Pembroke Marsh has posed problems to Bermudians for the past 200 years.

1815 – Hamilton became the capital of Bermuda and development accelerated in Pembroke. Turning Pembroke Marsh into an obstacle to work around.

1941 – Pembroke Marsh was nicknamed Marsh Folly due to failed attempts at draining the land. Technical difficulties were also encountered in the reclamation projects as a result of a compressed peat layer beneath the marsh.

The East basin was turned into a dumping site once dumping was prohibited in other marshland around the Island and garbage collection services provided by the Health Department were established.

Additional problems of smoke from burning garbage, waste smells on a humid day, and the increase in rodents became disruptive and an unpleasant aspect of living nearby.

1975 – The pulverization plant was established and heavy metal objects and appliances were sent to a new reclamation site at the civil air terminal, reducing the amount of waste being deposited at Pembroke marsh. These attempts did not have a significant impact because they could not counteract the waste generated by Bermuda’s increasing population and consumerism.

1983 - Pembroke Marsh Redevelopment Committee was established.

1987 – Pembroke Marsh Redevelopment Plan to transform the dump into a park was finalised and released to the public, in hopes of increasing the vista value of the area, providing a flood plane for the city and restoring the natural fresh water marsh. However the project was estimated to cost $10 million, a significantly large sum of money.

1993 – Proposed completion date of the final stages of the 1987 plan. Target was not met. Progress had yet to begin.

1994 – Opening of the Tynes Bay Incinerator provided an alternative method of waste disposal allowing dumping at Pembroke Marsh to stop. However, this seven-year gap between the initial phase and the opening of Tynes Bay allowed for the project to lose momentum and become an afterthought.

1995 – the Marsh Folly Waste Treatment Facility opened, allowing for organic and horticultural waste to be deposited on top of the existing dumpsite, creating additional problems to restoring the marsh.

2012 – The Ministry of Public Works began clearing invasive plants around the perimeter of the West basin as part of a three-year project. This was not a part of the 1987 plan but rather in response to public concern related to preserving the existing marsh in the West basin.

2013- Despite the many benefits of establishing the area as a park, successive governments have not moved this project up to their lists of actions. The redevelopment of the area could actually do a lot of good, and all the work and study done so far should not be allowed to go to waste.