



FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY



M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Chairman and Members
Park Authority Board

VIA: Kirk W. Kincannon, Executive Director

FROM: Barbara Nugent, Director
Resource Management Division

DATE: March 26, 2019

Agenda *REVISED*

Resource Management Committee
Wednesday, March 27, 2019 - 6:15 p.m.

Boardroom – Herrity Building

Chairman: Maggie Godbold

Vice Chair: Linwood Gorham

Members: Kiel Stone, Timothy Hackman, Abena Aidoo

1. Scope Approval – Huntley Meadows Park Natural Area Preserve and Open Space Easement Implementation – Action*

*Enclosures



If accommodations and/or alternative formats are needed, please call (703) 324-8563. TTY (703) 803-3354

Board Agenda Item
April 10, 2019

ACTION

Scope Approval – Huntley Meadows Park Natural Area Preserve and Open Space Easement Implementation (Lee District)

ISSUE:

Approval of the project scope to implement a state Natural Area Preserve and Open Space Easement at Huntley Meadows Park.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Park Authority Executive Director recommends approval of the project scope to implement a Natural Area Preserve dedication and Open Space Easement on eligible portions of Huntley Meadows Park.

TIMING:

Board approval of the project scope is requested on April 10, 2019.

BACKGROUND:

In February 2017 the Park Authority Board discussed a proposal to dedicate portions of Huntley Meadows Park as state Natural Area Preserve (NAP) or as Open Space Easement (OSE). Direction was provided to staff to further explore the project.

In July 2017 the Park Authority Board approved the update of the park's Natural Resources Management Plan to include an assessment of eligible portions of the park for NAP dedication or equivalent protection measures. The update of the park's Natural Resources Management Plan and assessment are near complete and include recommendations to implement the original proposal.

Additional information was provided to the Park Authority Board on the progress of the NAP assessment and about the NAP program in May 2018 and November 2018, respectively.

A NAP is a restrictive conservation easement that is reserved for rare and unique Virginia natural heritage. An OSE is a less restrictive conservation easement that is applicable to any type of natural resource.

The goal of the project is to further protect the natural resources that make up Huntley Meadows Park by dedicating eligible portions of the park as NAP or OSE.

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Approximately 882 acres of global and state rare vegetation communities, species, and habitats are eligible for dedication as state NAP to the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation. Approximately 676 acres, representing the areas of the park not eligible for NAP, will be further protected through the establishment of an OSE, or equivalent. Potential partners for this project will include the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, Friends of Huntley Meadows Park, the Virginia Outdoors Foundation, and the Northern Virginia Conservation Trust.

The scope works toward achieving the following Recommended Actions in the agency-wide Natural Resource Management Plan.

- Recommended Action 15 – Increase Park Authority ownership and buffering of ecologically valuable areas through acquisition of land, easements and other agreements that would serve to protect natural resources on or adjacent to parkland.
- Recommended Action 19 – Enhance connectivity of parkland to provide natural corridors that allow for the movement of populations over time and preserve ecosystem function and biodiversity.
- Recommended Action 24 – Partner with diverse groups to conduct resource inventories, formulate plans and manage resources.
- Recommended Action 26 – Participate in and support regional natural resource management planning and management efforts to better identify gaps and opportunities in natural resource protection and management.

The scope will comply with all applicable approved park planning documents including, but not limited to the, master plan, natural resource management plan, cultural resource management plan, etc.

Specific areas proposed for protection as NAP and OSE are identified as such on the Huntley Meadows Park Proposed Natural Area Preserve and Open Space Easement Map, enclosed as Attachment 2.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Based on the scope cost estimate, funding in the amount of \$165,000 is necessary to conduct the project (Attachment 1). Funding in the amount of \$165,000 is available in PR-000093, Land Acquisition and Stewardship-2012, Natural Capital Renovation/Natural Resource Management in Fund 30400, Park Bond Construction.

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ENCLOSED DOCUMENTS:

Attachment 1: Scope Cost Estimate for Huntley Meadows Park NAP and OSE
Implementation

Attachment 2: Huntley Meadows Park Proposed Natural Area Preserve and Open
Space Easement Map

STAFF:

Kirk W. Kincannon, Director

Sara Baldwin, Deputy Director/COO

Aimee Vosper, Deputy Director/CBD

David Bowden, Director, Planning and Development Division

Todd Brown, Director, Park Operations Division

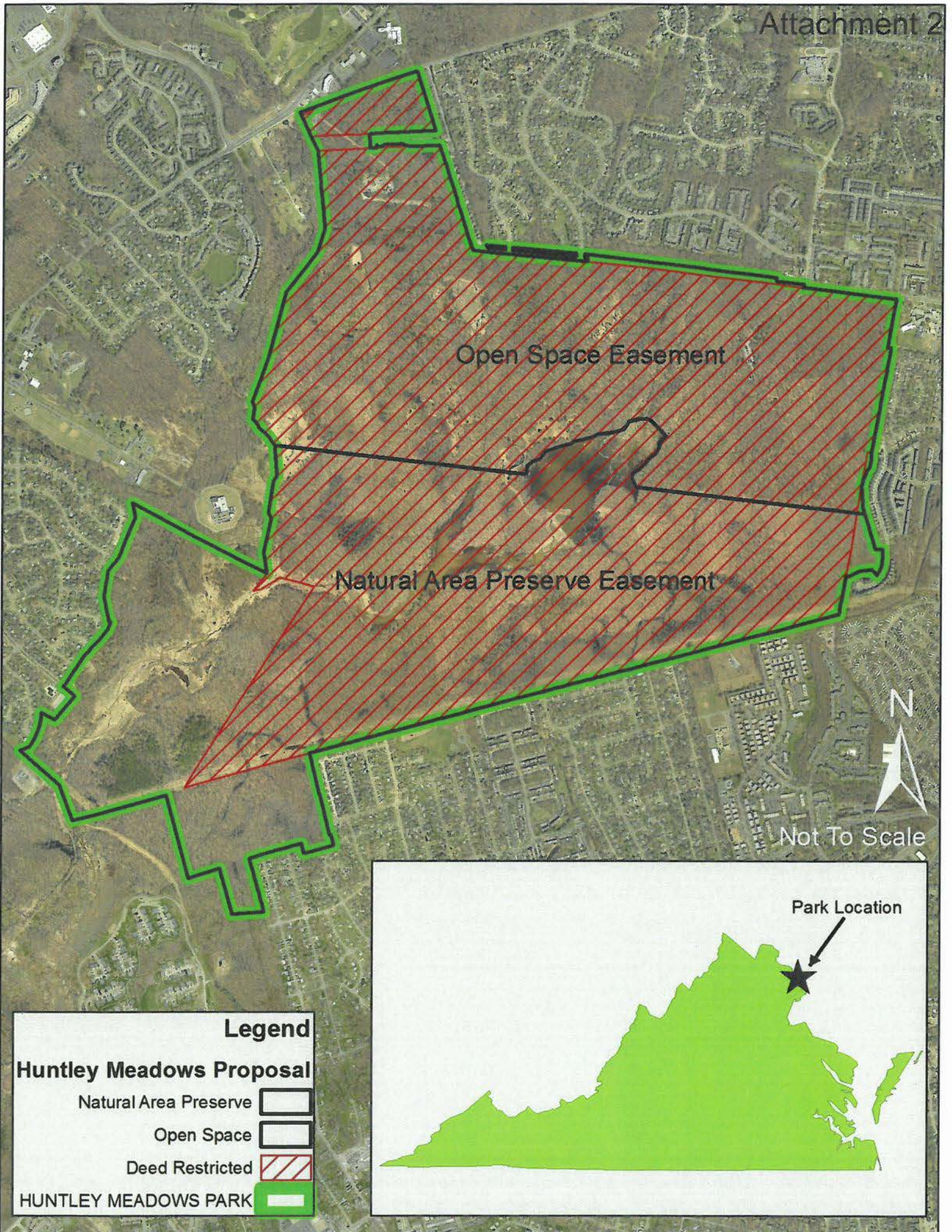
Cindy Walsh, Director, Park Services Division

Barbara Nugent, Director, Resource Management Division

John Stokely, Manager, Natural Resources Branch

**Huntley Meadows Park Natural Area Preserve Designation
Scope Cost Estimate**

Open Space Easement - boundary survey; easement and title report drafting; and boundary monitoring	\$26,000
Natural Area Preserve - boundary survey, marking, and sign installation; easement and title report drafting; and boundary monitoring	\$119,000
Subtotal	\$145,000
Project Administration (12.5%)	\$20,000
Total	\$165,000





Open Space Easement


Natural Area Preserve Easement


Legend

Huntley Meadows Proposal

Natural Area Preserve 

Open Space 

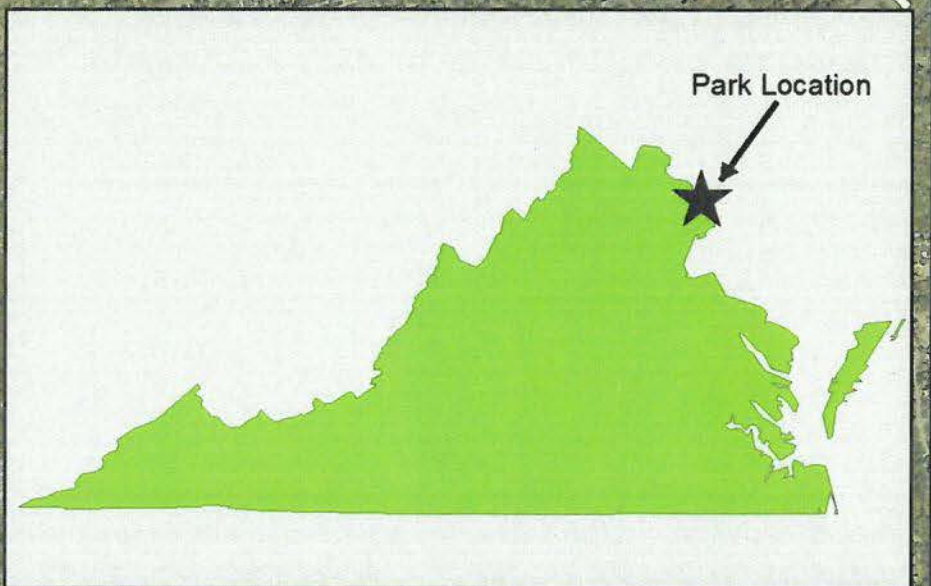
Deed Restricted 

HUNTLEY MEADOWS PARK 

Park Location



Not To Scale





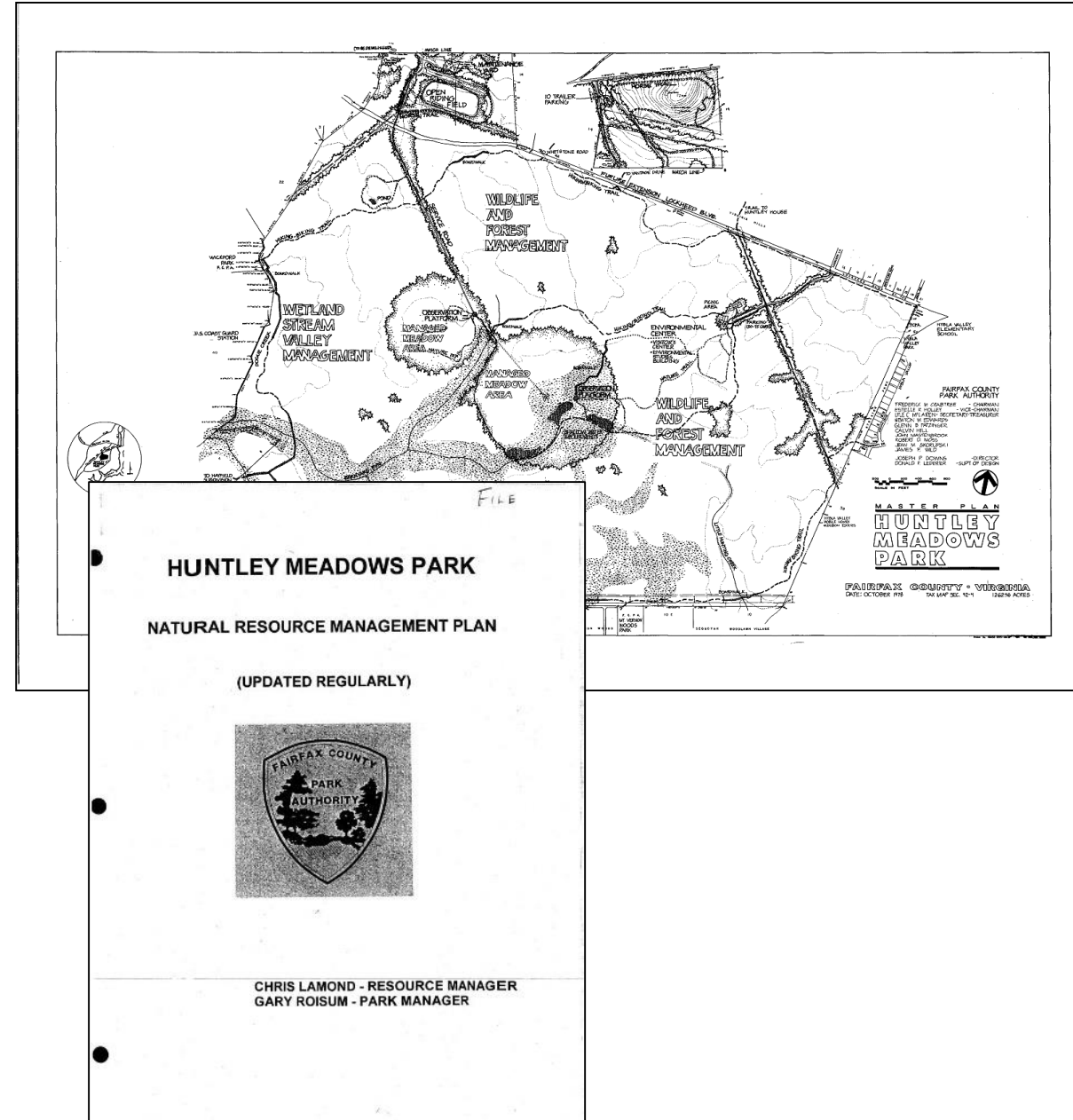
Natural Area Preserve and Open Space Easement Huntley Meadows Park

Resource Management Committee Meeting

March 27, 2019

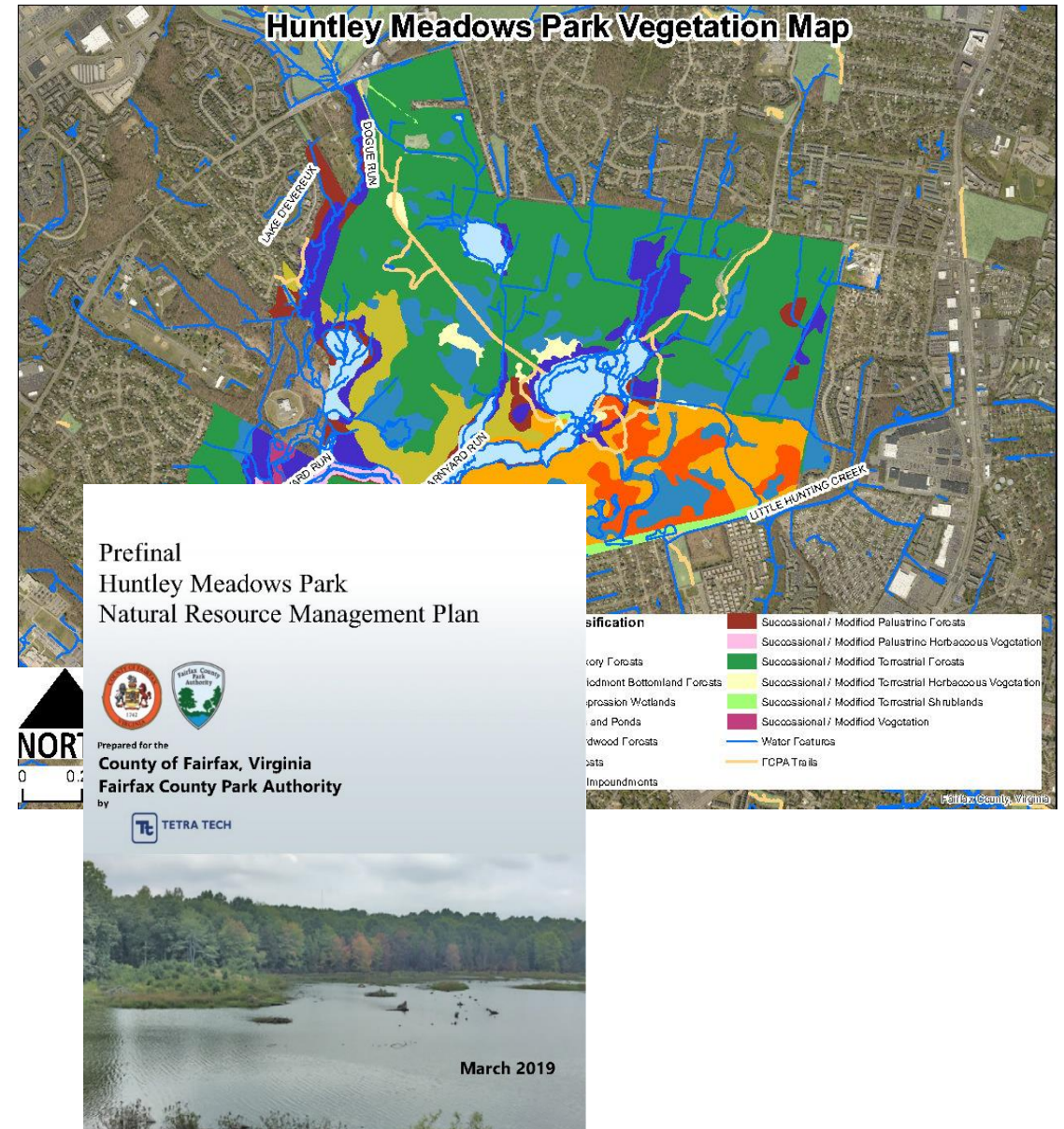
Background

- 1,556 acres
 - 1,260 deed through Federal Lands to Park Program
- Master Plan (1975)
- Natural Resource Management Plan (1999)
 - 2019 update near complete.



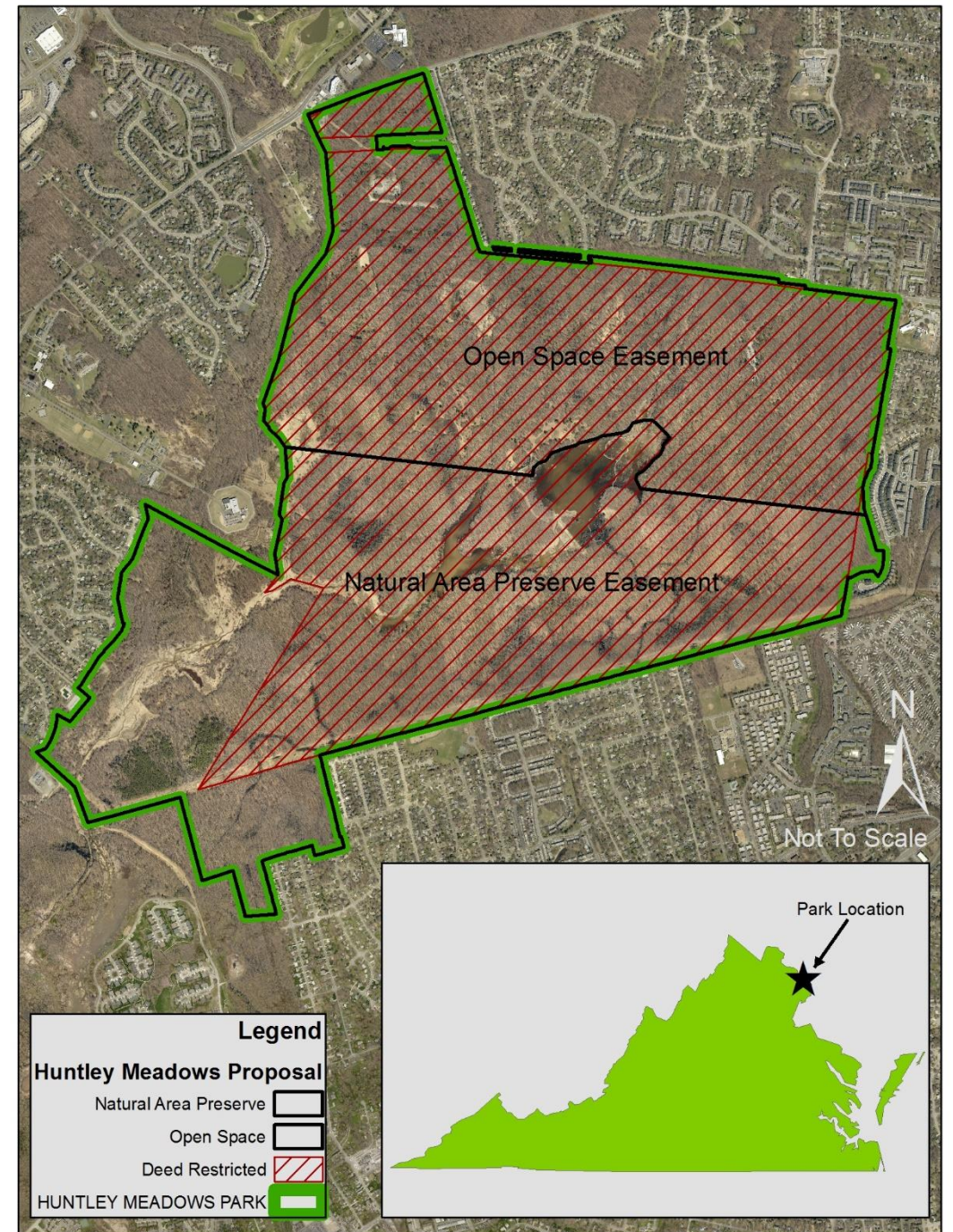
Background

- February 2017 Committee of the Whole discussion
- July 2017 approved update of park's Natural Resources Management Plan
- May 2018 progress information.
- November 2018 program information



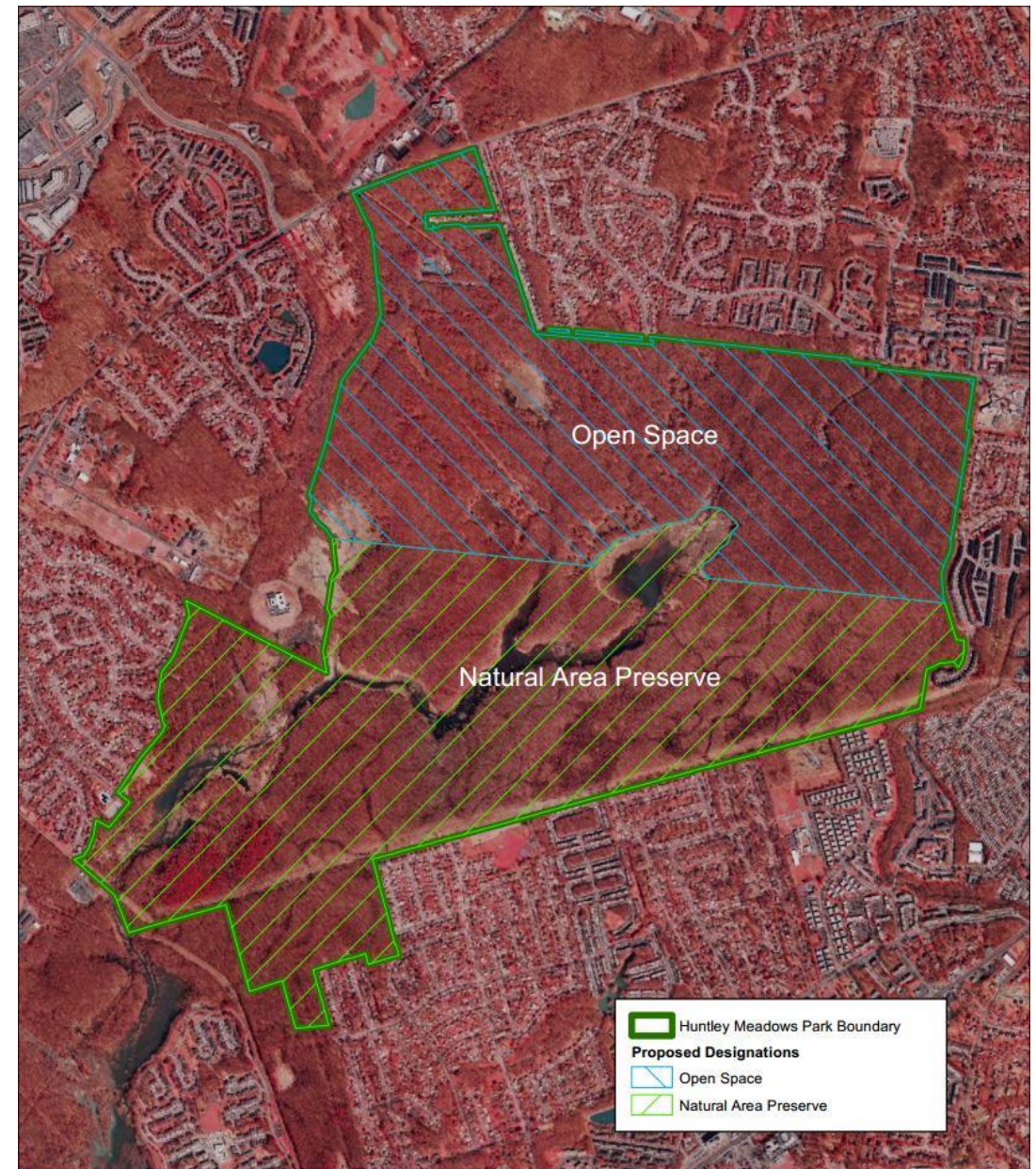
Goal & Objectives

- Further protect the park's natural resources.
 - Dedicate approximately 882 acres as Natural Area Preserve
 - Dedicate approximately 676 acres as Open Space Easement, or equivalent



Project Details

- Help achieve 4 agency-NRMP Recommended Actions
- Likely involve at least 4 different stakeholder groups
- Complies with all applicable planning documents



Huntley Meadows Park
Fairfax County, VA

Attachment 2



0 0.1 0.2 0.4 0.6 0.8 1 Miles

Prepared by VA Dept. of Conservation & Recreation,
Natural Heritage Program, I.T. Wilson; July 16, 2015.

HOW WE TREAT THE LAND HAS LASTING IMPACTS



Questions ?

