



STATE OF DELAWARE  
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL  
DIVISION OF SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION  
818 KITTS HUMMOCK ROAD  
DOVER, DELAWARE 19901

Delaware National Estuarine  
Research Reserve

Phone: (302) 739-3436  
Fax: (302) 739-3446

Matt Menashes, Executive Director  
National Estuarine Research Reserve Association  
444 N. Capitol St NW Ste 322  
Washington DC 20001

Dear Mr. Menashes,

I am writing this letter in support of the restoration proposal from the National Estuarine Research Reserve Association (NERRA) submitted to NOAA's Coastal and Marine Habitat Restoration National and Regional Partnership Grants.

Since 2004, the Blackbird Creek Reserve component of the Delaware National Estuarine Research Reserve (DNERR) has more than doubled its land holdings which resulted in the development of an ecological restoration master plan in 2007. The newly acquired parcels included a former campground and related facilities, as well as a modern suburban home, and several agricultural parcels in various states of cultivation, fallowness and natural condition. The parcels have had varying degrees of human influence and disturbance for many centuries, if not millennia, considering earlier Native American inhabitants. The development of the ecological restoration master plan to identify potential restoration initiatives and target conditions was an important step in charting a long term course for the restoration needs and priorities for the Blackbird Creek Reserve.

This ecological restoration master plan is guiding the Blackbird Creek Reserve's restoration for immediate short-term efforts and provides a plan of action for the next 15-20 years. Several restoration projects have already been completed in partnership with numerous organizations including Delaware Forest Service, Delaware Division of Fish and Wildlife, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, New Castle Conservation District, EARTHNET, Delaware Department of Transportation, University of Delaware, Delaware State University, Appoquinimink River Association and some are currently underway. There is abundant opportunity for additional restoration projects with additional funding.

The research-based mission of the DNERR also directly supports applying monitoring and scientific research to restoration projects. A critical component of long-term restoration success is the application of applied research and monitoring. These efforts not only document the restoration site conditions upon implementation, but also serve to track natural system responses and trends. Monitoring restored coastal areas can provide tools for planning management strategies and help improve future restoration practices and projects.

I give this restoration proposal my full support as Manager for the Delaware National Estuarine Research Reserve. Please let me know if I can be of any other assistance.

Sincerely,



Kimberly Cole

*Delaware's good nature depends on you!*