



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

George Washington
Memorial Parkway

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George Washington Memorial Parkway News Release

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National Park Service Encourages Public Participation in the Environmental Impact Statement Process for Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve

Alexandria, VA - The George Washington Memorial Parkway, a unit of the National Park Service (NPS), encourages public comments in the development of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to help guide future restoration and management alternatives for Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve, which is located 1 mile south of Old Town Alexandria, Virginia, in Fairfax County. To facilitate this process, individuals will be able to comment in several ways. Input will be accepted during a **45-day public comment period through Wednesday, May 21, 2008**. Comments will be accepted electronically at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/gwmp> or in writing to Mr. David Vela, Superintendent, George Washington Memorial Parkway, Turkey Run Park, McLean, Virginia 22101. In addition, the NPS will hold a **public scoping meeting on Tuesday, April 22, 2008**, from 6:00 - 9:00 p.m. at Belle View Elementary School at 6701 Fort Hunt Road in Alexandria, Virginia.

Dyke Marsh, one of the last remaining tracts of tidal freshwater marsh along the Potomac River in the Washington, D.C. Metropolitan Area, has existed for approximately 5,000 years. Historically, the marsh was mined for sand and gravel. This resulted in the loss of approximately 270 acres of marshland. However, in 1974, Congress passed legislation calling for the restoration of Dyke Marsh "...so that fish and wildlife development and preservation as wetland wildlife habitat shall be paramount..." Today, Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve is administered by the George Washington Memorial Parkway.

For more information about the EIS or Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve, contact the National Park Service at 703-289-2500 or www.nps.gov/gwmp.

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