tennis courts, a pool, a golf course, polo fields, baseball and softball fields. I have played touch football, witnessed rugby games, and have participated and witnessed families, picnicking, birding, walking and jogging around Hains Point and East Potomac Park for over 60 years. I have seen foxes, deer, raccoons, squirrels, eagles, osprey, and thousands of birds. I have walked many of my dogs there and believe the intent of those who approved, and acquired the funds to build it do so for the the enjoyment of every one. I have been to the cherry blossom festival and watch the bloom of those trees for decades. I know that it was the daughters of American Revolution who planted many of the trees in 1935 to protect those cherry blossoms the ones that were recently cut down without permission and or authorization One final note on April 6, 1985 my wife and myself created, donated and put on the first race for hunger in America “Feed the World 10K in the park attended by over 1,000 runners. Each participant was required to bring a can of food as part of their entrance fee and we donated all the proceeds and the food the the homeless shelter Mitch Schneider.

The park should remain as originally intended a park for the people.

Michael C. Copperthite
5th Generation Washingtonian

Name: Liz Lyons
Date: November 17, 2026 8:46:55 pm

Don’t expand the golf course. Keep east Potomac park for DC. My family has enjoyed the playgrounds, the mini golf, the soccer fields and walking among the cherry blossoms. Keep the park for DC. No to a bigger golf course.

Name: Eric Klein
Date: November 17, 2026 6:51:27 pm

I write to urge you to reject the proposed re-design of East Potomac Park Golf Course. I was a longtime D.C. resident, living there from 1995-1998 and 2000-2010. I am an avid golfer, cyclist, and runner. My activities have taken me onto Hains Point many times, whether it be golf at East Potomac or biking or running on Hains Point. I have run the Marine Corps Marathon and the Cherry Blossom Ten Miler multiple times, and running the loop on Ohio Drive around Hains Point is an iconic part of these races. Seeing The Awakening is an inspiration every time a run would take me down there, both being inspired by the art itself and also knowing that I have reached a milestone in the run. The plan for the redesign of East Potomac Golf Course would change, indeed lose, all of that.

As a golfer, I have tremendous respect for Tom Fazio and the work he has done with golf courses, but what is proposed for East Potomac would not only destroy what Hains Point means to so many but it would also fundamentally alter the character of East Potomac golf course and what it means to so many people who have enjoyed it as a municipal course that is welcoming to all the golfers from the DC metro area. The scale and character of the Fazio design are contrary to the historic Travis design and inconsistent with what golf was meant to be on this peninsula. The Fazio design removes the reversible 9-hole routing, open sightlines, mature trees, cherry trees, the iconic Ohio Drive, and the parkland that serves so many different purposes for people of all ages, skills and interests. The golf options that are available now welcome all kinds of golfers, from the beginner to the aging golfer who wants to walk a course but cannot walk an 18-hole championship course.

In sum, Hains Point and East Potomac Golf Course are about so much more than just quality golf. The Fazio redesign would achieve only one thing--a nice golf course--but it would cost so much more. It is simply not worth it.

Thank you,

Eric Klein

Name: Maryanne Mundy
Date: November 17, 2026 3:58:53 pm

East Potomac Park is a national jewel, especially the Haines Point loop! When I worked with area senior citizens, this is where we would take field trips to see the cherry blossoms, as the tidal basin was too crowded for them to navigate safely, even for small intervals. At the Haines Point loop, the minibus could drive around slowly, giving everyone a good view of the splendor, regardless of their mobility limitations. Or, the bus could stop and let people out briefly to walk short distances, many with canes and walkers, for this quintessential D.C. experience and the amazing views. To lose the most accessible place for all Americans, especially the aged and disabled, to experience the DC Cherry Blossoms, would be a tragedy. This is also such an important spot for events such as runs, bike rides, and generally enjoying a beautiful, calm public space. Please do not let these proposed plans to redevelop it go through! The open sight lines with views of the DC monuments, the mature trees, cherry trees, the park and even the road are so very special and important to our nation. I urge you to reject these designs and plans.

Name: Peter` Byrne
Date: November 17, 2026 2:51:34 pm

This project disregards the wishes and concerns of local residents. It would eliminate biking, running, walking, miniature golf, picnics, and just hanging out for ordinary people from Hains Point to make room for upscale golf. The fancy golf course will cost a fortune to build taking away money from many NPS projects that would more benefit DC residents,

such as the deterioration at Anacostia Park, so long neglected. The golf links idea has been forced through as a vanity project for Trump, but NCPC will disgrace itself by pretending that this is a worthy project.

Name: Robert Hirama
Date: November 17, 2026 2:05:18 pm

The proposed demolition of open space, trees, roads, trails and other amenities in order to build a grand, professional, exclusive golf course is incompatible with the natural, river setting, expansive views and historical, casual aesthetic of East Potomac Park. We do not need a huge, closed, commercial venture excluding tens of thousands of current users, and competing and conflicting with the sites natural beauty and views of the city.

Name: Nancy Sturm
Date: November 17, 2026 1:11:23 pm

The proposed plan for East Potomac Park Golf Links is wrong for Washington DC.

This plan will convert a beloved and well used 130-year-old public park into a single use facility. Currently many of us, including me, enjoy running, biking, and walking the roadways around the golf courses, and hitting the occasional bucket of balls and the driving range. The park is a public multi use gathering place for a cross section of citizens of Washington, Virginia and Maryland. I enjoy taking young friends to the mini golf course, recently renovated and one of the oldest in the nation. The proposed design eliminates all of this

Furthermore, the required environmental and historic review has not been completed (and barely started).

And finally, the public has had almost no real window to weigh in given the pace of the project. Why is President Trump rushing this?

I beg you not to approve the project from advancing.
I have attempted to upload a PDF of my comment, but your website is not accepting it.

Name: John Dowling
Date: November 17, 2026 12:54:44 pm

Dear Members of the Commission,

As someone who plays this course at least once a week, I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed redevelopment of the East Potomac Golf Course into a championship tournament facility. The current proposal represents a catastrophic loss of accessible public space, a blatant disregard for historic and environmental preservation, and a deeply troubling evasion of established federal planning procedures.

I urge the Commission to reject the current design based on the following critical issues:

The process behind this redevelopment has demonstrated a shocking disregard for legal and regulatory standards. The project has actively bypassed mandated National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Administrative Procedure Act (APA) reviews, illegally circumventing the public comment periods that protect our community spaces. Furthermore, the groundwork already undertaken has been environmentally devastating. The sudden clear-cutting of over 500 mature trees —including irreplaceable cherry trees—and the dumping of approximately 37,000 cubic yards of contaminated dirt and debris have introduced toxic materials to the peninsula. This has degraded the local ecosystem and transformed a historic green space into an unseemly, hazardous worksite.

The proposed scale of this project actively destroys the original, community-focused vision for golf on this peninsula. Walter Travis's historic 1919 design was intended to provide an egalitarian, municipal alternative to exclusive country clubs. In 2025 alone, East Potomac's highly efficient layout—which includes the uniquely historic reversible nine-hole

routing—hosted nearly 125,000 rounds of golf. Funneling that massive volume of local, affordable play into a single 18-hole tournament course will severely slash public capacity and artificially inflate the cost of tee times, serving elite interests at the expense of the local golfing community.

Finally, this design mistakenly treats East Potomac as an isolated, standalone sporting facility rather than a crucial, integrated component of a multi-use public park. Congress mandated this area in 1897 as "a park for the recreation and pleasure of the people." By expanding the golf footprint to accommodate a championship course, the design callously removes existing roads, beautiful open sightlines, and accessible park space. This encroachment threatens the broader community that relies on the peninsula, displacing cyclists, runners, anglers, and picnickers, while also threatening family-friendly amenities like the mini-golf course.

As a regular user of this park, I ask the Commission to hold this project accountable to the law and to the public. Please reject the current scale of this proposal and require a design that restores environmental integrity, preserves the site's high-capacity community golf access, and keeps the multi-use park features completely intact.

Thank you for your time, your service, and your commitment to protecting our national capital's public spaces.

Respectfully,

John Dowling

Name: Cynthia Singiser
Date: November 17, 2026 11:33:42 am

Cynthia Singiser Written Testimony to the National Capital Planning Commission on its review of East Potomac Golf Links (File 8832).
Please take public sentiment and needs into consideration when planning for East Potomac Park Golf Links. Please ensure the plan fits the long-term vision for DC and use of its federal land. The plan for the park should represent what Washingtonians want, a space for many hard-working local citizens, and not something for an elite few.
I oppose the current plan and how it runs counter to Washington, DC's long-term use of public spaces. This plan converts a 130-year-old public park into a single use facility, the required environmental and historic review isn't finished, and the public has had almost no real window to weigh in given the pace.
I am a recreational golfer and have enjoyed many tee times at East Potomac. The current facility is welcoming, and I have met a variety of Washingtonians through pairing with other golfers to make up a party of four. I only recently biked the loop and what an enjoyable ride that was!
East Potomac Park should not be a standalone golf facility. It should stay a multi-use public park that keeps the existing mini golf course, the running and biking loop, and the picnic areas intact. This federal land should continue to encourage many types of activities.
A championship course doesn't match Walter Travis's historic design nor what golf on this peninsula was meant to be. Please don't overhaul the existing landscape features. Please don't remove the reversible nine-hole routing, open sightlines, mature trees, cherry trees, the road, and the park.
Please do the right thing for the people of Washington, DC. I thank you for you taking public comments seriously and base your decision on what the people who use the park want.

Name: SUSAN RIETH
Date: November 17, 2026 11:25:53 am

I am strongly opposed to the administration's plan to redesign East Potomac Park. While the golf course is a central feature of East Potomac Park, it is far from the only one. The redesign removes park space used for biking, walking, runnning, fishing, bird watching, and picnicing. There is already far too little open space in an urban area like DC, and loss of the lovely multi-use park space at East Potomac Park is unacceptable. The current redesign is particularly alarming since there has been no study or analysis of the public's preferred use of this space. I urge you to reject the current redesign of East Potomac Park.

Name: Jim Culter
Date: November 17, 2026 11:12:11 am

Stop the carnage of the public park and golf course. This is absolutely ridiculous and a waste of taxpayers money for a vanity project with no public input and a violation of established rules.

P.S. No Arch, not in that location ever. It is a hideous monument to vanity and a disrespecting of Arlington national memorial.

Name: Rob Portman
Date: November 17, 2026 9:07:16 am

I strongly object to the Trump Administration's plan for redesigning the East Potomac Park Golf Course. The plan is not consistent with the historic design of the course. The course definitely needs renovation, but the Administration plan would have the course take up the whole peninsula and clearly would not be affordable to the population that currently uses the course. It would cut off all of the many other uses of the park, including cycling, running, fishing, birding, and walking, to name a few. In short, it would dramatically limit the use of the park. In addition, the limited ingress and egress to East Potomac Park would never permit the traffic associated with major golf events. For these reasons, I would urge the Commission to either reject the proposed plan or modify it to permit a meaningful renovation of the golf course within its current footprint, preservation of the mini golf course, and non-interference with the other uses of the park. Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Name: Johannah Murphy
Date: November 17, 2026 8:55:58 am

I do not support the plan to remake East Potomac Park as only a golf course. Currently the last is multi-purpose and open to all. It is a wonderful open space escape for those living in the city and nearby suburbs. It is a place to bike, run, use the playground, putt putt, fish and a wonderful alternative place to view the cherry blossoms away from the crowds at the Jefferson. Reducing the space to one use - golf - is not good for the community. Also, I do not know the pricing on the new golf course but the affordability of the current course is also important for young gvt staffers and locals to have an entry-level course in our city where there are plenty of other more exclusive courses.

Name: Grace Jones
Date: November 17, 2026 8:05:08 am

This plan converts a 130 year old public park into a single use facility, the required environmental and historic review isn't finished, and the public has had almost no real window to weigh in given the pace. I use the park trails today for cycling, running, and walking. I also use the picnic areas and the mini golf course. None of the ways I use the park would remain possible with this new plan.

Name: Alexander Roman
Date: November 17, 2026 6:47:16 am

Dear Chair and Members of the National Capital Planning Commission,

I am submitting this written testimony to strongly oppose the preliminary plan for the "East Potomac Park Golf Links" (File No. 8832). As a Washington, DC resident and frequent user of East Potomac Park, I believe this project conflicts with the Comprehensive Plan for the National Capital, privatizes public land benefits, and has moved forward without adequate review or community consultation.

I urge the Commission to withhold approval of this preliminary plan on the following grounds:

For over 130 years, East Potomac Park has served as open, multi-purpose public parkland. The Comprehensive Plan explicitly emphasizes preserving continuous public waterfront access, expanding equitable recreation, and maintaining open public green spaces. Converting this park into an intensive, single-purpose facility limits general public utility in favor of an elite sporting venue.

The perimeter roadway around Hains Point (Ohio Drive) is vital public recreation and transportation infrastructure. It serves as the proven staging ground and racecourse for landmark Washington events, including the Marine Corps Marathon ("The People's Marathon") and the Cherry Blossom 10 Mile Run. Altering or eliminating public roadway access severs a core multi-modal corridor and permanently undermines world-class civic athletic traditions that bring thousands of visitors and residents to the waterfront every year.

The cherry blossom trees lining Hains Point are among the most treasured natural assets in the District. Restricting access to the road and perimeter loop locks the community out of one of the city's finest, most accessible seasonal landscapes. Public parkland should expand public interaction with our waterways and tree canopies, not wall it off behind restricted-access fairways.

Full compliance under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) has not been adequately demonstrated to the public. Given the park's vulnerability to sea-level rise, flooding, and subsidence, transforming this terrain without complete, transparent ecological and cultural impact evaluations is irresponsible.

The accelerated schedule has left community members with insufficient opportunity to evaluate impacts on traffic, tree loss, accessibility, and recreational displace-ment. Major redevelopments of prime public land require comprehensive community engagement, not an expedited process.

Please protect the long-term vision of our public waterfront by rejecting this plan in its current form and directing the project sponsors to pursue a scaled-back revitalization that keeps East Potomac Park public, accessible, and balanced.

Name: Paul Chirles
Date: November 16, 2026 10:34:52 pm

I am writing to urge the National Capital Planning Commission to deny the changes to the East Potomac Golf Linke.

This plan converts a 130 year old public park into a single use facility, the required environmental and historic review isn't finished, and the public has had almost no real window to weigh in given the pace.
My wife and I love using these facilities and enjoy the current views of the DC & Arlington skylines.
Allowing these plans to move forward will take away the use of public land from US citizens and visitors alike.

We do not want to, nor should, lose our access to our public lands.

You must deny the proposed changes.

Name: Mackenzie Marcotte
Date: November 16, 2026 10:33:58 pm

As a DC resident, I support safety and accessibility upgrades to the East Potomac Park and golf links in the spirit of making the space more enjoyable, accessible, and safe for visitors of all ages and interests. However, I strongly oppose the proposed closing and redesign of the East Potomac Park into an 18-hole course that would destroy the surrounding forested green space and turn it into a golf-only, pay-to-play space. That is totally at odds with what the people of the DMV want from our public space.

Name: Dylan Hecox
Date: November 16, 2026 10:22:55 pm

Any redesign of East Potomac Park that diminishes the potential public uses of the park is a nonstarter. This is a park designed for all different kind of uses from bird watching to biking to fishing to picnicking to golfing to many others. Approving a plan that does not include these activities is destructive. East Potomac Park was designed for the use of all who wants to come for a myriad of reasons. A championship level golf course does not meet these goals of the park. The current construction of the golf course, that is 18-holes, two 9-hole, and a miniature golf course provides many levels for amateurs and beginners to get into golf while also keeping it the most affordable course in the region. Removing Ohio Drive deprives people from a fantastic and safe area to bike and exercise. Every year during the Cherry Blossoms peak bloom it provides a gorgeous setting to view the blossoms without the tight crowds. There are miles of waterfront access to allow anyone to fish. Acres to picnic and play. Generations of families have come to East Potomac to experience nature in an urban setting. For all these reasons I'm asking you to reject the proposed redesign of East Potomac Park.

Name: Laura Larson
Date: November 16, 2026 9:19:41 pm

Hello and I have lived in Arlington, Virginia for more than 25 years. I love Hains Point and its proximity to me. It offers such beauty, a great place to run, bike, walk, picnic, and a cool place take nieces and nephews to enjoy the playground.

I plead with the leaders of the National Capital Planning Commission to keep the park public.

Thank you for your consideration.

Laura K. Larson
[redacted]

Name: Brennan Gould
Date: November 16, 2026 8:23:52 pm

In 2025, over 120,000 rounds of golf were played at East Potomac Golf links, which is more than double the number from 2019 (figures from an article by Rick Maese, Washington Post). There is a large and rapidly growing demand for accessible golf in the DC area. The “Washington National Golf Course” plan would cut the number of holes in half, from 36 to 18. To host major tournaments, as the plan suggests, the new course would be required to close for weeks at a time during peak season. The proposed Washington National Golf Course plan would strip away entire recreational facilities such as bike lanes and green space from East Potomac park, and leave local golfers significantly worse off. East Potomac park must remain in its current layout to maximize benefit to the public.

Name: Elle Law
Date: November 16, 2026 8:20:25 pm

The East Potomac park is a thriving multi use public park and it’s full of subcultures that wave and nod to each other all week long and every week of the year. There are runners, cyclists, tennis players, birders, kids on walks, fishermen, and cherry blossom trees that look incredible in the spring and bring business to the Wharf during the cherry blossom festival. DC Dragon Boat Club practices 3-4 times a week up and down all along the peninsula, so from the water we have a front row seat to how the park is alive with so many more people than golfers. The fishermen nod to us, the families on walks cheer us on if we’re doing race pieces, and we love seeing the annual marathons that use the course. This park is a huge part of what makes this area feel like a larger community and is a magnetic gathering spot for so many different groups of people. This is what makes DC feel like home. The proposed design would essentially kill all of that. It would be replacing a rare site of community in a crowded city with a site aimed only at a select group of tourists. It must be reworked to continue to include the far larger communities of people that use the park. Keep the picnic sites, the mini golf course, the long road for runners and cyclists and access for the fishermen. It is and should remain a park For The People.

Name: Rylee Shear
Date: November 16, 2026 8:00:54 pm

I oppose the construction proposed for East Potomac Park by the Trump administration. It threatens not only the historic integrity of the park, but also the park's ecosystem, which sustains hundreds of species of birds and other wildlife.

Name: Sarah Buckley
Date: November 16, 2026 7:37:34 pm

I have lived in Southwest DC for 13 years. A beautiful part of our neighborhood is strolling along the Washington channel, looking out at the trees at East Potomac Park, seeing the seasons change. I frequently run and bike along Ohio Drive, which provided a safe and beautiful road for my young kids to gain confidence cycling. We have enjoyed stopping at the Hains Point playground, having picnics, and enjoying the views from the point to the river beyond. We have also enjoyed birding—on one rainy day in search of a rare goose we saw a merlin perched on a tree along the golf course, then saw a group of lesser scaup waterfowl swimming off of the eastern edge of the point (the goose eluded us). I have run countless road races along Hains point. From the Marine Corps marathon, to smaller 5ks and 10ks. We have also made family memories at the mini golf course.

The proposed design for a new golf course would take all of that away. By design, many fewer people will be able to use East Potomac Park. The golf course itself—without mini golf, without the multiple courses—will serve fewer people at a higher cost. And the rest of the park will be simply eliminated, making the entire Point inaccessible to the public except by paying the greens fee. There is no golf course in the world beautiful enough to justify depriving my and countless other families of the public access that we have enjoyed since the park’s inception. The design is contrary to the founding purpose of the park and contrary to the democratic and public spirited principles that our public spaces should embody.

Besides that, expanding the golf course to the edges of the penninsula threatens the environment and wildlife that my community counts on. The fertilizers, pesticides, and other chemicals used on the golf course will be that much closer to the Washington Channel and the Potomac River, where they can run off and pollute our waters—including the downstream Chesapeake Bay. The fact that contaminated fill from the demolition of the East Wing may be used in construction also presents water pollution threats—not to mention air pollution threats if friable asbestos from the East Wing is exposed to the wind during construction. Members of my community live on boats just across the Channel from Hains point. Countless others kayak, paddleboard, and fish. Polluted waters and changed landscapes will also negatively impact the birds that visit Hains Point, degrading one of the premier birding spots in DC. More birds have been spotted at Hains Point than any other place in DC. The proposed plan threatens to pollute the waters that we depend on for recreation.

I am also concerned about “championship course” design given the intended use for large tournaments. There is very limited parking around the Tidal Basin, the Wharf, and, well, my neighborhood. Championship events at Hains Point would snarl traffic and threaten to bring more automobile air pollution as more out of towners use the space by car rather than by foot or bike.

The design also limits the space that I and my community as well as thousands of visitors every year enjoy the cherry blossoms. The cherry blossom trees in East Potomac Park are a great way to experience the blossoms in a less crowded experience than the tidal basin. Changing the design and taking away those trees—or even just access to those tree—will increase pressure on the Tidal Basin area for one of the biggest events in DC and a huge tourist draw.

It is not acceptable to say that the displaced uses like biking, running, birding, and fishing will be accommodated elsewhere. West Potomac Park and the Tidal basin are already highly used. Squeezing more uses and visitors into those areas will decrease the quality of the experience for everyone. And because DC is a dense urban area, developing off site uses is not a good substitute. We enjoy the park as it is because it is accessible and close to our community—and close to the national mall for the many visitors who come to DC every year.

The proposed design does not serve the community. The commission should require more consideration of alternatives that will preserve access and use that are integral parks of DC culture.

Name: Lisa Kleine
Date: November 16, 2026 5:06:35 pm

I am writing to strongly opposed the redevelopment plan submitted by the Trump Administration to turn East Potomac Park into a championship golf course. As a long-time resident of the District of Columbia, I have utilized East Potomac Park since the early 1990s for running, biking and enjoying the outdoor space with my family and friends. Over the years I have participated in several road races at East Potomac Park, including a 5K with my then 10 year old son. The 5K course inside the Park provided a safe space for a budding young runner to safely participate since the course was a loop (no chance of losing your child as the start and end were the same place). I have spent numerous weekends biking at Hains Point, and annually ride to experience the cherry blossoms along Ohio Drive without the crowds at the Tidal Basin. The Park is a gem that provides multiple recreational uses to those in the District and the surrounding communities, which cannot be replaced by sending all recreational users except golfers to other locations. West Potomac Park already has many recreational users, and the Tidal basin has sidewalks and only minimal space for any other activity (running, biking, picnicking, etc.). Additionally, a championship golf course will severely limit playing opportunities and remove places for novices to learn and participate in the sport, in addition to raising the cost to all users. The park and golf courses are historic places that should be maintained and repaired, not ripped out and replaced by an expensive, limited use project that would extinguish all uses of the Park except golf. Thus, I strongly urge the Commission to reject the proposed redevelopment project.

Name: M smyth
Date: November 16, 2026 4:27:26 pm

NO!!!

Name: Kim Duffy
Date: November 16, 2026 12:32:55 pm

I'm a DC resident who uses East Potomac Park. I'm disheartened by the removal of trees and hope the NCPC will preserve remaining trees and public access. I use the Park for biking, cherry blossom viewing, picnicking, and birding and would like the public access for these activities on the site preserved.

Name: Katie Pajewski
Date: November 16, 2026 11:13:19 am

I strongly oppose any proposal to expand the golf course at Hains Point at the expense of existing public access and recreational space. Hains Point is one of the few places in the DMV where cyclists can safely ride away from traffic on the approximately three-mile Ohio Drive loop, reducing conflicts with motorists while providing a safe environment for recreation. The park serves far more than golfers. Residents and visitors use Hains Point to bike, walk, run, fish, picnic, enjoy the mini-golf course, and enjoy the beautiful public green spaces. Expanding the golf course would limit access to a resource currently enjoyed by the public in favor of just those who golf. Removing or restricting these amenities would force cyclists back onto busy District roads, creating additional safety concerns for the cyclists and increasing frustration for drivers. Public land should remain accessible to the public, not be converted in a way that reduces opportunities for the majority of visitors. I urge the National Park Service to preserve Hains Point as a multi-use public space that supports all visitors and maintains safe cycling, outdoor recreation, and open access for future generations.

Name: Nan Raphael
Date: November 16, 2026 8:42:22 am

When this park was created, it was specifically designated as a park for the people. It has been heavily used and loved ever since it's establishment by locals and tourists. People use it to bike, play tennis, golf mini golf, picnic jog, birdwatch etc. There was also until about 10 years ago a beautiful 50 meter pool that was heavily used in the summer time. To take this away from the people will be yet another slap in the face by a man who is only interested in glorifying and enriching himself. Chances are he'll be gone before this thing is completed and we will be left with an exclusive gold course that few can afford to use not to mention the dozens of cherry trees that will be lost as well.
One thing we'd all like to see is the building up of the seawall which could also make it possible to rebuild the beautiful

50 meter pool that was beloved by so many residents. I swam at the beautiful 50 meter pool and would love to be able to swim there again someday. Thank you for listening. Please don't let this fall on deaf ears.

Name: Que-Huong Le
Date: November 16, 2026 7:51:59 am

Dear Chairman and Members of the Commission,

As a regular user of the waters surrounding Hains Point for paddling and water sports, I am writing to urge you to reject any proposal to tear down or redevelop East Potomac Park into an upscale golf course.

In 1897, Congress designated East Potomac Park for the "recreation and pleasure of the people." Every week, I see that promise fulfilled firsthand—from the paddlers, rowers, and fishermen along the waterfront to the runners, cyclists, municipal golfers, low-income families, and thousands of festival visitors who rely on this free, accessible capital landmark.
Replacing this inclusive hub with a high-end golf course betrays its 1897 mandate. Pricing out the public to cater to a narrow, affluent demographic will strip away vital community access, hurt local D.C. businesses that depend on park and festival tourism, and misspend taxpayer dollars when so many communities across the country have urgent infrastructure needs.

I call on you to take immediate action to halt any redevelopment plans, uphold the 1897 congressional mandate, and preserve Hains Point as an open, affordable public park for all.
Thank you for your leadership in protecting our public spaces.

Sincerely,
Que-Huong Le

Name: Nartalie Majeik
Date: November 15, 2026 9:00:31 pm

I feel very strongly about converting hains point into a luxury golf course but let me keep it short . The concept is simple - thousands of dc residents enjoy hains point every single day whether it’s riding their bikes, running or playing golf . It makes no sense to take that away from thousands of dc residents and instead remove the beautiful loop only to put it in the hands of wealthy golfers. Keep hains for the people ! If we must allow construction then the new renovations MUST include keeping the road around it functional and open to the public .

Name: David Marias
Date: November 15, 2026 5:33:24 pm

I am a District resident and a cyclist who rides the Hains Point loop three to five days a week, eleven months of the year. I urge you to reject the proposed redevelopment of East Potomac Park and the East Potomac Golf Links.

Public land must belong to the public, not to the whims of a president’s vanity projects. For more than a century, East Potomac Park has been one of the few places in Washington where anyone can fish, picnic, run, ride, or play an affordable round of golf. That shared access is the park’s purpose, and this plan would sacrifice it.

The administration has already shown how it regards this land. It hauled roughly 30,000 cubic yards of East Wing demolition debris onto the course, material the Park Service’s own contractor found contained lead, chromium, and PCBs. Treating a public park as a dumping ground for a White House ballroom is an insult to every resident who uses it.

The seawall needs repair, and I support fixing it. But a failing seawall is a reason to repair the seawall, not to remake the park. Judge Reyes found the attempted closure pretextual, and her order leaves the government free to make repairs today. Using infrastructure needs to justify turning an affordable public course into a playground for the wealthy is not stewardship. It is a giveaway.

For me and thousands of others, the loop is the safest, most accessible place in the city to ride and exercise. Losing it, even for an indefinite construction period, would seriously harm residents' quality of life.

Please protect East Potomac Park as a public space, insist the seawall be repaired on its own merits, and reject any design that trades public access for private prestige.

Name: Scott Olesen
Date: November 15, 2026 3:13:53 pm

I live in Columbia Heights. Every year, during peak cherry blossom season, I take a bike ride around Hains Point. It's one of the best days of the year. I used to live in Southwest and would take jogs around the island. That route is one of the gems of the city. It should not be removed from public access in favor of a sport that only a small number of people can enjoy.

Name: EJ Hogendoorn
Date: November 15, 2026 9:50:36 am

I am against the redevelopment of East Potomac Park into an exclusive golf course. The park should remain open and accessible to the public, including birders, bikers, joggers, and walkers. Golfers who utilize the current public course are very happy with it.

Name: craig garrett
Date: November 15, 2026 7:32:31 am

I oppose the proposed changes to East Potomac Park. I regularly bike there, but I also go simply to spend time by the water, picnic on 4th of July or just to escape the crowds. Hains Point and the Ohio Drive loop allow people to bike, walk, run, fish, picnic, meet friends, or simply sit beside the Potomac River.

The planning question should not be how to organize East Potomac Park around a championship golf course, but how the golf course fits within a public park that serves many different users.

NCPC's own planning documents envision Potomac Park as a public waterfront offering a range of activities, including active recreation as well as quiet and pastoral spaces, and note the Congressional directive that East Potomac Park be "forever held and used as a park for the recreation and pleasure of the people."

Fix the seawalls. Restore the landscape. Improve the golf course. But don't use those needed improvements to fundamentally change who the rest of the park is for. East Potomac Park should remain, first and foremost, a park.

Name: Tina Cooper
Date: November 14, 2026 11:12:26 pm

Dear Chairman and Members of the Commission,

I am writing as a private citizen and frequent user of East Potomac Park to express my strong opposition to the proposed redevelopment and restriction of public access at Hains Point.

For residents across the National Capital Region, Hains Point is an irreplaceable sanctuary for outdoor recreation and athletic training. Unlike busy city streets where cyclists, runners, and walkers must contend with traffic and various road-hazards, the loop at Hains Point provides a dedicated, safe waterfront corridor essential for daily physical fitness and community health.

Beyond everyday individual recreation, East Potomac Park is foundational to Washington, D.C.'s civic and athletic culture. I have participated in several of the region's marquee races including the Marine Corps Marathon, the Army Ten-

Miler, and the Credit Union Cherry Blossom 10 Miler, all of which rely on this parkland as a vital segment of their courses. These events draw tens of thousands of participants and spectators from around the world, showcasing our nation's capital at its best. Diminishing or closing off this public park space would represent a major net loss for both local residents and the tourists who visit Washington D.C. each year.

NCPC's mandate is to protect federal interests and ensure that public lands serve the broader public good. The proposed replacement fails that standard: it does not enhance public access, nor does it deliver commensurate benefits to the surrounding community. Instead, it trades safe public access to a beloved park for a restricted, high-cost redevelopment.

Finally, the allocation of federal resources must reflect urgent national priorities. In light of pressing infrastructure and public safety challenges, such as the FAA grounding on Nov. 13, 2026, committing substantial public funds toward an unnecessary park and golf course overhaul is fiscally irresponsible. Those resources would be better directed toward critical public safety and core infrastructure needs that protect the public.

I urge the Commission to reject this proposal and preserve open public access to Hains Point.
Thank you for your time and consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

Tina Cooper
Clifton, VA

Name: Stephen Schwartz
Date: November 14, 2026 10:00:39 pm

As a Washington DC resident of over 20 years, I and millions of other people who visit the city or live here or in the surrounding area, have enjoyed East Potomac Park in its present condition. Whether running, cycling, walking, fishing, golfing, or any other number of activities, the current configuration supports all of these.

Destroying that and turning it into a golf course for elites only is abhorrent. I really am flabbergasted that you all would even CONSIDER such a gratuitous waste of wonderful public space. Have you really never heard of the cherry blossom festival? Where millions of people walk that loop road to just experience the beauty of that? Or the innumerable foot or bike races that take place on that part of the park so that we can hold these events downtown with limited traffic impact? Or even just gone there and played a round of mini-golf, or enjoyed a picnic on the grounds at the point?

Outrageous. Please put this "plan" for an elite golf course in the only place it belongs. The waste bin.

I did 5 loops of Hains Point today - the day before this farce was supposed to close the park, despite the cooler weather and significant wind. There were dozens of other cyclists out. There were people fishing off the inlet side. There were walkers, runners. There were people having a lunch at one of the picnic tables. Leave this park to be enjoyed by the residents and visitors of DC for many recreational activities in a low-traffic area.

Stephen Schwartz
[redacted]
Washington DC 20016

Name: Adam Frantz
Date: November 14, 2026 4:33:25 pm

Re: East Potomac Park Golf Course redevelopment — December 3, 2026 meeting

My name is Adam Frantz, from South Whitley, Indiana. I'm a construction worker, and I'm writing in support of the plan to rebuild the East Potomac Golf Course.

East Potomac Park is federal land — it belongs to all Americans, not just the people who live near it. Right now it's failing: a dilapidated course, a seawall falling into the river, flooding along the promenade. Doing nothing is also a decision, and it's the worst one.

This rebuild fixes the seawall, fixes the flooding, and turns a broken course into a world-class public one — with a 50% discount promised for DC residents, so it stays the people's course. It also means real jobs for working people — carpenters, laborers, operators — for over a year of construction. I'm one of the workers who'd be proud to help build it.

I ask the Commission to approve the plan and let the work begin.

Adam Frantz
South Whitley, Indiana

Name: Lillian Audette
Date: November 14, 2026 11:01:16 am

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to urge that Hains Point remain as it was originally developed — a multi-use, freely available recreational space that benefits the public in innumerable ways.

Hains Point currently serves residents, visitors, athletes, families, and community organizations throughout the year. Its value cannot be measured by calculating how many tournaments for international visitors it can host, or the revenue it can generate for private individuals and companies.

The submitted plan appears short-sighted: it does not adequately assess the full scope of existing public use at Hains Point, or the consequences of displacing those uses and users. The submitted plan also gives insufficient consideration to the thousands of residents, athletes, families, and visitors who use the park and its roads throughout the year. Nor does it sufficiently analyze where those users would go, whether alternative facilities could safely accommodate them, or what the loss of this unique recreational infrastructure would mean for public access and safety.

Improving East Potomac’s golf facilities does not require sacrificing the rest of the park and the rest of its uses. The current golf course can be modernized within its existing golf footprint—without destroying the surrounding multi-use parkland, eliminating the cycling and running opportunities along Ohio Drive, or sacrificing the iconic cherry blossom experience which has been present here for over a hundred years now.

Thank you for your consideration,
Lillian Audette

From: Christine Miller
Sent: Thursday, July 2, 2026 5:31 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Proposed changes to the East Potomac Park & removal of the historic Japanese Cherry Tree grove

I want to formally lodge my strong opposition of the proposed Trump Admonition's overhaul of the East Potomac Park. Trump is attempting to remodel DC and all our public monuments into an unattractive and unnecessary celebration of all things TRUMP. He has already torn down the East Wing and destroyed the Rose Garden leaving a terrible wound on the People's House and I do not want him to destroy another part of the heritage and beauty of the Capital City of the US by removing the oldest grove of Japanese Cherry trees in the Capital and changing the nature of that park from public use and enjoyment to exclusive use.

If he were allowed to make his changes they would be in violation of a 171 year old Congressional Act of 1897 which established the park that it be "forever held and used as a park for the recreation and pleasure of people" and that is all people not just HIS people. That wording is not a suggestion but a dictate.

He would also be in violation of the National Historic Preservation Act since both the Cherry trees and the Public golf course are listed on the Nation Register of Historic Places and therefore, by law, must have cultural and historic preservation. There is no studies done on the development and how it will impact the character of the land, which would be devastating due to the loss of the oldest grove of Japanese's cherry trees and negatively impacting the beauty of this park. Thousands of visitors to DC time their visits to early blooming of the Cherry trees. Look at any book or presentation about DC or the Capitol and views of these trees in bloom are going to be there.

This park and the heritage of the US Capitol is not for a single president to change or alter for his edification or glory. Please DO NOT ALLOW THIS TO HAPPEN. This cannot be undone unlike some of the other things he has done to the capitol.

Christine K Miller
Warrenton MO

From: Cornelius Christerson
Sent: Thursday, November 5, 2026 10:10 AM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] No Monumental Arch!! DO NOT APPROVE IT!

Dear NCPC Members,

Why are we wasting my taxpayer money on this monstrosity? We don't need it. And 250 feet tall?? That's 25 stories tall!! Stop sucking up to Donald Trump and push back on his wasteful, rushed, and inappropriate vanity projects.

Also: STOP THE EAST POTOMAC GOLF COURSE REDEVELOPMENT!!! Preserve the road and trail around the perimeter of Haines Point. Preserve PUBLIC ACCESS. The National Park is for the many public citizens, not for Trump's sycophants that can afford $600 golf fess.

Thank you.

From: NCPC System
Sent: Thursday, November 19, 2026 2:10 PM
To: Weil, Michael
Subject: NCPC Website Email

Name: Terri Barr

Please do not permit the proposed redevelopment of East Potomac Park and Hains Point, which will negatively alter its existing recreational uses and natural setting. It has already lost hundreds of trees due to the nature of the rush to redesign it by our administration.
These parks belong to the people and shouldn't be treated as any president's own land to do as he wishes. It's not for-profit and it has many other values beyond being a golf course. It is a scenic picnic area, cherry blossoms/trees, waterfront views, and the three mile perimeter loop along Ohio Drive enjoyed by cyclists, runners, and pedestrians. This park adds to the beauty of Washington DC, and gives locals and visitors a break from all the concrete.
Improving East Potomac's golf facilities does not require destroying the rest of the park. I don't even think this should be a priority while we are at war, dealing with high prices and have dozens of other more important projects to focus energy on. However, it is possible to improve a public golf course while preserving the trees, waterfront access, recreational infrastructure, and shared public spaces that make East Potomac of value. Note that this space is not intended for the elite or golfers only, it is a people's park. This should be preserved, not destroyed for a business to flourish. I watched Mr. Trump remove hundreds of trees for another golf course in Loudoun County, resulting in environmental mess of run off into the Potomac River.
Please protect all the trees, landscape, in particular, the iconic cherry trees that exist in this park. The current proposal puts approximately 1600 trees at risk, even though hundreds have already been felled. With increasingly hot summers, these trees provide shade and cooling elements; it supports precious wildlife, and the trees and plants give the park its character.
Please prevent further destruction of public parkland, here and elsewhere. It is not for any sitting president to simply choose to destroy at his or her whim. Please preserve the parkland, the roadway, and the scenery for us all to enjoy.

From: Caroline Morris
Sent: Friday, November 20, 2026 3:55 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Opposition to Concept Plan for East Potomac Park Golf Links

Dear Planning Commission Members and Staff,

I am writing to ask you not to approve the Concept Plan for East Potomac Park Golf Links.

As a Washington, DC native, I spent many of my childhood weekends on Hains Point, picnicking, bird watching, and walking. I continue to use it with my growing family. The park was then, and remains, an essential space for public recreation for the people of Washington. I am saddened by the trees already removed, and the plan to close it to the public on such an aggressive timeline.

East Potomac Park has always been an accessible place for outdoor recreation, access to nature and affordable golf for the city. That is its public purpose. It is rare and should be protected. There are plenty of nice, expensive golf courses in the area, but the East Potomac Park Links are for everyone, for people who cannot otherwise afford to play. They should remain as they have been, for regular people who live here and have used the space for generations.

Please do not approve the plan.

Sincerely,

Caroline Morris

From: srfohs
Sent: Friday, November 20, 2026 6:02 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Save East Potomac Park!

Please!

Sandy Fohs

From: NCPC System
Sent: Friday, November 20, 2026 2:35 PM
To: Weil, Michael
Subject: NCPC Website Email

Name: Mallory Walker

Opposition to Concept Plan for East Potomac Park Golf Links
I have lived in the District for 87 years. In the 1960s I began using East Potomac Park as the end point of bike trip from Cleveland Park. By 2004 I began using the Park as a place to take my grandchildren to see birds, push them in strollers and play in the Haynes Point playground. Often I took guest visiting DC to East Potomac Park to view the great War College Building at Ft. McNair by Mckim, Meade & White- constructed at a time when they were working on the McMillan Plan which was so crucially important to DC becoming the shining city it became. Ft. McNair is the third oldest Army base in the country and there is no better place to see it than on East Potomac Park.

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From: Lindsay Eakin
Sent: Saturday, November 21, 2026 9:05 AM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Opposition to Concept Plan for East Potomac Park Golf Links

I am a life long Washingtonian. I have loved and used the East Potomac Park Links and its grounds many times. Although I am not nieve to think this ground would not be changed one day, I think the Trump administrations plans will eviscerate the beauty of this land. Only The President and his cronies, who may not live in DC for much longer, seem to want to build an exclusive, gated golf course. This is not what Washington DC is all about. This is a town for all the country to enjoy .
Lindsay Eakin

From: Sharon Blum
Sent: Saturday, November 21, 2026 5:24 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Hains Point

We need to keep East Potomac Park and Hains point for the public! We dont need a championship golf course! We need picnic areas , running and cycling trails , fishing and an accessible, affordable golf course for the public! Public means public!
Sincerely
Sharon Blum

From: Louise Harmony
Sent: Sunday, November 22, 2026 10:37 AM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Forward this Comment to - East Potomac Park Golf Links

I spent ½ hour on your web site trying to find a Comment Section for the changes at EAST Potomac Park Golf Course and FOUND NOTHING ONLINE. ***YET, I MUST REPLAY ONLINE*.**

Please forward this email to the correct department or person.

A SUGGETION: For an agency that professes to want public comments – the process for posting a public comment is complicated. Simplifying this process somehow would be necessary in order for you to live up to your mission.

PLEASE EMAIL ME BACK TO LET ME KNOW THE PROPER PERSON OR DEPT. HAS RECEIVED MY COMMENT.

From: Louise Harmony, Baltimore, MD

RE: East Potomac Park redevelopment plan (project: "East Potomac Park Golf Links") The meeting on December 3 at 10 a.m.
Today's Date: 11/22/2026

President Trump wants to remove walker and biker access at East Potomac Park on Hains Point, in Virginia, to expand the golf course at East Potomac Park. Hains Point sits at the convergence of the Potomac and Anacostia Rivers*. Crews have already illegally cut down over 400 trees to make way for the work.*

This is SO TYPICAL OF PRESIDENT TRUMP. He takes some benefit away from ordinary people and gives that benefit to others – more than likely his favorite group – his friends (billionaires and otherwise). President Trump has repeatedly made decisions ***without going through proper channels*** (Example The East Wing of the White House tear down), gets no input from ordinary people or governing boards or bodies and in most cases – block attempts for input from American citizens. He continues to push ahead without being concerned with anyone else's opinion except his own.

It appears the mid-term election did nothing to change the above-described behavior by the President.

PLEASE STOP PRESIDENT TRUMP FROM EXPANING THE GOLF COURSE THROUGH THE WALKING AND BIKING PATH ACCESS AT EAST POTOMAC PARK, HAINES POINT, VIRGINIA.
=> **EVERYBODY CAN USE WALKING AND BIKE PATHS - EVEN HANDICAPPED PEOPLE, IF THE PATH IS PAVED AND FLAT; ONLY GOLFERS USE A GOLF COURSE.<=**

From: James Mann
Sent: Monday, November 23, 2026 10:10 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Opposition to Concept Plan for East Potomac Park

To the National Capitol Planning Commission

I oppose the Concept Plan for East Potomac Park as it takes away the joy and adventure that the current park configuration brings to residents of the Capitol area as I once was and to those of us who come, as I still do, to visit our Nation's capitol.
Tearing out a well functioning multi-use park space to turn it into a single use facility with high entrance fees is neither good planning nor wise stewardship of public space.
Moreover it tears apart an American heritage location that I and my family plus generations have enjoyed and revered and that has hosted important events in our Nation's long history.
I urge your rejection of the proposed plan before you and rather your calling for a rejuvenation this park for all to enjoy.
James Mann

James E Mann

Chicago IL 60637

From: NCPC System
Sent: Monday, November 23, 2026 6:58 PM
To: Sullivan, Diane
Subject: NCPC Website Email

Name: C. Ellis

It is my hope that the destruction of Haines point /East Potomac Park will be discontinued. This is a site for wildlife, locals and tourist life. there is already a mini golf course that was revitalized at the cost of a million dollars. this is a redundancy. More trees than were approved were removed and demolished. as someone who values tourism and being able to see the cherry blossom festival local sites, I hesitate to spend my money visiting a location where things were already fine to begin with. How can disabled people continue our previous experiences if nothing is left? There is no financial value taking away things people want and need and to eradicate what was already a beautiful destination.

-----Original Message-----
From: Kelsey McGillivray
Sent: Thursday, November 26, 2026 6:31 AM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Opposition to Concept Plan for East Potomac Park Golf Links

I oppose the Concept Plan for East Potomac Park Golf Links. The plan eliminates affordable golf courses, destroys trees and other vegetation, eliminates important community activities like running, fishing, picnicking, and birding. The plan should not be approved

—
Kelsey and Scott McGillivray

-----Original Message-----
From: Andrew Richards
Sent: Thursday, November 26, 2026 8:15 AM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: Public Comment: Preservation of Public Access and Perimeter Trails at East Potomac Park
To: National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC)

Subject: Public Comment: Preservation of Public Access and Perimeter Trails at East Potomac Park

Dear Members of the Commission,

I am writing as a resident of the National Capital Region—having lived for years in downtown Washington, D.C., and now residing in Springfield, Virginia—to express my strong opposition to any redevelopment proposal for East Potomac Park that would restrict public access, compromise the outer perimeter trails, or prioritize private golf course expansion over open public parkland.

For the past seven years, East Potomac Park has been an indispensable recreational haven and vital green space in my daily life. Because I do not drive and rely on walking, running, public transit, and my electric bicycle to navigate the region, connected and accessible waterfront parkland is essential to my health and well-being. I regularly run and cycle along the park's perimeter paths and spend hours down at Hains Point taking in the scenery, enjoying quiet picnics, and observing local wildlife and aircraft along the flight path to Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport.
East Potomac Park sits on a remarkable, irreplaceable peninsula that offers sweeping, unobstructed views stretching from the Washington Monument to the Woodrow Wilson Bridge, framed by both the Potomac and Anacostia rivers. Every spring, I visit to walk and bike beneath the blooming cherry blossom trees, and throughout the summer, Hains Point provides a rare sense of tranquility—a place where residents and visitors alike can feel completely removed from the congestion of the city without ever leaving the metropolitan area.

Converting or restricting this treasured public commons to accommodate expanded golf infrastructure would be a profound loss for the vast majority of the public who do not play golf. The outer perimeter of the park belongs to everyone: runners, cyclists, walkers, families, and nature observers across the region.

I urge the Commission to reject any plan that privatizes, fences off, or diminishes the public perimeter of East Potomac Park, and to preserve full, uninterrupted, and equitable access to Hains Point and its waterfront trails for generations to come.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and stewardship of our nation's capital.

Sincerely,

Andrew Richards
Springfield, Virginia

From: NCPC System
Sent: Friday, November 27, 2026 10:54 AM
To: Weil, Michael
Subject: NCPC Website Email

Name: Amy Hall

Mr. Weil, I have submitted the following comments regarding File Number 8832 regarding the East Potomac Golf Course. I urge the Commission to reject this proposal. I would be happy to answer any follow up questions about my comments. Thank you.

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As a lifelong resident of the Washington metropolitan area who was born in DC, attended high school there and worked next to Union Station, I am writing to express my concerns about the plans to close historic East Potomac Park to build a championship golf course.

I am strongly opposed to the current plan for East Potomac Park. There was already a plan in place and the National Links Trust was implementing it. Renowned golf architects were donating their time to preserve and restore the historic Walter Travis design. When Congress authorized this park, it specified that is should "forever held and used as a park for the recreation and pleasure of the people."

Converting the entire island into a championship golf course disenfranchises the current users of the park who enjoy walking, running, biking, fishing and picnicking in the park. This is in addition to having three levels of golf available for the recreational golfer. I played the Blue course in October AFTER the tree removal and it is still a great course and is not dangerous and in poor condition as it is being portrayed by the Administration (see photos from October)

Any plan that involves closure and changes to the existing park should go through the required environmental and historic reviews. There is NO urgent need to rush this review process and the public should have sufficient time to provide their comments. The seawall needs repairs, but that could be done in stages without closing the entire park.

Sincerely,

Ernest Pittarelli
Bowie, MD





These pictures were all taken on October 22, 2026 after the weekend tree removal.











