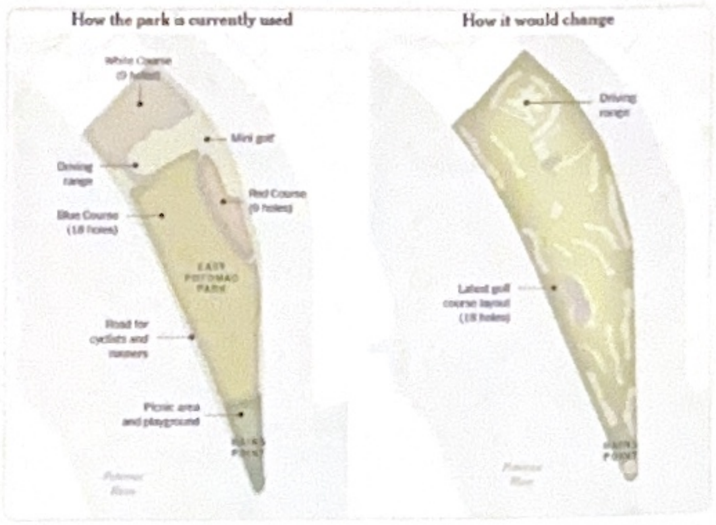
East Potomac Park Advocacy

The White House asked Congress for $500 million in National Park Service supplemental appropriations construction funding, including for the East Potomac Park seawall.[1] Everyone agrees the seawall needs repair, but the administration's plan for an elite, luxury golf course built to host professional tournaments depends on it.[2] Seawall funding without firm limits from Congress would pay for *that* plan, rather than benefit current public uses.

Facts About East Potomac Park

- **Historic public space.** Congress declared it "forever held and used as a park for the recreation and pleasure of the people"[3] and it was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1973.
- **Many existing recreational uses.** Each year, hundreds of thousands of families use the three golf courses, the mini golf course, the tennis center, jogging and cycling trails, miles of fishing spots, two playgrounds, picnic areas, and athletic fields.[4]
- **Wildlife and cherry trees.** The park is home to more than 250 bird species, red foxes and other wildlife,[5] and over 1,600 cherry trees central to the National Cherry Blossom Festival.[6]
- **Civil rights history.** A 1941 protest at the East Potomac golf courses helped integrate public recreation across Washington, DC.[7]



The Supplemental Request Is a Backdoor to a Golf-Only Peninsula

- **The plan removes every other use.** The administration's own plan, filed in federal court, extends the golf course "to the seawall around the peninsula," turns Hains Point's lawn and picnic areas into golf, and sends "biking, walking, fishing, and picnicking" to other parks.[8]
- **The redesign needs the seawall.** The plan pairs the new course with a $304.5 million new seawall[8] and is likely not viable without it. Funding it would push an unauthorized golf project ahead of the Park Service's current maintenance backlog, with up to $50 million in golf contracts already forecast.[2]
- **The damage has started.** Debris from the demolished White House East Wing was dumped on the park late last year, and in October the Park Service cut more than 500 trees after a judge ordered it not to proceed.[2]

That is unacceptable: a roughly 400-acre park dedicated to all the people, shut off to everyone but golfers.

What Congress Must Do

1. **Prohibit federal funds being used for projects eliminating any current multi-uses of East Potomac Park.** Prevent any federal funding in any future appropriations, including a supplemental, CR, or FY funding bill, that would facilitate or fund implementation of the Administration's "Washington National Plan" or otherwise prevent or eliminate any of the current existing multi-uses of East Potomac Park.
2. **If Congress funds East Potomac Park seawall repair, it must be contingent on:**
   - **Binding limits on the money.** No federal or privately donated funds can allow redesign or expansion of the golf course, or transfer ownership of any part of East Potomac Park.
   - **A citizen suit provision.** Give the public an explicit right to sue if the administration breaks those limitations. Without one, enforcement relies on often contested legal standing, as in the border wall funding litigation.

Sources

1. OMB, Supplemental Funding Request (June 24, 2026), www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2026/06/2026.06.24-Letter-to-the-Honorable-Mike-Johnson.pdf
2. Rep. Jared Huffman, letter to House and Senate appropriators (Oct. 29, 2026), democrats-naturalresources.house.gov/imo/media/doc/2026-10-29%20JH%20to%20Appropriators%20re%20East%20Potomac%20Seawall.pdf
3. Act of Mar. 3, 1897, ch. 375, 29 Stat. 624
4. TCLF, www.tclf.org/washington-dcs-historic-east-potomac-park-crosshairs
5. National Park Service, www.nps.gov/articles/000/wildlife-at-hains-point.htm
6. National Park Service, www.nps.gov/subjects/cherryblossom/types-of-trees.htm
7. Petula Dvorak, "The Real History of East Potomac Park," City Cast DC (Sept. 2, 2026), dc.citycast.fm/history-archive/east-potomac-park-history
8. Dep't of the Interior, East Potomac Golf Links Concept Proposal (Oct. 30, 2026), pp. 36, 38, ECF No. 139-2, No. 1:26-cv-00477 (D.D.C.), storage.courtlistener.com/recap/gov.uscourts.dcd.289401/gov.uscourts.dcd.289401.139.2_1.pdf