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| 2024-07-25 17:08:42 | Kirby | mcadoo | ANNAPOLIS | MD | 21401-3328 | Yes | | <p>I am writing to strongly oppose Bill No. 67-24 Introduced by Ms. Rodvien. This legislation is beyond unnecessary. It will put many small businesses either out of business or out of clients. Not to mention homeowners' time (if they have the capability to do the work themselves) and money being wasted on equipment or loss of income because they're doing maintenance and not working.</p> <p>The city of Annapolis sneakily passed O-28-23, without doing adequate research. It is because they have an agenda " This legislation helps to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in Annapolis consistent with the City's goal to become a zero carbon emissions city and the Climate Solutions Now Act, which calls for Maryland to reduce GHG emissions by 60% (compared to a 2006 baseline) by 2031 and for the Maryland economy to reach net-zero emissions by 2045. The legislation also protects against the adverse public health effects produced by the use of gasoline-powered leaf blowers." They disguised an environmental ban based on a noise ordinance where constituents on both sides HAD NO IDEA UNTIL IT PASSED.</p> <p>The County Council and The city council fail to recognize the effect something like this has on homeowners and business owners. It will drive small businesses out. Allowing for massive national landscape chains to be the only option. A battery-powered blower, full charge, full throttle runs 15 min maximum. I work with hundreds of large and small landscape fleets. Charging stations for trailers run around 35k. Where does that money come from for the small companies? It doesn't! Then here comes large corporations raising prices due to overhead that gets passed onto county residents.</p> <p>From the City of Annapolis staff findings "Impacts on local landscaping businesses The Economic Development Staff reached out to 11 local landscaping businesses for their input on the potential impacts of the ordinance on their businesses. Four responses were received and the main concerns expressed by three of the companies were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Companies would be forced to purchase equipment • Companies would have to charge more because of the new and more expensive equipment required by the ordinance; these costs would be passed on to the customers which may cause companies to lose customers due to increases in charges for services • The need to increase hourly rates could cause companies to price themselves out of business • Hispanic companies will need additional outreach to understand changes in the law. • E-equipment is viewed as heavier and more expensive, not as powerful, requiring multiple battery packs (3 batteries for each piece of equipment). <p>My husband and I have multiple properties both in the city and county. We take pride in maintaining aesthetically pleasing properties, year-round. As do many homeowners and commercial businesses. Clean-up without gas-powered blowers will diminish, drastically and our county will begin to look more like our neighboring PG County... which isn't pretty. I know, I own multiple properties there too.</p> <p>Now lets touch on the enforcement and fines: The legislation says A violation of this section of the Code is subject to a civil fine for a Class E civil offense, and a police officer may issue a citation. (§9-1-707(e)). A Class E civil offense fine is \$50 for the first violation, \$100 for the second violation, and \$500 for the third and every subsequent violation. (§9-2-101(f)(5)). The responding police officer is not required to issue a warning before charging a violation."</p> <p>My husband is an AACO officer. They're understaffed and forced to work overtime regularly, missing time with their loved ones. Do you think adding this to their calls for service is necessary? I can tell you, it is often that my husband's closest side partner for backup is 15 min away, running priority 1 because they're so short-staffed. According to an FBI analysis, the typical police department in the United States has 2.3 officers for every 1,000 residents. For Anne Arundel to meet that benchmark, today it would have to employ 1,364 officers. Anne Arundel County "has always underinvested" in the police department, do more with less mentality. Currently, AACO is approved for 810 officers. However, there are only 776 officers in the department and 452 on patrol. No one cares that Patrol officers are overworked and understaffed. But sure-let's add a civil violation that "Karens" for people just trying to clean up properties.</p> <p>Ms. Rodvein didn't think this one through from start to finish. REJECT Bill No. 67-24</p> | |

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| 2024-08-06 22:58:49 | Richard | Stevens | Ellicott City | MD | 21042-1219 | Yes | | <p>Mr. Pittman and County Council Members:</p> <p>I'm the Treasurer of the Chesapeake Paddlers Association, an incorporated all-volunteer non-profit with over 600 members. Our Club began over 35 years ago and was based on the South River where the old Pier 7 Marina was. Our mission statement reads in part: "The mission of the Chesapeake Paddlers Association, Inc. is to help people safely enjoy sea kayaking and to promote safe paddling practices through the education of the local sea kayaking community and the interested public."</p> <p>In line with our mission is to advocate for public water access. For many years Anne Arundell County was known for having the poorest public water access in the state in spite of having over 533 miles of shoreline. Fortunately, this has been changing in the last few years. However, here is still a long way to go.</p> <p>Homeport Farm Park is still the only public water access point on the South River. I attended some of the earliest public meetings regarding this park. There was a lot of opposition from residents on both sides of Church Creek over traffic, crowds, noise, trash, etc. Fortunately, the park was ultimately approved and I believe that the local residents found the users of this park to be good and respectful neighbors and good stewards of the park and the park itself a valuable asset to the surrounding area. I and many of our members use this park on a regular basis.</p> <p>This park, as it now exists now is truly a gem with not only an excellent soft launch for watercraft but walking trails and other amenities on its reforested land. As constructed, maintenance and operating costs to the County are minimal in keeping with the natural setting.</p> <p>For all of the reasons above, I must speak out in opposition of locating a rowing center at this location for a number of reasons. We at CPA have no objections to a rowing center in general. However, this is not the location for it.</p> <p>An extensive study was carried out in 2016 by Sports Facility Advisory, RowAmerica, and USRowing, for the Annapolis Rowing Club and Annapolis Junior Rowing, two of the main organizations advocating for such a facility. This study considered five possible locations and Homeport was the only one immediately rejected with no further consideration given to it for a number of reasons. An ADA compliant ramp to the water, given the elevation at the existing parking lot, would likely exceed 500' in length, even without considering constructing a suitable level staging area at the base. The ecologically friendly launch area at present is only about 20' x 20' in size. An 8-person rowing shell is 62' long. A truck and trailer to haul these boats is about 20' longer than a normal tractor trailer. To modify the Homeport Farm site to accommodate these and other vehicles and to accommodate public parking for regattas and other events would mean clearing much of the recently reforested and revegetated land, not to mention require very expensive alterations to the Rt. 2 and Homeport Drive intersection.</p> <p>The site has no public utilities such as water, sewer, and electric. Required docks for these rowing shells would need to be at least 120' long in a creek only 350' wide that provides access to the South River for many residents and their boats. They would also need to be constructed in an existing relatively undisturbed critical area.</p> <p>Then you have the wish list of the rowing clubs which include boat and equipment storage, meeting rooms, banquet facilities, classroom spaces, food facilities, and all of the associated infrastructure to accommodate these.</p> <p>Finally, you have a very clearly written deed in addition to easements given to the residents of Homeport Farm. Many of the restrictions placed on this property, in perpetuity, prohibit usage of this park in the ways that the rowing clubs wish to use it. The rowing clubs, in their own documents are looking for a facility that can accommodate 300-500 people at events such as regattas and other public and private events. They envision being able to use the facilities for banquets, food service, classes, and other uses to offset the expenses of the rowing facility along with their already high membership fees. The deed and easement restrictions have been repeatedly brought up at the meeting on 7/9/2024 and previous meetings with no plan as to how these restrictions can be ignored.</p> <p>The dawn to dusk daily use of this park by a rowing facility is clearly incompatible with the present use of the park by the citizens of Anne Arundell County and the public at large. A rowing facility in this location would effectively convert a publicly funded park into a mostly private facility. The rowing clubs would not want non-members with their boats wandering through their faculty while launching and landing their own 62' shells and other boats and while running public and private events.</p> <p>As I said earlier in this letter, I and CPA have no objection to a rowing facility being located somewhere else in the County. Indeed, the people who spoke in favor of a rowing facility at the July meeting did not advocate for Homeport Farm as the preferred location. That being the case, I am somewhat mystified by the failure to consider Discovery Village. Perhaps this facility was not available during the 2016 study.</p> <p>Discovery Village has a very nice new and lightly used boat ramp as well as a separate soft cartop boat launch and a vast parking lot that could easily accommodate the 62' rowing shells, trucks, trailers, and additional public parking that a true rowing center needs. The extensive bulkheaded waterfront would easily accommodate the necessary floating docks needed to launch the racing shells.</p> <p>In addition, the property also has a very large building on site that appears largely unused. I understand that the county at present has a 30-year lease on the property that does not include the building. The building has all the necessary utilities as well as ample interior space to boat storage, meeting rooms, and any other uses that the rowing clubs might want after suitable renovation. I would suggest that renovation of that building would be far less than expensive and better suited than establishing a rowing center from scratch at Homeport Farm. I assume that the owner of the building would be more than happy to lease the building on good terms if the County and the rowing clubs financed the renovation. The county could probably also come up with other uses for space in the building. The alternative is that a valuable building, if unused, gradually</p> | https://www.aacounty.org/system/files/webform/cc_general_testimony/33930/homeport-farm-park-2024-08-06.pdf |

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| 2024-08-07 17:00:14 | Michael | Sobczak | Edgewater | MD | 21037 | Yes | | Please see attachment for feedback about potential use of Homepark Farms Park for organized team rowing activities. Thank you. | https://www.aacounty.org/system/files/webform/cc_general_testimony/34052/rowing-at-homeport-farms-park.pdf |
| 2024-08-08 10:00:04 | Trudi | Sobczak | Edgewater | MD | 21037 | Yes | | Please see upload | https://www.aacounty.org/system/files/webform/cc_general_testimony/34087/homeport-tps.docx |
| 2024-08-09 14:02:39 | Ralph | Heimlich | Ellicott City | MD | 21042 | Yes | | <p>I attended the presentation on a rowing center for teen rowers at Homeport Farms on July 9 and expressed my opposition to the proposed rowing center at this location. Let me reiterate my points:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The deed covenant for Homeport Farms specifically prohibits a large rowing center for the property. 2. The neighbors both with in the Homeport Farms Community and adjacent communities across the creek from Homeport have all opposed such a development. 3. The traffic situation on Rt 2 (very awkward u-turn from northbound to access) and within the community (small diameter roundabout at entrance) precludes transportation of larger rowing shells which would severely limit the use of the site for meets or training for meets as the shells need to be transported to meets on a continual basis. 4. A floating dock sufficient to accommodate larger shells would extend more than half way across the creek and would be a continual hazard for boat and other water traffic using the creek. 5. <p>I have a degree of sympathy for the teen rowing community in their current lease at Camp Woodlands. A new location should be found to continue their training program, but I cannot in all good conscience believe that Homeport Farms could be that location.</p> <p>In a 2016 professional study, the main objections at Camp Woodlands are that the clubhouse/boathouse is too far from the water for event rentals. Take away the event rentals, take away the clubhouse, and the flaws are a steep deteriorated access road to the water and a lack of a long term lease. A back-of-the-envelope for an improved road to the water, with a couple of ADA parking spots at the bottom, is \$135,000. Stormwater money would cover most of the cost. Negotiate with Camp Woodlands for a longer term lease for the teen rowers in exchange for access road improvements. The county has already spent more than \$150,000 on at least five feasibility studies for a rowing center since 2019. All of these options are far, far less than the \$25 million proposed full-scale rowing center discussed earlier in the history of such projects.</p> <p>Alternative locations at Discovery Village and at Solley's Cove, where the county has already made sizeable investments in boat ramps and other facilities for water access should also be evaluated.</p> <p>I hope that the Department of Parks and Recreation and the County reconsider the notion of any kind of rowing facility at Homeport Farms and avoid such ideas in the future.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Ralph Heimlich Former Coordinator Chesapeake Paddlers Association, Inc.</p> | |
| 2024-08-12 17:13:37 | ALDEN | COE | Edgewater | MD | 21037 | Yes | | <p>Dear AA County and our Comissioner, Stuart Pittman,</p> <p>As a resident of Anne Arundel County and a resident of Homeport Farms, I OPPOSE allowing rowing practice at Homeport Farms Park. Homeport Farms Park is TOO SMALL to accommodate other visitors if rowing practice for 50-80 kids takes place there. Essentially, allowing this would rob other visitors to the park of the chance to use the park during the best times of the day, due to the small size of the park. Because of existing restrictions in the park, the rowing facility would not be ADA accessible. A rowing facility such as this must be built where it can be ADA accessible.</p> <p>In addition, use of the park by an athletic team for practice is in violation of the deed's prohibition on intensive uses.Dear</p> <p>As the entire park is in the Resource Conservation Area of the Critical Area, installing the floats need and the infrastructure needed would end fishing and crabbing , which are stated in the deed as key purposes. This rowing facility would be harmful to wildlife, especially the blue herons that nest within 100 feet of where the rowers would need to be every day.</p> <p>Access to our neighborhood is already dangerous without adding 80 + people and cars to the existing traffic. These young rowers need a space where they can grow their club, not a small creek like Church Creek. There are other options with room to grow and accomodate other groups at the same time.</p> <p>Please consider these important points as I believe that Homeport Farms Park is not the right place for such a facility.</p> | |

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| 2024-08-12 17:15:13 | Peter | Chang | Edgewater | Maryland | 21037 | Yes | | <p>I am writing to oppose the county's plan to allow Homeport Farms Park to be used for rowing practice. My reasons are</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. We bought our property at Homeport Farms, because the county made the area in question a passive park for non-motorized recreational uses only. Daily rowing practices will obviously change the character of the park significantly. The passive use of the park was written in the transfer agreement when the land was donated to the county for the development of Homeport Farm. Changing it would be a breach of contract. The Homeport Farm community will vigorously fight against this change - litigation if necessary. 2. The passive use of the Homeport Farms Park is within the longterm plan of restoring Church Creek and bringing back wildlife to the area. This goal has been largely successful. We have seen the return of ospreys, eagles, fish, wild turkeys and river otters. Daily rowing practices will, without a doubt, disrupt this ongoing restoration. 3. The current users of the park have diligently kept the park clean and trash free, as it is a cherished natural environment for this area of the county that we all enjoy. Daily rowing practices will, no doubt, destroy this small piece of nature that we all enjoy. Please leave it alone. | |
| 2024-08-12 17:39:09 | Sarah | Crowell | Edgewater | MD | 21037 | Yes | | It would be harmful to the wildlife, especially the blue herons that nest within 100 feet of where the rowers would be would be every day. This would be catastrophic for our wildlife! | |
| 2024-08-12 17:57:57 | Suely | Chang | Edgewater | Md | 21037 | Yes | | <p>Re--Homeport Farms Park--As pleased as I am with our move to the Homeport community 12 years ago, there is one thing that makes me worry about living here: the dangerous turn from Route 2 to access our neighborhood. It's impossible to ignore the risk of getting in a car accident every time we get in and out of Homeport. I often find myself trying to think of a solution to the dangerous traffic situation we face when accessing our community. Therefore, the idea of having an additional large number of cars turning in and out of Homeport every day at the same time is a scary one for me. I worry about all involved: my family, my neighbors, the people coming to the neighborhood to use the park.</p> <p>Aside from that, the proposed level of activity would preclude the passive use of the park—which it was meant for—and which is all that it can accommodate. As residents of Homeport, we see the kayakers, the paddle-boarders, the fishermen in small row boats who come from near and far to use the park all the time. Not to mention the beautiful, plentiful wildlife whose activity we witness throughout the seasons. The proposed athletic use of the park would greatly harm this environment.</p> <p>This is a small, fragile park. The junior rowers deserve a place to practice, but they should be guided to a place where the environment would not be so harshly impacted. Here, they would exacerbate an already dangerous traffic situation for the residents of this area and prevent others from using the park as it was intended for.</p> | |
| 2024-08-12 18:01:55 | Fatma | Davis | Edgewater | MD | 21037 | Yes | | <p>Homeport Farm Park is too small to accommodate other visitors if rowing practice for 80 kids was held there. A</p> <p>Due to the layers of restrictions at the park, it could not be ADA accessible. A rowing facility must be built where it can be used by all – including the Adaptive Rowers.</p> <p>An athletic team using the park for practice is a violation of the deed's prohibition on intensive uses. The infrastructure needed to accommodate rowing would violate the conservation easement, the deed and harm the environment. The entire park is in the Resource Conservation Area of the Critical Area. Installing floating piers would end fishing and crabbing, which are key purposes of the park as stated in the deed. It would be harmful to the wildlife, especially the blue herons that nest within 100 feet of where the rowers would be would be every day.</p> <p>Access to and from our neighborhood via route 2 is already too dangerous before adding 80+ people who need to arrive and depart at the same time every day.</p> | |

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| 2024-08-12 18:04:33 | Elizabeth | Boyd | Takoma Park | MD | 20912 | Yes | | <p>I write to offer an emphatic "NO!" to the idea of any kind of rowing center (junior, adult, senior) at Homeport Farm Park.</p> <p>I am a resident of Montgomery County, Maryland, and serve on the Steering Committee of the Chesapeake Paddlers Association, with whom I have paddled various Anne Arundel County waters over the past 14 years. Homeport Farms is a jewel -- the only public water access to the South River, and one developed with sensitivity toward the environment and neighboring communities. In keeping with the deed restrictions governing it, Homeport successfully accommodates passive recreation and native wildlife on a carefully reforested plot. The soft, sandy launch is perfect from a kayaker's perspective (pro tip: kayakers actually avoid floating docks, if possible), and the amenities (picnic tables, parking, port-a-potties, gravel access road to the launch) add up to a perfect gathering spot for an outing on the water.</p> <p>The suggested rowing facility would effectively offer a private entity monopoly over this cherished public space. Why Anne Arundel County is even considering this is curious, and demands public scrutiny. Moreover, I have paddled in proximity to the local rowing clubs and, while I understand the appeal of being on the water, they are LOUD! VERY LOUD! The suggestion that some 80 young rowers and their various hangers-on could use Homeport Farm five days and some 15-20 hours per week without monopolizing the public access and is disingenuous. Full stop.</p> <p>I am only one of many residents of other counties who drive a considerable distance to enjoy Anne Arundel's limited but thoughtful public access to the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries. We spend quite a bit of money on our visits--on restaurants, gas stations, overnight accommodations, and the like. If anything, Anne Arundel needs to open up additional points of public access, not give away what tiny amount there is to private entities. Aren't you ashamed for even thinking about it?</p> <p>Sincerely, Elizabeth B. Boyd Takoma Park, Maryland</p> | |
| 2024-08-12 18:06:18 | Christopher | Rivera | Edgewater | MD | 21037 | Yes | | <p>To whom it may concern, Regarding the recent inquiries to using Homeport Farms Park for a rowing facility, I'd like to express that I am vehemently opposed. This idea was explored several years ago, and our community was surprised to see it resurface once again.</p> <p>At the time of the initial inquiries, we consulted with a local land use attorney who felt confident the county would be breaking the deed restrictions of the park. More importantly, the Homeport Farms HOA has legal standing to enforce them. We heard comments from County Executive Pittman stating that its own legal counsel disagreed with the assertion that they would be breaking any such covenants. Perhaps this is so (if people agreed lawyers would never exist), but it really doesn't take a legal scholar to quickly understand that this seems highly ill-advised and likely incorrect.</p> <p>The deed, which I have attached, clearly states "the property shall be used only for parkland, nature preservation and restoration, open space and low impact recreational uses including, but not limited to, nature study, bicycling, walking running trails, fishing, crabbing, the storage, dockage and launching of non-motorized watercraft, gardening, environmental research and conversation and similar uses and activities." Building a facility for and the operation of a highly competitive team sport will never meet the above restrictions. The Homeport Farms HOA would therefore enforce any infractions although it seems silly for the county to continue to press such an issue and break obvious restrictions much to the ire of the surrounding community.</p> <p>Furthermore, we would implore you to consider the general good of your constituents. No, we're not referring to 100+ immediate neighbors who oppose a rowing facility in Homeport Farms Park or the 100+ rowers who may want such a facility. We're referring to the 588,261 Anne Arundel County residents who have access to the park. I've witnessed local fisherman who may not have the means to live on the water, enjoy our local waterways due to the access the park affords them. Likewise, I've seen happy young couples use the park for engagements photos. These are the things the park was intended and deeded for. When the county favors the use of such a small park to that of a very specialized team sport, it takes away from the general public's ability to equally enjoy the same space. This is not to even mention the fact that these rowing clubs require financial means to be a part of.</p> <p>Keep the park for everyone to use and enjoy!</p> <p>I greatly appreciate your consideration in advance. Feel free to contact me should you have further questions.</p> <p>Thank you, Chris Rivera 410-960-8573</p> | <p>https://www.aacounty.org/system/files/webform/cc_general_testimony/34480/2004-homeport-farm-park-deed-to-aaco-1.pdf</p> |

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| 2024-08-12 18:22:26 | Jean | Davis | Edgewater | Maryland | 21037 | Yes | | <p>Dear Sirs,</p> <p>We are writing in connection with Homeport Farm Park. It is our concern that the park is too small to accommodate 80+ rowers, cars and any other visitors. There must be other larger areas that would be more appropriate to accommodate and grow this club. It is also a very dangerous, pulling out of the neighborhood onto Rt 2 with the increased traffic. People drive very fast on Rt 2.</p> <p>The Davis Family donated this park to maintain its natural beauty. It was intended for all to utilize and enjoy not just for one large group who would monopolize the space and the destruction that would occur with so many people and cars coming and going.</p> <p>It is also an area for conservation for the wildlife and would impact the environment and critical area.</p> <p>We appreciate your consideration in this matter.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>John & Jeannie Davis 2613 Commander Davis Drive Edgewater, MD 21037</p> | |
| 2024-08-12 18:49:17 | Brian | Polak | Edgewater | MD | 21037 | Yes | | <p>I wish to express my OPPOSITION to the allowance of a rowing club at Homeport Farm Park. Allowing a club use of the park is in direct conflict with the current deed restrictions of the property. The parks intended use is for passive low impact usage; Not a site for organized team sports.</p> | |
| 2024-08-12 20:01:04 | SUSAN | Stevens | ELLICOTT CITY | MD | 21042 | Yes | | <p>Please see my attached letter</p> | https://www.aacounty.org/system/files/webform/cc_general_testimony/34491/2024-dear-county-representatives-homport-farms-park.docx |
| 2024-08-12 22:11:00 | Jennifer | May | Edgewater | MD | 21037 | Yes | | <p>To whom it may concern,</p> <p>I am highly opposed to Anne Arundel County granting use of Homeport Farm Park to a private rowing club. Homeport Farm Park is intended for passive recreational use for the entire community, and allowing a private rowing club to commandeer the park for their organized sport is a blatant violation of the deed. The infrastructure needed to accommodate rowing would also violate the conservation easement, the deed, and harm the fragile wildlife in the park. Please do right by this community and uphold the passive recreational use of this park, as it was intended.</p> <p>Jennifer May</p> | |

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| 2024-08-13 9:50:52 | Gregory | Pokrywka MD | Odenton | MD | 21113-2638 | Yes | | <p>Gregory S. Pokrywka MD FACP FNLA FASPC NCMP Baltimore Lipid Center 7801 York Road, Suite #300 Towson, Maryland 21204-7449</p> <p>410-337-0720 (office)Director, Baltimore Lipid Center 410-337-0714 (fax)Inaugural Diplomate American Board of Clinical Email : gpokmd@verizon.netLipidology Website: http://baltimorelipidcenter.com/Assistant Professor of Medicine, ABCL-Certified Lipid SpecialistJohns Hopkins University School of Medicine Concierge General Internal MedicineFellow American College of Physicians Immediate Past-President, SouthEast Lipid Assn. Fellow National Lipid Association Prevention of Cardio-Metabolic Disease andFellow American Society for Preventive Cardiology Women's Menopausal Health NAMS Certified Menopausal Practitioner Director, CPG Clinical Research</p> <p>8/12/24</p> <p>To Mr Pittman and others:</p> <p>I represent 1984 sea kayakers of the PUBLIC ACCESS WatersEdge Kayak Club, many of whom, including myself, live in Anne Arundel County and I want to offer my input as a firm NO! to a rowing Center at Homeport. We are THE most active kayaking group in the state, with 2-3 kayaking events per week all over the state, but most often in Baltimore AND Anne Arundel Counties. Public water access in these areas, and specifically at Homeport, is critical for our group!</p> <p>Homeport is the only public water access to the South River, and one developed with sensitivity toward the environment and neighboring communities. In keeping with the deed restrictions governing it, Homeport successfully accommodates passive recreation and native wildlife on a carefully reforested plot. The soft, sandy launch is perfect from a kayaker's perspective (pro tip: kayakers actually avoid floating docks, if possible), and the amenities (picnic tables, parking, port-a-potties, gravel access road to the launch) add up to a perfect gathering spot for an outing on the water.</p> <p>The suggested rowing facility would effectively offer a PRIVATE entity a monopoly over this cherished public space. Why Anne Arundel County is even considering this is curious and demands public scrutiny. Moreover, I have paddled in proximity to the local rowing clubs and, while I understand the appeal of being on the water, they are LOUD! VERY LOUD! The suggestion that some 80 young rowers and their various hangers-on could use Homeport Farm five days and some 15-20 hours per week without monopolizing the public access is disingenuous.</p> <p>Many of our members are residents of other counties who drive a considerable distance to enjoy Anne Arundel's limited but thoughtful public access to the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries. We spend quite a bit of money on our visits--on restaurants, gas stations, overnight accommodations, and the like. If anything, Anne Arundel needs to open up additional points of public access, not give away what tiny amount there is to private entities. JUST SAY NO TO THE ROWERS AND TO PARK AND RECS IF IT RECOMMENDS THIS ROWING FACILITY AND PRESERVE PUBLIC ACCESS FOR KAYAKERS AND OTHERS!</p> <p>Gregory S Pokrywka MD Organizer, WatersEdge Kayak Club ODENTON, MD</p> | https://www.aacounty.org/system/files/webform/cc_general_testimony/34521/homeport-8-24.doc |
| 2024-08-13 16:23:57 | Lisa | Arrasmith | Hanover | MD | 21076 | No | The Public Water Access Committee | <p>The Public Water Access Committee submits the attached comments in opposition to rowing in Homeport Farm Park, in opposition to use of public boat ramp funding and public water access funding for a rowing center and in support of county financial support for continued use of Camp Woodlands for junior rowing.</p> | https://www.aacounty.org/system/files/webform/cc_general_testimony/34597/final-homeport-comments-the-public-water-access-committee-august-13-2024.pdf |

| Timestamp | First Name | Last name | City | State | Zip code | Are you representing yourself? | If not, who are you representing? | Remarks | File Upload (optional) |
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| 2024-08-14 19:15:54 | Christopher | Kim | Glen Burnie | MD | 21061 | Yes | | <p>Dear County Council,</p> <p>My name is Chris Kim. I work for the public library; I work part-time as a information assistant. I love how the library is a safe place for patrons to visit and seek services, information, and friendly social events.</p> <p>Our workers put in a lot effort to make sure that everyone feels welcome. However, patrons are still requesting more programs and more hours for the library to be open. Neither is possible if there are not enough staff members. The public library needs more funding to hire more personnel to help cater to the diverse communities.</p> <p>I think some of the services that people want, like public computer access, language classes, places for teens and adults to socialize, can be suited for a public community center. Anne Arundel county needs more community centers that are open to the general public, not just centers for elementary schoolers or senior citizens. A modern, progressive community center can be a safe haven for people who need air conditioning and cold drinks in the summer and central heating and warm snacks during the winter.</p> <p>Additionally, I am concerned that Anne Arundel, along with other counties, will miss out on funding for new community centers and public library services because the state is wasting money on a \$1 billion dollar prison that will cost \$100 million dollars to operate after construction is complete.</p> <p>Please help amplify our distaste in the new prison and assist us in getting funding for more staff in public libraries and more funding for new community centers.</p> <p>I think expanding library services to help the community is a great idea, but none of it will last if library employees are overworked. We need more money to hire more staff.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Chris Kim</p> | |
| 2024-08-19 12:21:31 | Karen | Whaley | Edgewater | MD | 21037 | Yes | | <p>I am submitting this on behalf of the Homeport and Wilelinor HOA's in regard to the County's plans to possibly build infrastructure and locate rowers at Homeport Farm Park. The attached is a letter sent to the County by the attorney assisting the associations with their opposition to this plan. Please contact me if you would like to see the attachments referenced in the letter.</p> | https://www.aacounty.org/system/files/webform/cc_general_testimony/35055/attorney-gorski-letter-to-county-08-13-24.pdf |
| 2024-09-02 15:16:23 | Ralph | Youngs | Annapolis | Maryland | 21409 | Yes | | <p>AACACC Volunteer and AWC board member</p> | https://www.aacounty.org/system/files/webform/cc_general_testimony/36330/2024-09-03-testimony-to-the-county-council.docx |



Kaley Schultze <ccschu24@aacounty.org>

Opposing Proposed Use of Homeport Farm Park

brad knopf [REDACTED]
To: ccschu24@aacounty.org

Thu, Aug 29, 2024 at 8:36 AM

Good Morning,

I would like to express my objection of the proposed usage changes to the Park

Homeport Farm Park was established as a passive use nature park for the public. Converting the park for the use of rowing teams would make it near impossible for the public to access, would make the current water access unusable by kayakers and SUPs due to heavy use by the rowing teams and would significantly disturb the natural habitat of the park, with special concern for the Submerged Aquatic Vegetation at the park.

Trailers coming in and out of the park hauling 60-foot shells from 4 to 7 p.m. each evening of the week during spring, summer and autumn months would cause significant environmental damage. This time is cherished by many for its peace and quiet, which is essential for the wildlife which live in the surrounding woods and on the water.

Park visitors express the need for a place to walk, seeking spiritual time spent in nature.

Kayakers and canoeists also love this unique area, which provides the ONLY readily accessible public water access to the South River.

Also, there are only 30 parking spaces at the park, which would be monopolized by the rowing club members, making it impossible for the public to access the park in the morning hours or the late afternoon to evening hours.

This is a public park conceived as a peaceful sanctuary for wildlife and a peaceful retreat for humans who need respite from a hectic world. Don't remove the "public" from "public park" by converting the park into an exclusive facility catering to the Annapolis Junior Rowing Club. Keep the park natural and accessible by the citizens who pay their taxes to preserve our remaining green spaces.

--

Thank you,
Brad Knopf

[REDACTED]



Kaley Schultze <ccschu24@aacounty.org>

Testimony Opposing Proposed Use of Homeport Farm Park

sharon nelson [REDACTED]

Thu, Aug 29, 2024 at 8:02 AM

To: "ccschu24@aacounty.org" <ccschu24@aacounty.org>

Please keep the Homeport Park as is. NO CHANGES!

Sent from my T-Mobile 5G Device
Get [Outlook for Android](#)



Kaley Schultze <ccschu24@aacounty.org>

Testimony Opposing Proposed Use of Homeport Farm Park

Robert Worden [REDACTED]

Thu, Aug 29, 2024 at 10:57 AM

Reply-To: Robert Worden [REDACTED]

To: ccschu24@aacounty.org

Cc: reply@emails.sierraclub.org, ccschu24@aacounty.org

Dear Ms. Schultze,

I am supporting the Sierra Club's lead in preserving the county park at Homeport Farm Park. This is a valuable natural parcel of land that was once part of a historic 17th- and 18th-century farm owned by Charles Carroll of Carrollton, a Signer of the Declaration of Independence and an Annapolis native and long-time resident of Annapolis and Anne Arundel County, as well as by his father and grandfather before him.

Although the current growth of trees and other forest foliage covers what was most likely open fields and possible habitations, to disrupt any of that growth and shoreline will be harmful to the park and to the adjacent water's environment, and to the archaeological record. A low-key use of this public county park is essential for its long-term preservation.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert L. Worden

[REDACTED]



Kaley Schultze <ccschu24@aacounty.org>

Testimony Opposing Proposed Use of Homeport Farm Park

Itaylor2@comcast.net [REDACTED]
To: "ccschu24@aacounty.org" <ccschu24@aacounty.org>

Thu, Aug 29, 2024 at 1:06 PM

Dear Ms. Schultze ,

I write to endorse the Sierra Club's opposition to the highly inappropriate use of Homeport Farm Park for a private Rowing Club facility. The thought of the floating dock dominating that beautiful little creek, preventing its enjoyment by paddlers and other individuals and families, is really sickening.

Destroying trees and habitat unnecessarily for a project which is clearly too large for the site is bad policy. The Rowing Club should be "re-development." That is, locate it somewhere that is already developed. This type of over-development may have been done thoughtlessly in the past, but times have changed. We now have Global Warming to be concerned about. In a time when we have such bad air quality some days that we need to wear masks to go outside safely, we must start to put the environment first!

Further, this development is certain to cause dangerous traffic buildup at the U-turn on Soloman's Island Rd. which is likely to cause injuries or death, especially to the young drivers who wish to use the site. Thus, it also needs to go in a safer site considering the people who would be using it.

Please consider these issues before proposing further development in natural places in Anne Arundel County.

Sincerely,

Louise A. Taylor
Annapolis, MD 21401

[REDACTED]



Kaley Schultze <ccschu24@aacounty.org>

Testimony Opposing Proposed Use of Homeport Farm Park

outwest713 [REDACTED]
To: ccschu24@aacounty.org

Thu, Aug 29, 2024 at 1:23 PM

I am a resident of Annapolis and Anne Arundel County. I am opposed to impacting the public's use of Homeport Farm Park by allowing the Annapolis Jr Rowing Club to essentially appropriate the park for their use. The limited parking and water access are not appropriate for such group use. Clearing trees to make additional space violates the intent of preserving green space in our county.

Regards,
Marycarol Hennessy

Testimony Opposing Proposed Use of Homeport Farm Park

Joseph Lawrence [REDACTED]
To: "ccschu24@aacounty.org" <ccschu24@aacounty.org>
Cc: Mary Lawrence [REDACTED]

Thu, Aug 29, 2024 at 1:42 PM

As owners of waterfront property on Church Creek, we, Mary G Lawrence and Joseph P Lawrence III, wish officially to be on record as being in opposition to the proposed agreement by the county giving access and use of Homeport Farms Park to the private Annapolis Junior Rowing Club and, along with that, giving to them regular pre-eminent use of Church Creek.

We are the owners of three kayaks, two Lasers (one person sailboats) and we also have a Tartan37 sailboat jointly held with friends. The kayaks are used almost exclusively within Church Creek by us and by our family, including 8 and 11 year old grandsons who live nearby. The Laser sailboats for the next several years will also be used almost exclusively within Church Creek as we teach our young grandsons how to sail them. The Tartan37 primarily is used for Bay day-sailing but still needs access to the lower portions of Church Creek to set out and return. The Rowing Club use of the Creek will regularly restrict our usage of our adjacent waterway, Church Creek.

Our understanding of the proposed usage of the Creek is that if the Rowing Club is gifted absolute right of way over much of the length of Church Creek that this effectively will bar our use of our the Laser sailboats in the Creek (due to the need for extensive tacking within the narrow confines of the Creek) during any prime time practice hours, and will severely restrict use of our kayaks in the Creek during these prime kayak/sailing time practice hours. Church Creek is not so wide nor is the access area in Homeport Farms so extensive as to avoid material usage impact on waterfront property owners within the Church Creek basin and, more broadly, on the general Public users of the park and kayak launching area within the park.

When Homeport Farms was developed, the county required the establishment of the park as part of the re-zoning/development process. The agreement as we understood it was to enable public access to the water for launching of small personal craft such as kayaks and canoes. We supported thus and the broad process of seeking more public access to Bay waters, and still do. We regard the present proposal as dishonoring, if not outright legally violating, the terms of that initial agreement.

We identified the grant to the Rowing Club as "gifted" above to be able to note that we have been paying a premium in property taxes for over 20 years because of our waterfront access on Church Creek. The proposed action will have material impact on that waterfront premium and we have not seen anywhere an intention to provide recompense to Church Creek waterfront property owners in return for the county periodically gifting away our access right to the waterway we live on.

Many similar private rowing clubs around the country have water access via property that they have purchased. We paid a premium for a lot with private access to the water. Public access to the Bay watershed is desirable, but public resources (parkland and water access) should not be gifted to small private organizations for their exclusive use.

Mary G & Joseph P Lawrence III
[REDACTED]