

**E&R-2011-07**

**Resolution on Non-Native Invasive Plants Harming George Washington Memorial Parkway**

- 1) Whereas, the George Washington Memorial Parkway is a national park and a historic roadway from the American Legion Bridge to the Mount Vernon Estate and Gardens and was designed to provide an commemorative and scenic gateway to the former plantation of our first president;
- 2) Whereas the George Washington Memorial Parkway is an important landmark in the history of American park development and highway design;
- 3) Whereas, large numbers of American and foreign tourists and school groups travel the parkway daily to visit the Mt. Vernon Estate and Gardens;
- 4) Whereas, the Mount Vernon trail is used year-round by many people for walking, running, biking, picnicking, scientific research, and simply enjoying the wooded areas and view of the Potomac River;
- 5) Whereas, the native trees, native plants and natural areas along this historic parkway are being overwhelmed and destroyed by exotic invasive plants;
- 6) Whereas, this destruction of trees and natural areas will continue apace unless more serious efforts are undertaken to arrest it;
- 7) Whereas, the present volunteer efforts in conjunction with the National Park Service are insufficient to solve the problem;
- 8) Whereas the National Park Service does not have sufficient funding or staff to adequately address non-native invasive plants on its properties;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Associations (MVCCA) requests that the U. S. Department of Interior provide additional funding to the National Park Service to undertake an effort to better control the invasive, non-native vines and plants which are destroying the trees and other habitat along the parkway; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the MVCCA requests that the Congress appropriate funds in the forthcoming fiscal year to the Department of Interior for expanding the control of invasive species along the George Washington Memorial Parkway; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the MVCCA requests that the National Park Service staff for the George Washington Memorial Parkway promote and support workshops in the Mount Vernon area to encourage area residents to better control non-native invasive plants and use more native plants.