



**Friends of Dyke Marsh
P.O. Box 7183
Alexandria, VA 22307-7183**

www.fodm.org

May 1, 2024

Ms. Ashley McEvoy
Director of Resilience and Sustainability
National Park Foundation
1500 K Street N. W., Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Ms. McEvoy:

Subject: Letter of Support for George Washington Memorial Parkway NPF Grant Application

We are writing to express our strong support for the George Washington Memorial Parkway's application for the National Park Foundation's Circular Economy Grant Program.

The George Washington Memorial Parkway will use these funds to replace outdated water fountains along the Mount Vernon Trail between Theodore Roosevelt Island and George Washington's Mount Vernon and near comfort stations with new, year-round, accessible and freeze-resistant models, offering significant benefits including the following:

- **Improved trail user experience:** Providing clean and reliable access to water throughout the year for trail users, including those living in nearby gateway communities;
- **Environmental sustainability:** Encouraging reusable water bottles and reducing plastic waste like single-use plastic bottles within the park, major components of the trash we collect during cleanups; and
- **Community engagement:** Promoting environmental stewardship and education about responsible waste management practices and the need to reduce harmful plastic waste in the environment.

Our Commitment as a Partner

We stand ready to partner with the National Park Service on this critical initiative and will strive to contribute in several ways:

- **Disseminating information:** Sharing details about the new water fountains and the importance of reducing plastic use within our membership and networks;
- **Organizing outreach events:** Collaborating on educational efforts that raise awareness about sustainability practices by users of the trail, including nearby gateway communities of the Mount Vernon Trail and Great Falls; and
- **Promoting volunteer opportunities:** Encouraging our members to participate in activities that support the park's environmental efforts.

We believe a strong community partnership will help ensure the project's success and we urge you to approve the application.

Sincerely,

Glenda C. Booth, President, Friends of Dyke Marsh

Hedrick Belin, President, Potomac Conservancy

Nancy Stoner, President, Potomac Riverkeeper

Alan Rowsome, Executive Director, Northern Virginia Conservation Trust

Jen Cole, Director, Clean Fairfax

Katherine Ward, Co-chair, Mount Vernon Citizens Association

Judd Isbell, President, Friends of the Mount Vernon Trail

Elenor Hodges, Executive Director, EcoAction Arlington

Kurt Moser, President, Four Mile Run Conservatory Foundation

Tom Blackburn, Advocacy Chair, Audubon Society of Northern Virginia

Larry Meade, President, Northern Virginia Bird Club

Elizabeth Martin, President, Friends of Little Hunting Creek

Benjamin Jessup, President, Friends of Huntley Meadows Park

Crystal Williams, Managing Agent for Ford's Landing Homeowners Association