

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OCTOBER 15, 1974

Office of the White House Press Secretary

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NOTICE TO THE PRESS

The President has signed H. R. 4861, which expands by means of a "legislative taking" the Piscataway Park in Maryland and increases the Park's authorization for land acquisition from \$5,657,000 to \$10,557,000.

Piscataway Park, located on the Maryland side of the Potomac River generally east and south of Mt. Vernon, is a unit of the National Capital Park System that was established in 1961 for the purpose of preserving the historic view across the river from the privately owned Mt. Vernon. Over the last decade Interior has acquired in fee all of Piscataway Park's riverfront property.

In addition, Interior is in the final stages of establishing a scenic easement zone which generally extends up to one mile inland from the fee zone and southward on the Potomac's eastern riverfront below Mt. Vernon. Together these fee and scenic easement zones assure the continuing integrity of the view from Mt. Vernon.

H. R. 4861 expands the fee zone in Piscataway Park by 625 acres -- 446 acres of which are already within the scenic easement zone, including the Marshall Hall Amusement Park. The remaining 179 acres constitutes two areas: (1) the 9 acre Marshall Hall Marina -- east of Mt. Vernon; and (2) two parcels totalling 170 acres which are contiguous to the extreme south end of the present scenic easement zone.

Acquisition will be by legislative taking with payment from the Land and Water Conservation Fund at fair market value including interest at 6 percent per annum from the date of enactment to the date of payment. The Secretary of the Interior will be required to phase out all operations at the Marshall Hall Amusement Park by January 1, 1980. In addition, the bill directs the Secretary to implement a development plan which would assure greater public access to and use of the area.

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