



FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY



M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Chairman and Members
Park Authority Board

VIA: Jai Cole, Executive Director

FROM: Sara Baldwin, Deputy Director/COO

DATE: October 21, 2021

Agenda

**Resource Management Committee
(Committee of the Whole)
Wednesday, October 27, 2021 – 5:45 pm
Boardroom – Herrity Building
Chairman: Maggie Godbold
Vice Chair: Linwood Gorham**

1. Cultural Resource Management Plan – FY 2021 Accomplishments and FY 2022 Implementation Plan (with presentation) – Information*
2. Natural Resource Management Plan – FY 2021 Accomplishments and FY 2022 Implementation Plan (with presentation) – Information*

*Enclosures



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

Board Agenda Item

INFORMATION (with presentation)

Cultural Resource Management Plan – FY 2021 Accomplishments and FY 2022 Implementation Plan

On April 26, 2006, the Park Authority Board adopted the first county-wide Cultural Resource Management Plan (CRMP). The CRMP was most recently updated on March 14, 2018. The plan coordinates agency-wide efforts to achieve the resource preservation mission of the Fairfax County Park Authority and implement agency Policies 203 (Cultural Resources), 204 (Countywide Archaeology), 205 (Historic Preservation), and 206 (Museum and Archaeological Collections). Staff implemented the fifteenth full year of the CRMP. This presentation will highlight the CRMP, the FY 2022 implementation plan and FY 2021 accomplishments. In FY 2021, work was accomplished on all three management themes. Areas of emphasis for FY 2022 include completing planned activities while maintaining existing service levels.

ENCLOSED DOCUMENTS:

Attachment 1: Cultural Resource Management Plan - FY 2021 Accomplishments FY 2022 Implementation Plan

STAFF:

Jai Cole, Executive Director

Sara Baldwin, Deputy Director/COO

Aimee Vosper, Deputy Director/CBO

Stephanie Leedom, Director, Planning and Development Division

Kurt Louis, Director, Park Operations Division

Cindy Walsh, Director, Park Services Division

Elizabeth Crowell, Manager, Archaeology and Collections Branch

**Cultural Resource Management Plan
FY 2021 Accomplishments
FY 2022 Implementation Plan**

Despite the challenges related to the COVID19 pandemic, the Archaeology and Collections Branch (ACB) and Heritage Conservation Branch (HCB) continued to support the Fairfax County Park Authority Cultural Resource Management Plan in FY 2021, continuing to conduct and review archaeological projects; continuing to work with archaeological collections; developing public outreach materials; and continuing to develop computer applications for our data. The Archaeology and Collections Branch and the Heritage Conservation Branch accomplished the following:

- The Park Authority completed its fifteenth full year of the County-wide Cultural Resource Management Plan (CRMP), first adopted on April 26, 2006 and most recently updated on March 14, 2018.
- Completed activities in all three management themes that include: Inventory and Planning, Management and Protection and Stewardship Education.
- Resident Curator Program continued to develop- Four historic properties under lease and two additional sites advertised to close CY21.

Inventory and Planning

FY 2021 Accomplishments

- Conducted 230 development plan reviews and reviewed reports resulting from Development Plan Review
- Assisted Planning and Development with 12 potential land acquisition projects
- As part of the land acquisition for George Washington's Union Farm, staff developed an MOU with Mount Vernon regarding the conduct and interpretation of archaeology on-site at the location of three quarters for enslaved workers on-site
- Reviewed 51 easement/permit requests
- In process of updating 10% of sites recorded within Fairfax County to improve state data
- Implementation of digital in-field data collection underway

FY 2022 Plans

- Continue to conduct development plan review to identify and document archaeological resources and review resulting reports
- Work with Park Authority Land Acquisition to provide information on the archaeological potential of potential acquisition parcels
- Review easement requests, permits, and Archaeological Survey Data Forms
- Work with County Department of Planning and Development on Countywide Projects
- Review survey results for Heritage Resource Survey of Gum Springs
- Continue to update site data in VCRIS
- Develop computerized cemetery app

Management and Protection

FY 2021 Accomplishments for Archaeology and Collections Branch

- Conducted archaeological investigation construction monitoring at Resident Curator Program (RCP) sites for repairs and utility work at the Clark Enyedi house and at the Ash Grove kitchen where significant archaeological resources were known to be present
- Conducting survey of the entirety of Riverbend Park to assist site with future development of trails, to improve stewardship of known resources, and to educate staff and visitors about the rich prehistoric context at Riverbend
- Continue to update archaeological collections, to improve conditions, to deaccession as appropriate, and prepare for the eventual move to the proposed new Collections Facility
- Both Heritage Conservation Branch and Archaeology and Collections Branch worked with the Collections Facility Team on the conceptual and schematic development plan for the proposed Collections Facility
- Created comprehensive background and mapping of all cultural resource work conducted at Ellanor C Lawrence Park
- Assisted PA site staff with placement of park amenities such as benches, signs, trails, etc.
- Served on team for Lake Accotink Dredging

FY 2021 Accomplishments for Heritage Conservation Branch

- Continued infrastructure work for RCP sites
- Historic Structure and Treatment Plan reports for Banks House, Mt Gilead and Dranesville Tavern
- Ellmore Farmhouse RCP lease completed
- Turner Farm- SE for Retreat Center approved- RCP
- Resident Curator Program properties have surpassed 500K in overall curator investments
- Historic Site Volunteer Corp. (HSVC) held more than 15 events with more than 500 volunteers.
- More than 500 inspections of significant historic sites
- Conservation Lease RFI completed
- Sully Historic Site- Five Treatment plans for contributing structures completed
- Five SOP's for HCB administrative processes completed
- Ash Grove Kitchen structure restoration completed
- Mt. Gilead House- Roof Replacement
- Barrett House- Roof Replacement
- Colvin Run Mill- Wheel and Flume project completed
- Received \$127,000 in EIP funding for historic sites

FY 2022 Plans for ACB/HCB

- Continue to work with the Resident Curator program to ensure the identification, evaluation, and documentation of archaeological resources
- Continue to work with Park staff on Cultural Resource issues
- Continue to serve on Park and Countywide teams
- Continue to update archaeological collections, to improve conditions, and prepare for the eventual move to the proposed new Collections Facility

- ACB/HCB working with the Collections Facility Team on the construction development plan for the approved Collections Facility
- Work with other County agencies, such as County Department of Planning and Development, DPWES, FCDOT and others to provide technical assistance on Cultural Resource issues
- Continue to complete outstanding archaeological reports
- Continue to update our GIS and computerized documentation for archaeological resources
- Advance three or more new RCP leases
- Resident Curator sites will eclipse \$1,000,000 in overall curator investments
- Continued development of HSVC events
- Conservation Lease for pilot historic site

Stewardship Education

FY 2021 Accomplishments

- Addressed well over 1,000 citizen inquiries on archaeological and cultural resources
- Continued to work with our partner organizations including:
 - Friends of Fairfax County Archaeology and Cultural Resources (FOFA)
 - The Fairfax County History Commission
 - The Fairfax County Architectural Review Board
 - Friends of Historic Huntley
 - The Sully Foundation
 - Mount Vernon
 - Gunston Hall
 - Historic Alexandria
 - The Gum Springs Historical Society
 - The New Gum Springs Civic Association
 - The Tinner Hill Heritage Foundation
 - The Archeological Society of Virginia
 - The Northern Virginia Chapter of the Archeological Society of Virginia
 - The Middle Atlantic Archaeological Conference
 - The Society for Historical Archaeology
 - The Society for American Archaeology
 - Fort Belvoir
 - The Bureau of Land Management
 - The American Alliance of Museums
 - The Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority
 - The National Park Service
- Conducting internal training, 2x/month, to instruct newly hired staff and to deepen knowledge base
- Participated in a team that prepared interpretive signage for Freedom Hill Park
- Conduct outreach to elementary schools for career day
- Prepared Public Outreach Content for the Public Information Office
- Prepared content for ArtiFACTs
- Continued to produce the County Archaeology Research Team (CART) blog
- Worked with historic sites on Outreach activities
- Staff organized and made (virtual) presentations at the Archaeology symposium at Gunston Hall, at the Archeological Society of Virginia annual meeting, at the Society for

Historical Archaeology annual meeting and at the Middle Atlantic Archaeological Conference

- Staff attended the monthly FOFA meetings
- Staff attended monthly History Commission meetings and ARB meetings, as needed

FY 2022 Plans

- Continue addressing citizen inquiries
- Continue conducting internal training, 2x/month to instruct newly hired staff and to deepen knowledge base
- Working with Sully Historic Sites for interpretive signage on trail
- Conducting outreach at Madeira school
- Working with sites to conduct outreach activities
- Continue to work with partner agencies
- Working with Gunston Hall and FOFA on annual symposium
- Participating in local, regional, state, and national conferences
- Continue to support the History Commission and the ARB
- Continue to develop interpretive content that supports the One Fairfax initiative

Board Agenda Item
October 27, 2021

INFORMATION - 2 (with presentation)

Natural Resource Management Plan – FY 2021 Accomplishments and FY 2022 Implementation Plan

On January 29, 2014, the Park Authority Board adopted the agency-wide Natural Resource Management Plan (NRMP). The plan coordinates agency-wide efforts to achieve the resource preservation mission of the Fairfax County Park Authority and implement agency Policy 201 – Natural Resources. Staff implemented the seventh full year of the NRMP. This presentation will highlight the NRMP, the FY 2022 implementation plan and FY 2021 accomplishments. In FY 2021, work was accomplished on all four management themes. Areas of emphasis for FY 2022 include completing planned activities while maintaining existing service levels.

ENCLOSED DOCUMENTS:

Attachment 1: Natural Resource Management Plan - FY 2021 Accomplishments FY 2022 Implementation Plan

STAFF:

Jai Cole, Executive Director
Sara Baldwin, Deputy Director/COO
Aimee Vosper, Deputy Director/CBD
Stephanie Leedom, Director, Planning and Development Division
Kurt Louis, Director, Park Operations Division
Cindy Walsh, Director, Park Services Division
John Burke, Manager, Natural Resource Management Branch

**Natural Resource Management Plan
FY 2021 Accomplishments
FY 2022 Implementation Plan**

Despite the challenges related to the COVID19 pandemic, the Natural Resource Management Branch (NRB) continued to support the Fairfax County Park Authority Natural Resources Management Plan in FY 2021 by pursuing advancements in the areas of ecological monitoring and inventory, restoration, and community engagement. Through their efforts, NRB's staff ensured that the Fairfax County Park Authority remains an excellent steward of the valuable natural resources on its properties.

- The Park Authority completed its seventh full year of its newly adopted agency-wide Natural Resource Management Plan (NRMP), adopted January 29, 2014.
- Completed activities in all four management themes that include: Inventory and Planning, Protecting Natural Capital, Managing Wild Populations and Restoring Ecosystems, and Fostering Stewardship and Expanding Natural Capital.
- Accomplished work on 22 of the 26 NRMP recommended actions.

NRMP Program

FY 2021 Accomplishments

- Continued to populate the geodatabase model for tracking restoration efforts, natural communities, rare plants and animals, invasive plants, and other elements.
- Received final draft of the Virginia Natural Heritage Natural Areas Registry at Huntley Meadows Park
- Started ecological restoration projects at Poplar Ford; continued to implement ecological restoration projects at Frying Pan Farm, Old Colchester Park, Laurel Hill, Elklick Forest, Elklick Grassland, and ECL. Completed restoration projects at White Gardens.
- Submitted FY23 budget proposal and framework for Natural Resource Maintenance Program
- Grants:
 - Trees for Clean Water: \$14k Awarded
 - Transurban 395/95 Grant: Not Awarded
 - Friends of Frying Pan Park Mastenbrook Grant: Applied
 - National Environmental Education Foundation
- EIP Funding:
 - Green Spring Gardens Bog Restoration: \$86K Awarded
 - Meadow Restorations, Green Spring Gardens and Lake Fairfax Park: \$75K Awarded
 - IMA Program: \$300k Awarded
- Established \$50k FY22 funding for tree-of-heaven control through the Forest Pest Branch's Pest Funding

FY 2022 Plans

- Implementation of Natural Area Registry at Huntley Meadows Park and pursue alternative protective measures for the site.
- Continue to populate the geodatabase model for tracking restoration efforts, natural communities, rare plants and animals, invasive plants, and other elements.
- Continue to implement the ecological restoration projects at Frying Pan Farm Park, Poplar Ford, Elklick Preserve, Laurel Hill, Riverbend Park, Lake Fairfax Park, Old Colchester Park, Huntley Meadows, and Green Spring Gardens.

- Continue field data collection and development of the Northern Area Natural Resource Management Plan.
- Begin an agency-wide list of potential mitigation sites.

Inventory and Planning

FY 2021 Accomplishments

- Surveyed approximately 954 acres at 13 different parks using the Non-native Invasive Assessment Prioritization (NNIAP) protocol. All suitable acreage has been surveyed to produce a complete inventory and started resurvey effort of park lands.*
- Assessed 0 parks for deer browse impacts due to staffing turnover.
- Classified and mapped 1,535 acres of natural vegetation communities at nineteen parks.*
 - 298 acres at seven parks were determined to be rare natural communities (S-rank of S3 or lower).
- Continued systematic surveying for selected rare, threatened, and endangered species.
 - The Virginia Natural Heritage Program conducted rare animal surveys throughout parks in Western Fairfax County as part of the NRMP.
 - 5 state rare animal species were documented in FCPA parks
 - 7 vulnerable and watch-listed species were documented
 - 88 species of bees, 42 species of butterflies, 152 species of moths, 39 species of dragonflies and damselflies, 5 species of freshwater mussels
 - 9 species of bats including 2 rare species documented
- Completion of the Western Area Natural Resources Management Plan documented many plants and animals occurring in FCPA parks and provided a picture of ecosystem health at 54 parks.
 - Completed ecological mapping of 5,550 acres in 54 parks.
 - 12 rare ecological communities documented
 - 1,025 plant species documented
 - 15 rare plant species
 - 218 non-native invasive plant species
 - Recommendations for ecosystem restoration and land acquisition
- 58 rare plant records were documented, with many representing new populations or county records of rare species. Continued field confirmation of probable vernal pool GIS data layer.
- Made substantial progress toward completion of West Area Natural Resources Management Plan. Some aspects of this goal have been delayed due to staff turnover and the response to COVID19.

FY 2022 Plans

- Continue resurvey of park lands using the new NNIAP protocol method to monitor trends and inform agency decision making using the dataset of non-native invasive vegetation species. Park lands will be resurveyed approximately every five years to ensure that treatments are effective, and goals and objectives are achieved.
- Continue to assess parks for white-tailed deer browse impacts. Parks will be revisited every five years to ensure that treatments are effective, and goals and objectives are achieved. Population density surveys will continue to be implemented to inform adaptive management, as needed.

- Continue to inventory, classify, and map natural vegetation communities in Western Fairfax County.
- Continue to build capacity for rare, threatened, and endangered species survey and monitoring.

Protecting Natural Capital

FY 2021 Accomplishments

- Reviewed 157 development plans to avoid adverse impacts to natural resources.*
- Served on 22 park project teams to ensure that the agency-wide NRMP is being implemented on Park Authority projects.*
- Provided technical assistance for eight encroachments on park lands.*
- Provided technical assistance for 13 easement actions on park lands.*
- Provided technical assistance for 21 Department of Public Works and Environmental Services (DPWES) projects on park lands.*
- Conducted site assessments for 12 potential land acquisitions.*
- Reviewed 74 permit requests for restricted activities in natural areas.*

FY 2022 Plans

- Continue to review development plans for adverse impacts to park lands, as needed.
- Continue to serve on park project teams for FY 2022.
- Continue to provide technical assistance for encroachments, easement actions, trail projects, and DPWES projects on an as needed basis.
- Continue to provide land acquisition site assessments on an as needed basis.
- Continue to review permits for restricted natural area activities on an as needed basis.
- Continue to develop and refine an agency-wide list and GIS data layer for potential mitigation sites.

Managing Wild Populations and Restoring Ecosystems

FY 2021 Accomplishments

- Treated 715 acres for invasive vegetation.*
- Completed 312 invasive species treatment plans on 5,373 acres at 47 parks.*
- Removed 684 white-tailed deer from 93 parks.
- Oiled approximately 100 Canada goose nests at parks and golf courses using best management practices.
- Implemented 102 acres of prescribed fire at seven parks.
- Started implementation of projects under the Helping Our Land Heal (HOLH) program: Poplar Ford EIP FY21 Meadow Restoration and the Northern Area Natural Resource Management Plan.
- Continued implementation at 6 parks: Frying Pan Farm Park Forest Restoration, Laurel Hill Park Forest Restoration, Ellanor C. Lawrence Park Forest Restoration, Elklick Preserve Forest Restoration, Elklick Preserve Grasslands restoration, Old Colchester Park and Preserve natural resource management plan implementation, Old Colchester Park and Preserve Wetland Restoration, Huntley Meadows Park Natural Area Preserve.
- Completed the Western Area Natural Resources Management Plan
Confirmed continued breeding use of Elklick Preserve grassland restoration project site for grasshopper sparrows and the survival of rare plant installations of Torrey's mountain mint and stiff goldenrod.

FY 2022 Plans

- Continue to treat non-native invasive vegetation.
- Continue to remove white-tailed deer from parks by partnering with the FCPD.
- Continue to treat Canada goose nests to maintain acceptable populations.
- Continue to implement prescribed fire at existing sites on a routine basis and add additional sites as appropriate.
- Continue to implement HOLH Program projects at the following parks: Poplar Ford, Frying Pan Farm, Old Colchester Park, Laurel Hill, Elklick Forest, Elklick Grassland, and ECL
- Utilize recommendations from the Western Area Natural Resource Management Plan to inform future HOLH projects, rare species monitoring, habitat management, and prescribed burn activities.

Fostering Stewardship and Expanding Natural Capital

FY 2021 Accomplishments

- Addressed an estimated 647 citizen inquiries regarding natural resources on park lands.*
- 3,622 volunteers donated 14,652 hours removing non-native invasive vegetation at 61 sites. The total volunteer hours since the Invasive Management (IMA) program inception is 94,832.*
- 605 FCPD volunteers donated 47,413 hours removing white-tailed deer at 93 parks. The total volunteer hours since the FCPD archery program inception is estimated at 330,112 .
 - The donated FCPD volunteer time equates to an estimated \$1,161,619 in FY 2021 and \$8,087,744 since program inception.
- Earth Sangha volunteers donated 343 hours at three parks and staff donated 312 hours at four parks, plus over 11,000 hours in the wild plant nursery, which provides plants to multiple parks.
 - The donated Earth Sangha volunteer and staff time equates to \$797,396 in FY 2021.*
- Fostered partnerships with state, regional, private, non-profit, and county organizations to include:
 - Fairfax County Public Works and Environmental Service;
 - Fairfax County Environmental Quality Advisory Council;
 - Virginia Departments of Forestry, Wildlife Resources , and Conservation and Recreation;
 - Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District;
 - Earth Sangha;
 - Fairfax Releaf;
 - Fairfax County Police Department;
 - Fairfax County Departments of Public Works and Environmental Services, Health, Planning and Zoning, and Fire and Rescue;
 - Fairfax County Park Foundation;
 - Friends Groups;
 - Northern Virginia Audubon Society;
 - Fort Belvoir and Fort AP Hill;
 - Quantico Marine Corps Base;
 - Occoquan Bay National Wildlife Refuge;
 - National Capital Region Partnership for Invasive Species Management;

- Clifton Institute;
- Bureau of Land Management at Meadowood Recreation Area;
- Montgomery County Parks Natural Resource Stewardship Program
- Updated and improved outreach materials for the ecological restoration program titled Helping Our Land Heal.
- Participated in the expansion of the Operation Stream Shield (OSS), a program developed by the Fairfax County Department of Public Works and Environmental Services to employ residents in Fairfax County Homeless Shelters to remove trash and pull invasive plants on public and FCPA property.
 - OSS completed 34 litter cleanups at 20 parks and 18 invasive plant removals at 12 parks, contributing 200 hours of labor.
- Served on the Technical Advisory Committee for the development of the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries Wildlife Viewing Plan and reviewed, commented, and completed the final draft.
- Served as a steering committee member of the National Capital Region Partnership for Invasive Species Management (DCR PRISM)
- Served as a board member of the Mid-Atlantic Invasive Plant Council (MAIPC)
- Was awarded a grant from the National Environmental Education Foundation for invasive plant treatment and outreach
- Participated in a collaborative workshop with the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation's Natural Heritage Program. Finalized a Memorandum of Understanding between the two agencies.
- Finalized the MOU with Urban Forestry's Forest Pest Branch. Submitted draft MOUs to Land Development Services and the Health Department's Disease Carrying Insect Program to establish guidance for work and studies on FCPA properties.

FY 2022 Plans

- Continue addressing citizen inquiries on an as needed basis.
- Continue the IMA program operations at, at least, 60 sites and encouraging volunteer-based stewardship.
- Continue to support and provide training for Operation Stream Shield.
- Continue partnering the FCPD to remove white-tailed deer on suitable park lands and work to support efforts to monitor the spread of chronic wasting disease.
- Continue to foster partnerships with state, regional, private, non-profit, and county organizations.
- Continue to assess small-scale, citizen science projects for potential agency-wide expansion.
- Finalize MOUs with Land Development Services and the Health Department.