



Roger Federer planning row over bid to build boathouse on shores of Lake Zurich

- Federer intends to construct a property on the water of the 34 square-mile lake
- But public access campaigners filed objections to his planning applications

By [DAVID AVERRE](#)

PUBLISHED: 16:17 BST, 29 May 2024 | **UPDATED:** 16:44 BST, 29 May 2024

Roger Federer is embroiled in a row with public access campaigners who are protesting plans submitted by the Swiss tennis ace to build a boathouse on the shores of Lake Zurich.

Federer, 42, intends to construct a property on the water of the 34 square-mile lake southeast of the city after he snapped up a sizeable plot of land in Rapperswil-Jona, a small municipality in the canton of St. Gallen.

But Rives Publiques, a group that defends the public right to access all lakes and waterways in Switzerland, lodged complaints objecting to the plans and argued the move could set a 'dangerous precedent'.

Group President Victor von Wartburg said: 'I have nothing against Roger Federer or against other people who live near the shore.'

'But they must not take the shore away from the people.'

Von Wartburg claims that if Federer's planning application is approved, other wealthy landowners could follow suit, dramatically increasing the number of buildings on the shoreline and thereby preventing other citizens from enjoying the lake.

Rives Publiques filed two separate objections to Federer's plans - one in the municipality of Rapperswil-Jona, and another with the cantonal authorities.

Von Wartburg told SRF and **Swiss Info** that should the tennis star's application be granted then the shores of Lake Zurich and other waterways could soon be overrun with new construction sites.

'Many people would say, "if Roger Federer got it, then I want it too".

'Then the banks would be built up everywhere,' he declared.

Federer, who earned around £100 million in prize money in his stellar playing career plus untold sums in lucrative sponsorships, has already built an incredible compound on the banks of Lake Zurich.

Swiss and French media reports say the sporting icon has constructed six separate buildings, an underground car park, a swimming pool - and of course several tennis courts - on the plot of 16,000-18,000 square metres he acquired in 2019.

But it remains to be seen whether the Swiss authorities will approve the boathouse, with a decision expected to be delivered in around two months' time.