

Resolution
The Restoration and Management Plan for Dyke Marsh
E&R 2008-7

WHEREAS, Dyke Marsh --

is a 485-acre freshwater tidal wetland, one of the last large freshwater tidal marshes along the Potomac River shoreline in the Washington, D.C., area;

has existed for at least 5,000 to 7,000 years and is unusual because it has survived in a large metropolitan, heavily developed area;

has been seriously harmed by dredging, dumping, filling and by the introduction of many non-native species;

was designated by the U. S. Congress in Public Law 86-41 in 1959 as part of the National Park System “so that fish and wildlife development and their preservation as wetland wildlife habitat shall be paramount”;

is one of the most significant temperate, climax, riverine, narrow-leafed, cattail marshes in the U. S. National Park System nationwide;

is the site of scientific research by the U. S. National Park Service, Georgetown University and others;

will be further degraded without restoration and a management plan.

WHEREAS,

President George H. W. Bush committed to “no net loss of wetlands.” President George W. Bush committed to an “overall increase of wetlands in America each year”;

Virginia Governors James Gilmore and Mark Warner committed to restoring the state’s wetlands;

Virginia committed to restore lost and degraded wetlands under the Chesapeake Bay Agreement and;

Congress has supported restoration at least three times, in 1959, 1974 and 2007;

WHEREAS, the restoration of Dyke Marsh can --

enhance the ecological services, including flood control, attenuation of wave energy, stemming of shoreline erosion, providing spawning grounds for fish and other aquatic animals, providing habitat for birds and other animals, pollution reduction;

further enhance the historic landscape intended by Congress for the George Washington Memorial Parkway, as an entryway to Mount Vernon Estate;

further enhance the scientific research and educational and interpretative programs offered to the public;

offer the public more opportunities for recreation and nature study.

WHEREAS, The U. S. National Park Service has begun the environmental impact statement process to prepare a restoration and management plan for Dyke Marsh and is accepting public comments until May 23, 2008;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Associations supports the scientifically-guided restoration of this important wetland;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the MVCCA asks our local, state and federal elected officials to support the funding for the restoration of Dyke Marsh National Wildlife Preserve.