

Rowing Sites and Park Authorities

VASRA regatta sites are in public parks whose authorities are concerned that regattas are run safely, that other park users are not adversely affected, that the site is well managed, and that environmental concerns are addressed.

SANDY RUN

The Occoquan Reservoir course is located in Sandy Run Regional Park, under the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority (NVRPA). The relationship between VASRA and NVRPA is well established and is one of extremely close cooperation and support. Sandy Run is unique in that the park is totally dedicated to the sport of rowing, supporting scholastic, collegiate, and community rowing programs. No other uses of the park are permitted.

The NVRPA has supported additional practice sites at Bull Run Regional Park and Occoquan Regional Park, both on the Occoquan Reservoir.

GEORGETOWN

The Georgetown site on the Potomac River is run from the Thompson Boat Center (TBC), operated by General Services Inc. (GSI) under contract to the National Park Service (NPS). Cooperation with GSI, the NPS and the VASRA is very important. TBC is now beyond capacity, which causes problems for equipment storage and dock space. Further, TBC has lost access to adjacent land that had been used for boat storage. The Georgetown Waterfront Commission and the NPS are working to develop additional boathouse locations in the new Georgetown Waterfront Park. Georgetown University has been trying to build a new boathouse west of Key Bridge for over twenty years and is still negotiating with NPS.

ALEXANDRIA

At the Alexandria City Boathouse, maintained by the Alexandria City Schools, cooperation is excellent. The boathouse supports TC Williams, Episcopal, and a very large community rowing programs. As a race site, its use is limited because of difficult water conditions and river traffic.

ARLINGTON

On the Arlington side of the river efforts have been underway to find and obtain a boathouse site to provide opportunity for scholastic and community rowing. However, this effort has been ongoing for over twenty years and authorization to begin building a rowing facility is still a long way off.