



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: Laura Grape, Division Director, Resource Management

DATE: January 6, 2023

Agenda

**Resource Management Committee
(Committee of the Whole)
Wednesday, January 11, 2023 – 6:00 pm
Virtual
Chairman: Kiel Stone
Vice Chair: Linwood Gorham**

1. Natural Resource Management Plan – FY 2022 Accomplishments and FY 2023 Implementation Plan (with presentation) – Information*
2. Cultural Resource Management Plan – FY 2022 Accomplishments and FY 2023 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
January 11, 2023

INFORMATION (with presentation)

Natural Resource Management Plan – FY 2022 Accomplishments and FY 2023 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 eighth full year of the NRMP. This presentation will highlight the NRMP, the FY 2023 implementation plan and FY 2022 accomplishments. In FY 2022 work was accomplished on all four management themes.

ENCLOSED DOCUMENTS:

Attachment 1: Natural Resource Management Plan - FY 2022 Accomplishments FY 2023 Implementation Plan

STAFF:

Jai Cole, Executive Director
Sara Baldwin, Deputy Director/COO
Aimee Vosper, Deputy Director/CBO
Brendon Hanafin, Director, Planning and Development Division
Dan Sutherland, Acting Director, Park Operations Division
Cindy Walsh, Director, Park Services Division
Laura Grape, Director, Resource Management Division
John Burke, Manager, Natural Resource Management Branch

**Natural Resource Management Plan
FY 2022 Accomplishments
FY 2023 Implementation Plan**

The Natural Resources Branch (NRB) continued to support the Fairfax County Park Authority Natural Resources Management Plan in FY 2022 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.

NRMP Program

FY 2022 Accomplishments

- Continued to populate natural resource geodatabases with updated information on natural communities, plants, RTE wildlife, restorations, bamboo patches, and other important natural features.
- Received final draft of approval the Virginia Natural Heritage Natural Areas Registry at Huntley Meadows Park
- Started five ecological restoration projects at four parks; continued to implement eight ecological restoration projects at six parks.
- Submitted budget proposal and framework for Natural Resource Maintenance Program and subsequently awarded funding for the development of the Landscape Legacy and Sustainability Program
- Grants:
 - Trees for Clean Water: Awarded
- EIP Funding:
 - Green Spring Gardens Bog Restoration: Awarded
 - Meadow Restorations, Green Spring Gardens and Lake Fairfax Park: Awarded
 - Additional Funding for IMA Program: Awarded
- Implemented spotted lantern fly host tree control (tree-of-heaven) through the Forest Pest Branch's Pest Funding at Laurel Hill Park and Blake Lane Park.
- Re-established FY23 funding for tree-of-heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*) control through the Forest Pest Branch's Pest Funding
- Began a rare animal study in partnership with the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute.

FY 2023 Plans

- Hire staff, identify an equipment storage site, purchase equipment, and build the Landscape Legacy and Sustainability program to support the long-term investments in natural capital on parkland.
- Finalize survey work in support of the Northern Area Natural Resource Management Plan and begin writing the plan.
- Implementation of Natural Area Registry at Huntley Meadows Park and pursue alternative protective measures for the site.
- Continue to populate the geodatabase model with important natural features.
- Continue to implement the ecological restoration projects at approved parks.
- Continue field data collection and development of the Northern Area Natural Resource Management Plan.
- Begin an agency-wide list of potential mitigation sites.
- Continue implementation of spotted lantern fly and tree-of-heaven control.

- Continue rare animal survey with Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute partners.

Inventory and Planning

FY 2022 Accomplishments

- Surveyed approximately 489.9 acres of parkland 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 24 parks and 208 survey plots for deer browse impacts.
- Classified and mapped 1,213 acres of natural vegetation communities at fourteen parks.
 - 304 acres at ten parks were determined to be rare natural communities (S-rank of S3 or lower).
- Continued systematic surveying for selected rare, threatened, and endangered species.
 - 85 rare plant occurrences were documented, the majority found in previously unknown locations
 - Two species of rare bats documented
 - The Virginia Natural Heritage Program began rare animal surveys throughout parks in the Northern Region of Fairfax County as part of the NRMP. Results will be reported in FY23
- Completion of the Western Area Natural Resources Management Plan documented many taxa 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
 - 3 state listed endangered animal species documented in FCPA Parks
 - 6 state rare animal species were documented in FCPA Parks
 - 7 vulnerable and watch listed species were documented
 - 9 species of bats including 2 rare species and 1 watchlisted species
 - 88 species of bees, 42 species of butterflies, 152 species of moths, 39 species of dragonfly & damselflies and 5 species of freshwater mussels
 - 218 non-native invasive plant species
 - Recommendations for ecosystem restoration and land acquisition
- Continued field confirmation of probable vernal pool GIS data layer, 48 vernal pools confirmed in Northern Region parks.

FY 2023 Plans

- Continue resurvey of park lands using the Non-Native Assessment Protocol method to monitor trends and inform agency decision making dataset of non-native invasive vegetation species. Park lands will be resurveyed approximately every ten 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 four years to ensure that treatments are effective, and goals and objectives are achieved.

- White-tail deer population density surveys will continue to be implemented to inform adaptive management.
- Continue to inventory, classify, and map natural vegetation communities in Northern Fairfax County.
- Continue to build capacity for rare, threatened, and endangered species survey and monitoring.
- Continue bat surveys with mist netting and bat acoustic recorders.

Protecting Natural Capital

FY 2022 Accomplishments

- Reviewed 45 development plans to avoid adverse impacts to natural resources.
- Served on 5 park project teams to ensure that the agency-wide NRMP is being implemented on Park Authority projects.
- Provided technical assistance for 10 encroachments on park lands.
- Provided technical assistance for 5 easement actions on park lands.
- Provided technical assistance for 20 Department of Public Works and Environmental Services (DPWES) projects on park lands.
- Conducted site assessments for 6 potential land acquisitions.
- Reviewed 30 permit requests for restricted activities in natural areas.

FY 2023 Plans

- Continue to review development plans for adverse impacts to park lands, as needed.
- Continue to serve on park project teams for FY 2023.
- 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 advocate for agency-wide list and GIS data layer for potential mitigation sites.

Managing Wild Populations and Restoring Ecosystems

FY 2022 Accomplishments

- Treated ~500 acres for invasive vegetation.
- Completed 312 invasive species treatment plans on 5,373 acres at 47 parks.
- The Deer Management Program removed 684 white-tailed deer from 93 parks.
- Oiled over 500 eggs and approximately 90 Canada goose nests at parks and golf courses using best management practices.
- Implemented 70 acres of prescribed fire at six parks.
- Started implementation of five ecosystem restorations under the Helping Our Land Heal (HOLH) program: Huntley Meadows Cattail Marsh design and wetland restoration, Lake Fairfax meadow restoration, Greenspring Gardens Meadow Restoration, Greenspring Gardens magnolia bog restoration, Laurel Hill Park spotted lantern fly host tree control and forest restoration.
- 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, Poplar Ford EIP FY21 meadow restoration.

- Confirmed continued breeding use of Elklick Preserve grassland restoration project site for Species of Greatest Conservation Need, grasshopper sparrows, and the survival of rare plant installations of Torrey's mountain mint, Torrey's rush, and stiff goldenrod.

FY 2023 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: OCPP, Elklick Preserve, Huntley Meadows, Laurel Hill, Frying Pan Farm Park, Lake Fairfax Park, Green Spring Gardens and ECLP.
- Utilize recommendations from the Western Area Natural Resource Management Plan to inform future HOLH projects, rare species monitoring, habitat management, and prescribed burn activities.
- Develop and submit a budget proposal for the creation of a running bamboo management task force within NRB to fund bamboo removal in accordance with the Fairfax County Running Bamboo Ordinance.

Fostering Stewardship and Expanding Natural Capital

FY 2022 Accomplishments

- Addressed an estimated 767 citizen inquiries regarding natural resources on parklands.
- 3,000 volunteers donated 16,404 hours removing non-native invasive vegetation at 65 sites. The total volunteer hours since the Invasive Management (IMA) program inception is 111,236 hours.
- 18 new Invasive Management Area Volunteer Site Leaders joined the IMA Program for a total of 73 IMA Volunteer Site Leaders.
- IMA Program staff initiated the Tree Rescuers volunteer opportunity with four new Tree Rescuers, contributing 34 hours.
- IMA Volunteers planted 450 trees, 317 shrubs and 4,066 herbaceous plants.
- 545 FCPD volunteers donated 37,778 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 \$925,561 in FY 2022 and \$9,013,305 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 2022.
- Fostered partnerships with state, regional, private, non-profit, and county organizations to include:

- 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, Urban Forestry, APP, FCPD 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;
- Plant NoVA Natives
- George Mason University
- Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute
- Ducks Unlimited
- Disseminated 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 72 invasive plant removals at 14 parks, contributing 288 hours of labor.
- 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)
- Submitted the final report for the 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 and the Health Department's Disease Carrying Insect Program to streamline access for their activities on FCPA property.
- Submitted draft MOU to Land Development Services to establish guidance for work and studies on FCPA properties.

FY 2023 Plans

- Continue addressing citizen inquiries on an as needed basis and provide a high level of service for development plan review.

- Contribute to the Active Fairfax review of trail development countywide and provide input on avoiding significant natural features.
- Continue the IMA program operations at, at least, 65 sites, support the Tree Rescuer volunteers and encourage volunteer-based stewardship.
- Submit a proposal for increased EIP funding for FY24 for the IMA Program. Increased funds will be used to recruit additional staff on the IMA Team to respond to community demand, and train 15 new IMA Volunteer Site Leaders.
- Continue to support and provide training for Operation Stream Shield.
- Continue partnering with 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 including vernal pool population surveys and eBird assessments.
- Support the Trapa Task Force team in efforts to reduce the spread of *Trapa bispinosa* (also known as Two-horned water chestnut) throughout the county.
- Finalize MOU with LDS for permitting process for restorations and natural resources work.
- Establish and implement a Bamboo Prioritization Protocol for selecting bamboo removal projects in accordance with the Fairfax County Running Bamboo Ordinance.

Board Agenda Item
January 11, 2023

INFORMATION (with presentation)

Cultural Resource Management Plan – FY 2022 Accomplishments and FY 2023 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 sixteenth full year of the CRMP. This presentation will highlight the CRMP, the FY 2023 implementation plan and FY 2022 accomplishments. In FY 2022, work was accomplished on all three management themes. Areas of emphasis for FY 2023 include completing planned activities while maintaining existing service levels.

ENCLOSED DOCUMENTS:

Attachment 1: Cultural Resource Management Plan - FY 2022 Accomplishments FY 2023 Implementation Plan

STAFF:

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Cindy Walsh, Director, Park Services Division

Elizabeth Crowell, Manager, Archaeology and Collections Branch

David Buchta, Manager, Heritage Conservation Branch

**Cultural Resource Management Plan
FY 2022 Accomplishments
FY 2023 Implementation Plan**

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 2022, 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 Heritage Conservation Branch accomplished the following:

- The Park Authority completed its sixteenth full year of the County-wide Cultural Resource Management Plan (NRMP), 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.

Inventory and Planning

FY 2022 Accomplishments- ACB/HCB

- Conducted 291 Development plan reviews and reviewed reports resulting from Development Plan Review (ACB; HCB)
- Worked with Land Acquisition on the acquisition of Fairfax Arms at Colchester, a National Register listed resource with high archaeological potential (ACB; HCB).
- Assisted Planning and Development with 6 potential Land Acquisition projects (ACB; HCB)
- Worked with Mount Vernon developing plans for an archaeological survey for Union Farm (ACB).
- Served on a team with County Department of Planning and Development for the National Register listing of Pride of Fairfax in Gum Springs (ACB).
- Worked with the History Commission and County Planning and Development on African American History Inventory (ACB).
- In process of updating 10% of sites recorded within Fairfax County to improve state data (ACB)
- Implementation of digital in-field data collection underway (ACB)
- Began HSR/Treatment Plans for Union Farm and Fairfax Arms (HCB)
- Assessment of Merrybrook/Radcliffe House- new acquisition (HCB)
- Resident Curator Program (RCP) - Ellmore Farmhouse Lease/Construction (HCB)
- RCP- Margaret White Gardens- Process completed and application received (HCB)
- Ash Grove, Lamond and Margaret White Gardens- EIP project completed (windows/doors/insulation (120K)
- RCP- Total curator investment near 1,000,000 (Four sites under lease)
- Nine Historic Site Volunteer Corp (HSVC) events completed at historic sites with more than 50 volunteers attending

FY 2023 Plans

- Continue to conduct development plan review to identify and document archaeological resources and review resulting reports (ACB; HCB)
- Work with Park Authority Land Acquisition to provide information on the archaeological potential of potential acquisition parcels (ACB; HCB)

- Implementing Countywide Cemetery Survey (ACB)
- Working with County Department of Planning and Development on African American Resource Inventory Survey (ACB)
- Work with County Department of Planning and Development on Countywide Projects (ACB)
- Working with Heritage Resource Survey of Gum Springs (ACB)
- Continue to update site data in VCRIS (ACB; HCB)
- Develop computerized cemetery app (ACB)
- Advertise additional RCP sites (Mt. Gilead, Barrett House and Dranesville Tavern) (HCB)

Management and Protection

FY 2022 Accomplishments

- Completed fieldwork as part of the comprehensive 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 (ACB).
- Work with Park Authority Planning and Development on Patriot Park (ACB; HCB).
- Continued to update archaeological collections, to improve conditions and prepare for the eventual move to the proposed new Collections Facility (ACB).
- Deaccessioned Archaeological Collections belonging to the Department of the Army from Fort Belvoir. They were relocated to Fort Lee (ACB).
- Worked with the Collections Facility Team on the conceptual development plan for the proposed Collections Facility (ACB; HCB).
- Assisted Park Authority site staff with archaeology associated with the placement of park amenities such as benches, signs, trails, etc. (ACB; HCB)
- Continued to serve on team for Lake Accotink Dredging (ACB)
- Oak Hill Day- Staff worked with multiple agencies and BOS for conservation easement event (ACB; HCB)
- National Park Service (NPS) MOA- HCB project with Park Operations

FY 2023 Plans

- Conduct analysis and report preparation for Riverbend Park. (ACB)
- Archaeological investigation at Lahey Lost Valley prior to foundation repairs (ACB; HCB).
- Kickoff archaeological investigation at Fairfax Arms (ACB)
- Continue to work with the Resident Curator program to ensure the identification, evaluation, and documentation of archaeological resources (ACB; HCB)
- Continue to work with Park staff on Cultural Resource issues (ACB; HCB)
- Continue to serve on Park and Countywide teams (ACB; HCB).
- Continue to update archaeological collections, to improve conditions, and prepare for the eventual move to the proposed new Collections Facility (ACB; HCB).
- 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 (ACB; HCB).
- Continue to complete outstanding archaeological reports (ACB)
- Work with Gum Springs Historical Society CAP (ACB).

- Continue to update our GIS and computerized documentation for archaeological resources (ACB).
- NPS Historic Preservation projects at premiere FCPA sites (Sully, Green Spring, Colvin Run) (HCB)

Stewardship Education
FY 2022 Accomplishments

- Addressed well more than 1000 citizen inquiries on archaeological and cultural resources (ACB; HCB)
- The Archaeology and Collections Branch and Heritage Conservation Branch 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
 - Fairfax County Planning Commission
 - Friends Groups
 - 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
 - Council of Virginia Archaeologists
 - Society of Architectural Historians
 - American Planners Association
 - American Institute of Architects
 - Fort Belvoir
 - The Bureau of Land Management
 - The American Alliance of Museums
 - The Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority
 - The National Park Service
 - National Park Service- Historic Preservation Training Center
 - Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
 - The National Trust for Historic Preservation
 - Association for Preservation Technology International
 - Association for Preservation Technology International- DC Region
 - Virginia Department of Historic Resources
- Conducted internal training, 2x/month to instruct newly hired staff and to deepen knowledge base (ACB)
- Conduct outreach to elementary schools for career day (ACB)

- Prepared Public Outreach Content for the Public Information Office for Black History Month, Women's History Month, Archaeology Month (ACB)
- Prepared content for ArtiFACTs (ACB)
- Continued to produce the County Archaeology Research Team (CART) blog (ACB)
- Worked with historic sites on Outreach activities (ACB; HCB)
- Staff organized and made (virtual) presentations at the Archaeology symposium at Gunston Hall, and at the Archeological Society of Virginia annual meeting, among others.
- Staff attended the monthly FOFA meetings (ACB)
- Assisted History Commission with County History Conference (ACB)
- ACB and HCB staff attends monthly History Commission meetings and ARB meetings, as needed (ACB; HCB)

FY 2023 Plans

- Continue addressing citizen inquiries (ACB; HCB)
- Working with Sully Historic Sites to conduct archaeology prior to the installation of interpretive signage on trails (ACB)
- Continue to promote archaeology through outreach activities (ACB)
- Working with the History Commission for annual history conference (ACB).
- Sponsor cemetery workdays to interpret this resource (ACB)
- Working with sites to conduct outreach activities (ACB)
- Continue to work with partner agencies (ACB; HCB)
- Working with Gunston Hall and FOFA on annual symposium (ACB)
- Working on annual FOFA symposium (ACB)
- Participating in local, regional, state, and national conferences (ACB; HCB)
- Continue to support the History Commission and the ARB (ACB; HCB)
- Continue to develop interpretive content that supports the One Fairfax initiative (ACB; HCB)



Resource Management Natural and Cultural Heritage Reports

January 11, 2023



CART
County Archaeological
Research Team









Resource Management Recent Changes

New Leadership!

New Organization
Structure

Our First Pandemic

Community-wide
Energy and Climate
Action Plan (CECAP)

Countywide
Strategic Plan

Resilient Fairfax
(Climate Action and
Resilience Plan)

Bamboo Ordinance

AAM
Reaccreditation

PROSA

Natural Resource Management Plan Annual Report



JANUARY 11, 2023

NRMP Tenets

1. **Know what we have**

- Inventory and Planning

2. **Do no harm**

- Protecting Natural Capital

3. **Help our land heal**

- Managing Wild Populations and Restoring Ecosystems

4. **Spread the word**

- Stewardship and Expanding Natural Capital

5. ***Sustain and Maintain***

- *Support FCPA's Investments in Natural Capital*

Western Area Documentation

- Documentation and mapping of plant species:
- 1,025 species observed and recorded
- 15 rare species documented
- 16 species never before documented in Fairfax County
- 2 species never before documented in Virginia
- 218 non-native invasive plant species documented

Trifolium reflexum (Buffalo Clover) at Poplar Ford Park.

Managing Wild Populations and Restoring Ecosystems

- ~500 acres treated for invasive, non-native vegetation
- 684 white-tailed deer harvested from 93 parks
- 90 Canada goose nests oiled, over 500 eggs
- 70 acres of prescribed fire implemented at six parks
- Ecosystem restoration projects in progress:
 - 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 Wetland Restoration
 - Poplar Ford EIP FY21 meadow restoration

...helping our land heal.





Ellick Preserve

Forest Restoration Project



Huntley Meadows

Wetland Restoration



Poplar Ford Park

Native Grassland Restoration

A grassland ecosystem restoration began at Poplar Ford Park in 2014. The project was part of the countywide ecological restoration program called Helping Our Land Heal. Grasslands were historically common in Virginia and maintained by disturbances such as fire and grazing. Since European settlement, grasslands and their characteristic biota have become increasingly rare.

WHY is restoration needed?

Invasive shrubs and grasses dominated this area before the project began. Diversity of native plants was low, and habitat quality for wildlife was poor.



Restoration GOALS

The project goal was to restore a type of native Virginia grassland, known as a Piedmont Prairie, in order to provide habitat for rare plants, native pollinators, and grassland birds.

Restoration METHODS

Restoration methods included mowing, tillage, invasive species removal, prescribed fire, and seeding. Once restoration is complete, the grasslands are periodically burned in order to maintain high-quality habitat and prevent shrub invasion.



Restoration OUTCOMES

The project at Poplar Ford Park succeeded in restoring 54 acres of native grassland. The grasslands contain a diverse assemblage of native plants that bloom throughout the growing season, providing important resources for wildlife. Grassland specialist birds have been observed breeding in the restored grasslands.



Poplar Ford

Meadow Restoration Project

Fostering Stewardship and Expanding Natural Capital



- 16,404 volunteer hours removing non-native, invasive vegetation
- 37,778 FCPD volunteer hours harvesting white-tailed deer
- 767 (estimated) customer inquiries addressed
- 22 Partnerships fostered with federal, state, regional, private, non-profit, and county organizations
 - George Mason University
 - Operation Stream Shield
 - Fairfax County Police Department
 - Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute



...spreading the word.



Big Changes in FY23

- Landscape Legacy and Sustainability Program
- Fairfax County Bamboo Ordinance
- Spotted Lanternfly and tree-of-heaven control
- Northern Area Natural Resources Management Plan
- New and continuing restorations
 - o Huntley Meadows – Wetland Restorations
 - o Greenspring Gardens – Magnolia Bog
 - o Lake Fairfax - Meadow
 - o Justice Park – Invasive Management
 - o Others...

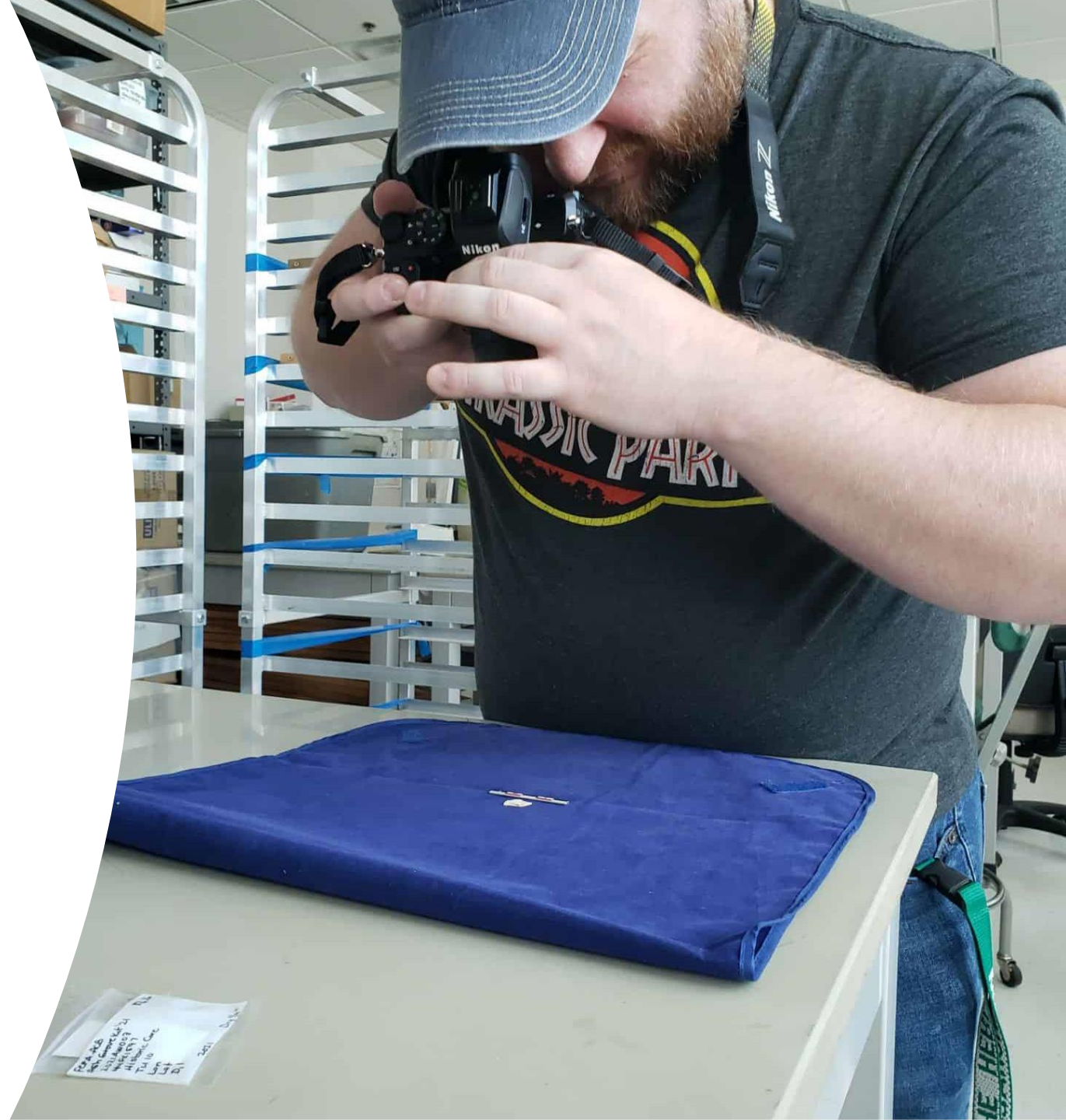


Cultural Resource Management Plan

- **Archaeology and Collections Branch**
- **FY 2022 Accomplishments**
- **FY 2023 Implementation Plan**

FY 2022 ACB Accomplishments Inventory and Planning

- Conducted 291 Plan Reviews and reviewed resulting reports
- Worked with Land Acquisition to acquire *Fairfax Arms* which has high archaeological potential.
- Collaborated with Mount Vernon planning archaeological survey for Union Farm.
- Served on a team for the National Register listing of *Pride of Fairfax* in Gum Springs.
- Worked on the History Commission African American History Inventory.
- In-field digital data collection underway.



FY 2022 ACB Accomplishments

Management and Protection

- Completed fieldwork for the comprehensive survey of Riverbend Park
- Working with Park Authority PDD with archaeology and cemeteries at Patriot Park.
- Continued to update archaeological collections, to improve conditions and prepare for the eventual move to the proposed new Collections Facility.
- Deaccessioned Archaeological Collections from Fort Belvoir, for relocation to Fort Lee .
- Worked with the Collections Facility Team on the conceptual development plan for the proposed Collections Facility



FY 2022 ACB Accomplishments

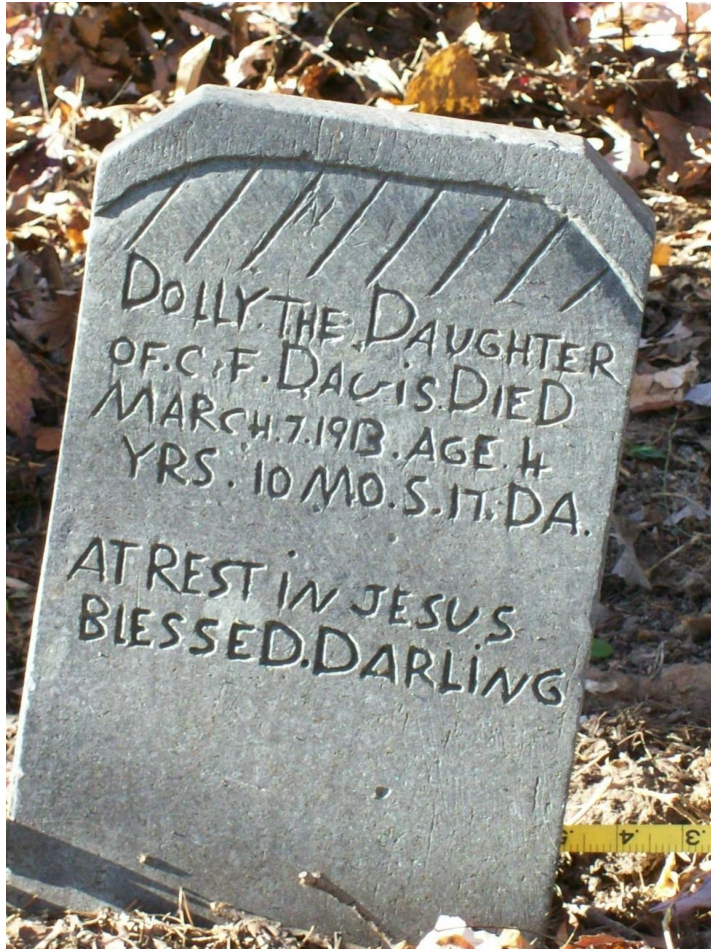
Stewardship Education

- Addressed more than 1000 citizen inquiries
- The Archaeology and Collections Branch worked with partner organizations including:
 - Friends Groups, the Sully Foundation
 - Boards and Commissions
 - Mount Vernon, Gunston Hall, Historic Alexandria
 - Federal, state, and local historical and archaeological organizations
 - Federal, state and local agencies
 - AAM
- Prepared content for PIO for Black History Month, Women's History Month, and Archaeology Month, among others
- Prepared content for ArtiFACTs and the CART blog
- Organized and made presentations at Gunston Hall and the ASV annual meeting .
- Staff attended the monthly FOFA meetings (ACB)
- Assisted History Commission with County History Conference (ACB)
- ACB staff attends monthly History Commission meetings and ARB meetings, as needed (ACB)



FY 2023 ACB Implementation Plan

Inventory and Planning



- Continue to conduct development plan review and land acquisition review
- Implementing Countywide Cemetery Survey
- Working with County Department of Planning and Development on African American Resource Inventory Survey
- Working with Heritage Resource Survey of Gum Springs
- Continue to update site data in VCRIS (ACB)

FY 2023 ACB Implementation Plan

Management and Protection



- Riverbend analysis and report preparation
- Archaeological investigation at Lahey Lost Valley prior to foundation repairs
- Kickoff archaeological investigation at Fairfax Arms
- Work with Gum Springs Historical Society on CAP.
- Continue to work with the Resident Curator program to document archaeological resources
- Continue to improve collections' conditions and prepare for move to the proposed new Collections Facility.
- Work with other County agencies 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.

FY 2023 ACB Accomplishments

Stewardship Education

- Working with Sully Historic Sites to conduct archaeology prior to the installation of interpretive signage on trail
- Continue to promote archaeology through outreach activities
- Working with the History Commission for annual history conference.
- Sponsor cemetery workdays to interpret this resource
- Working with sites to conduct outreach activities
- Working with Gunston Hall and FOFA on annual symposium
- Working on annual FOFA 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



HCB- FY22 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Resident Curator Program



- Four leased properties, three under rehabilitation
- Stempson, Lorton (2017)
Turner Farmhouse, Great Falls (2018)
Hannah P. Clark/ Enyedi, Lorton (2019)
Ellmore Farmhouse, Herndon (2021)
- Ongoing expense tracking, project review, annual maintenance inspections
- \$650k total curator investment to date
- Ellmore- County permits pending- FY23 2nd quarter- 700K



HCB- FY22 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Resident Curator Program – FY2022 Before & After



Turner Milk House

- Repair/replace windows & doors
- Repair/ paint interior walls
- Repair/paint exterior walls
- Clean/paint roof
- ADA accessible

Turner Farmhouse Deck



HCB- FY22 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Resident Curator Program – FY2022 Before & After



Clark/ Enyedi Cellar

- Installed new support posts
- New 2x6s between existing peeled logs

Stempson Deck Repair



HCB- FY22 ACCOMPLISHMENTS



- White Gardens House- Application under evaluation team and administrative review
- Lamond House has 16 inquiries (14 residential, 2 schools), 2 proposals, Draft RFI- Conservation Lease under revision
- Ash Grove House EIP project- window restoration is complete



Lamond



Ash Grove



White Gardens



HCB- FY22 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- FCPA purchased Fairfax Arms (Tavern at Old Colchester) HSR/Treatment Plan in process- potential RCP
- Merrybrook/Radcliffe House- acquired by FCPA (RCP)- Historic Structure Report/Treatment Plan to begin early CY23
- FCPA purchased Union Farm/Grist Mill Park- Historic Structure Report/Treatment Plan in process- potential RCP
- Dranesville Tavern- Termite and Water Damage Restoration (400K)
- Lahey Lost Valley- Water Damage Repair & Waterproofing ongoing



Fairfax Arms



Union Farm



Merrybrook/Radcliffe House



FY2023 RCP Targets

- Mt. Gilead Advertisement- CY2023 Q2
- Waterproofing project at Lahey Lost Valley to prepare for re-advertisement
- Possible Ash Grove re-advertisement, Barrett advertisement
- Ellmore Farmhouse rehabilitation completed
- Reach one million dollars total of resident curator investment



Mt Gilead



Ash Grove



Ellmore Farmhouse

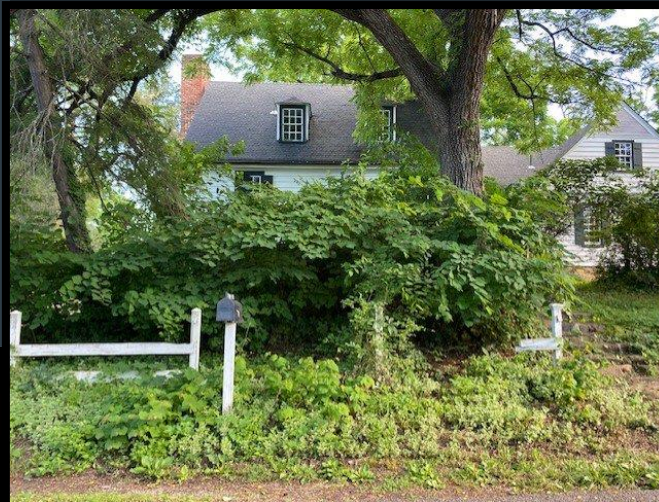


HCB- FY22 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Site clean-up projects FY2022 (Highlights)
 - April – Laurel Hill Feed and Dairy Barn
 - June- Fairfax Arms
 - August- Union Farm
 - September- Union Farm
 - November- Merrybrook
- As of November 2022, over 50 volunteers have dedicated 156.57 hours to HSVC projects.
- Volunteers help to remove invasive plants, overgrowth, and clearing trails for public use.



Above is a group photo of volunteers at Union Farm.



Left is a before image of Fairfax Arms.

Right is an after image of Fairfax Arms.



Volunteers cleaning up debris at Laurel Hill.



CMP- HCB FY2023 Plans

- NPS Historic Preservation projects at premiere FCPA sites (Sully, Green Spring, Colvin Run)
- 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 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



Colvin Run



Green Spring

