



# United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
Interior Region 1- National Capital Area  
1100 Ohio Drive, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20242

IN REPLY REFER TO:  
I.B (NCA-LP)

September 19, 2022

Mr. Thomas Luebke, FAIA  
Secretary  
Commission of Fine Arts  
401 F Street, N.W., Suite 312  
Washington, D.C. 20001

RE: Potomac Aqueduct Fencing

Dear Mr. Luebke:

The National Park Service (NPS) seeks approval for the Potomac Aqueduct fence, from the Old Georgetown Board during its October 6, 2022, meeting and from Commission of Fine Arts during its October 20, 2022 meeting.

The Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historic is proposing to install a 10-foot fence with around the opening to the Potomac Aqueduct. The NPS has tried multiple options to keep people from accessing the site that have all been unsuccessful in keeping people out. The Aqueduct has become a safety concern due to the number of accidents, robberies, assaults, and other illegal activities in past years. This will be a temporary solution for the next few years until a more permanent solution is adopted from the Georgetown Canal Plan.

Should you require additional information, please feel free to contact me at (202) 438-0028 or [tammy\\_stidham@nps.gov](mailto:tammy_stidham@nps.gov).

Sincerely,

Tammy Stidham  
Deputy Associate Regional Director  
Lands and Planning

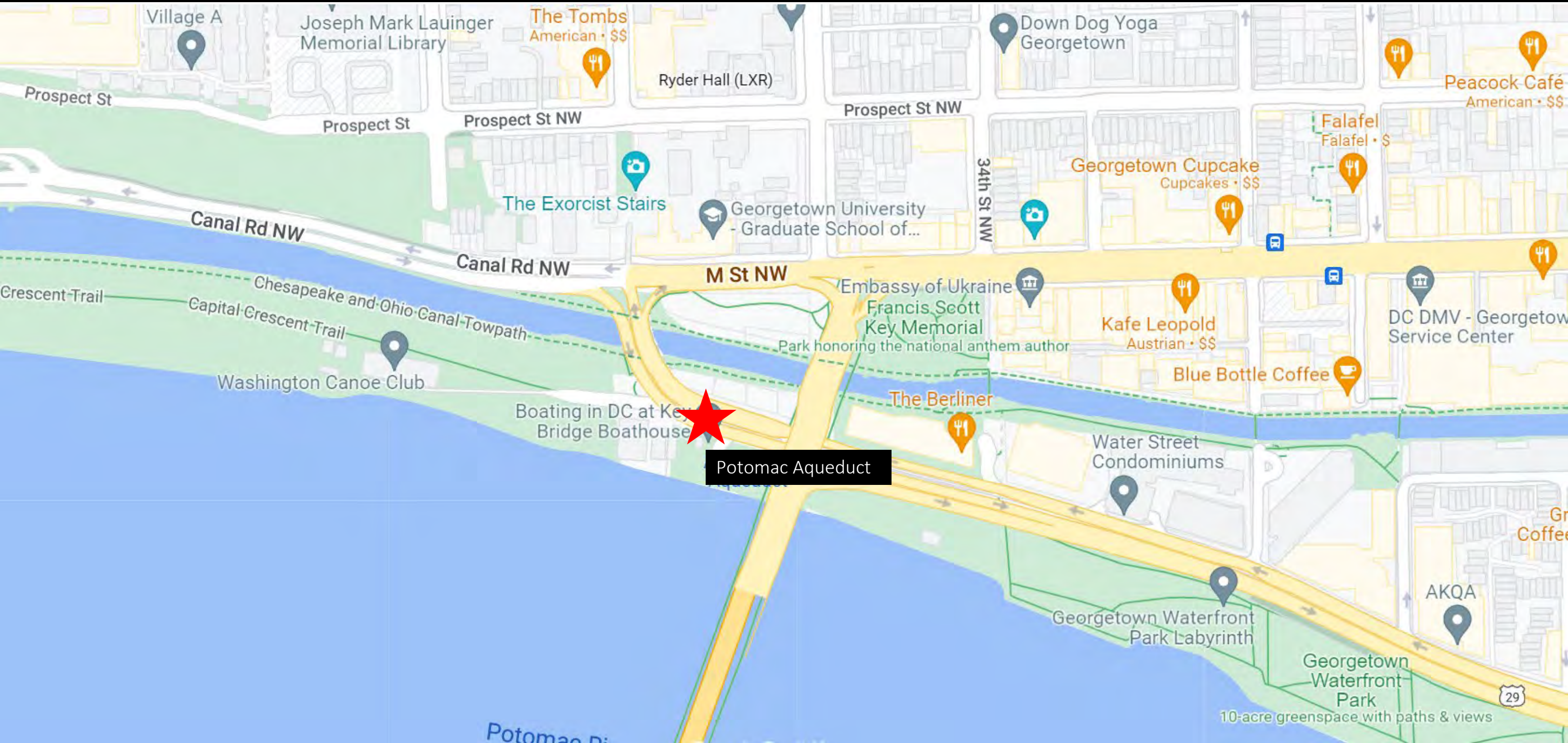
# Potomac Aqueduct Security Fencing

Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Site

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior











## History

- Potomac Aqueduct was constructed in 1843.
- Before Key bridge was completed in 1923, the Potomac Aqueduct linked Georgetown to Rosslyn.
- The Aqueduct carried boats from the C&O Canal over the river to a canal on the Virginia side that took the boats down to Alexandria.
- The Potomac Aqueduct served as a Potomac crossing for 80 years. The bridge's iron superstructure was removed in 1933, the old stone piers remained in place.
- In 1962 that the Army Corps of Engineers removed the tops of the piers to facilitate boat racing on the river.
- The large stone abutment on the Georgetown side was left in place, as was one pier close to the Virginia side.
- The stumps of the rest of the original stone piers, so painstakingly constructed in the 1830s, remain to this day 12 feet below the low-water mark, presumably never to be seen again.







- The Aqueduct has become a safety concern due to the number of accidents, robberies, assaults and other illegal activities in past years.
- Due to the illegal activity and injuries in this area the National Park Service has decided to install a temporary fence at the Aqueduct to keep people out.







**POTOMAC RIVER**

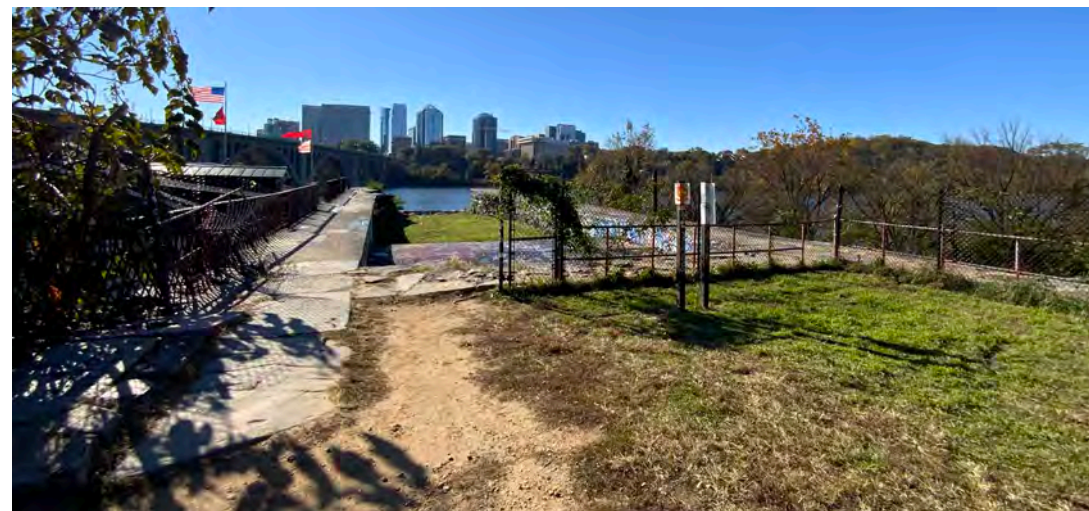
Existing Condition







# Existing Condition







- This project will install approximately 100 linear feet of temporary black wire mesh anti scale/cut fence and a gate at the north end of the aqueduct.
- The fence will be 10 feet high, and the post will be embedded in the earthen fill at 2-3 feet.
- Aluminum panel and vinyl graphic signs 18"x18" with the message "U.S. Government Property / No Trespassing" will be installed on the fence panels.
- The fence post will be installed over the stone and will be attached by non-destructive means and be reversible. A fence post on the downstream side will be mechanically fastened upright to the existing vertical steel posts and railing.
- The project will scope will also include removing vegetation as needed to facilitate the installation/removal of fence. The existing temporary chain link fence and tube fence will be removed as part of the project.







## Proposed Fence Type

