

DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
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SECRETARY HICKEL ISSUES REPORT CALLING FOR PRESERVATION OF TINICUM MARSH

Secretary of the Interior Walter J. Hickel today issued a report which recommends that the remainder of historic Tinicum Marsh near Philadelphia be preserved as a wildlife sanctuary protected by a buffer zone for outdoor recreation.

Tinicum Marsh joins southwestern Philadelphia and Delaware County. Encroachments on Tinicum have been piecemeal for many years. "Now the total destruction of the marsh is in sight," the report states.

Secretary Hickel announced in April that he would not permit Interstate Highway 95 near Philadelphia to be built across Tinicum Wildlife Preserve until safeguards are assured for protecting the natural values. After an inspection of the Tinicum area he requested an accelerated study of the marsh. The new report is the result.

The primary wildlife area described in the proposal would contain approximately 320 acres of marsh and water; the recreational buffer area would contain about 125 acres.

The committee also proposed that local governments should establish an additional buffer of about 220 acres to cushion the impact of industrial and residential growth on the areas reserved for wildlife and outdoor recreation.

In issuing the report, Secretary Hickel said: "This Administration is aware of the increasing needs for recreational opportunities and of public concern for environmental problems. The actions we propose for Tinicum can set a precedent for urban dwellers. Here, in this great metropolitan area, we still have an opportunity to preserve and develop an outdoor environmental laboratory where city dwellers can both learn and relax."

The report was prepared by the Tinicum Ad Hoc Committee, chaired by Richard E. Griffith, regional director in Boston for Interior's Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife. Other members of the committee were Roland Handley, Philadelphia, regional director of Interior's Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, Lemuel Garrison, Philadelphia, regional director for Interior's National Park Service, and Dr. Jack McCormick of Philadelphia's Academy of Science.

Copies of the 12-page report, which contains pictures and a color map, may be obtained without charge by writing the Regional Director, Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, U.S. Post Office and Courthouse, Boston, Massachusetts 02109.

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