

Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority (NVRPA)

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority (NVRPA) was founded in 1959 under the Virginia Park Authorities Act. Currently there are six jurisdictional members: the counties of Arlington, Fairfax and Loudoun and the cities of Alexandria, Fairfax and Falls Church. The NVRPA's mission is to *enhance the communities of Northern Virginia and enrich the lives of their citizens through the conservation of regional natural and cultural resources. It provides diverse regional recreational and educational opportunities, and fosters an understanding of the relationships between people and their environment.* Regional parks supplement local facilities, and are distinguished from county and local parks in that they are designed to appeal to and serve the broad-based population of the entire Northern Virginia region, or may be of a size or scope that a single jurisdiction could not undertake alone. The Washington and Old Dominion (W&OD) Railroad Regional Park, which extends from Alexandria through Arlington, Falls Church, Fairfax and Loudoun, is an example of a project that has region-wide characteristics.

The NVRPA now owns 10,322 acres of land, of which more than 7,700 acres are in Fairfax County. The Regional Parks system serves a population of 1.7 million people. Parklands within the system include: Aldie Mill Historic Park, Blue Ridge, Bull Run, Bull Run Marina, Fountainhead, Sandy Run, Pohick Bay, Carlyle House Historic Park, Potomac Overlook, Upton Hill, Algonkian, Red Rock, the W&OD Trail, Occoquan, Hemlock Overlook, Cameron Run, Gateway, Meadowlark Botanical Gardens, Ball's Bluff, Temple Hall and Brambleton Regional Parks.

In its conservation role, NVRPA is involved in implementing portions of the Environmental Quality Corridors concept, which defines an open space land system designated for long-term protection in the County. In this role, NVRPA places emphasis on acquisition of the shoreline properties along the Potomac, Bull Run and Occoquan Rivers, while the Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA) concentrates on acquiring land along the County's interior stream valleys.

LINK TO THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Fairfax County's Comprehensive Plan has established a number of objectives and policies in order to:

- ✓ Plan, acquire, develop and maintain regional parks in conjunction with other public providers to provide a balance of quality recreation opportunities with the protection and preservation of natural and cultural resources.
- ✓ Endorse the efforts of the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority to carry out a long-range open space plan for Northern Virginia, through a cooperative system of regional parks, to supplement and enhance local park systems in Northern Virginia.

Source: 2007 Edition of the Fairfax County Comprehensive Plan, as amended

CURRENT PROGRAM INITIATIVES

Since FY 2004, the NVRPA has received \$19,072,828 in support from its regional membership jurisdictions, plus an additional \$11,539,209 in grants, donations and miscellaneous revenue, representing an actual program level of \$30,612,037. Accomplishments during recent years include: renovations at the Algonkian Regional Park Meeting and Event Center; the development of family aquatic centers at Upton Hill and Pohick Bay Regional Parks; launch of the Occoquan Water Trail on Bull Run, the Occoquan Reservoir and Potomac River in Fairfax County; upgrades to the Bull Run Regional Park campground; improvement to the sporting clays course at the Bull Run Shooting Center; expansion and renovations to the Bull Run Special Events Center; acquisition and development of the Bull Run Festival of Lights; Bull Run Marina boat launch ramp replacement; a new shelter and restroom renovations at Potomac Overlook Regional Park; roof replacement on the historic Carlyle House; installation of new playgrounds at five park locations; acquisition of Aldie Mill Historic Park and renovation of the miller's house; trail widening, bridge deck improvements, new wayside shelters and equipment storage, embankment restoration, and new trailhead facility on the Washington & Old Dominion Railroad Regional Park; installation of new splash pad and aquatic play features, new event shelter, snack bar renovations and mini-golf upgrades at Cameron Run Regional Park; new crew dock at Sandy Run Regional Park; addition of new trail segments and bridges on the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail; and on-going renovations and upgrades to existing roads, parking and restroom facilities.



Pirates Cove at Pohick Bay Regional Park

A portion of the capital improvement program includes the repair and renovation of existing and aging facilities, such as roof replacements, road repairs, replacement of mechanical systems and similar work to preserve and repair existing facilities. Additional elements of the CIP include land acquisition, expansion of existing facilities and new features to meet the needs of the region.

Funds from Fairfax County to support the Regional Park Authority's capital improvement program have historically come from General Obligation Bonds. Fairfax County voters approved a bond program in the fall of 2008, a portion of which will fund Fairfax County's share of the Authority's capital request for park acquisition and development. NVRPA's Capital Fund revenues consist primarily of capital appropriations received from the six member jurisdictions. The amount requested from each jurisdiction is based on population figures provided by the U.S. Bureau of the Census as of July 2007. Fairfax County's contribution for FY 2010 is \$2.7 million. Funds for FY 2011 and beyond have not been formally allocated to specific projects and the following schedule lists only projects for FY 2010.

CURRENT PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS

1. **Algonkian Regional Park (Loudoun County).** \$40,000 to plan and design the event center catering kitchen renovations and to develop a primitive camping area for Potomac Heritage Trail users and paddlers.
2. **Bull Run Regional Park (Fairfax County).** \$60,000 for new seasonal event display and first aid shelter at events center.
3. **Cameron Run Regional Park (Alexandria).** \$75,000 to replace batting cage equipment.
4. **Headquarters (Fairfax County).** \$80,000 for automated systems and building HVAC renovations.
5. **Hemlock Overlook Regional Park (Fairfax County).** \$10,000 for building improvements.
6. **Meadowlark Botanical Gardens (Fairfax County).** \$30,000 for storm drainage improvements and Atrium renovations.
7. **Occoquan Regional Park (Fairfax County).** \$825,000 for master planning, design and development of new park facilities.
8. **Potomac Overlook (Arlington County).** \$10,000 for maintenance shed renovations and expansion.
9. **Sandy Run Regional Park (Fairfax County).** \$50,000 to extend boathouse to provide outdoor covered exercise space for rowers.
10. **Temple Hall Regional Park (Loudoun County).** \$60,000 for improvements to corn maze and festival facilities.
11. **W&OD Railroad Regional Park (Fairfax, Arlington, Loudoun Counties, Cities of Fairfax and Falls Church).** \$500,000 for widening and resurfacing asphalt trail and other trail enhancements.
12. **White's Ford Regional Park (Loudoun County).** \$350,000 for planning and development of new park facilities.
13. **Land Acquisition (Region-wide).** \$600,000 for land and easement purchase.
14. **Vehicles and Equipment (Region-wide).** \$600,000 for vehicles and capital equipment at all parks, central maintenance and headquarters.
15. **Project Support and Miscellaneous Improvements (Region-wide).** \$1,275,000 for new facilities, renovations, ADA improvements and energy enhancements. This category includes project management, development and capital maintenance not specifically assigned to a particular public use facility or park location.
16. **Roads and Parking (Region-wide).** \$221,572 for improving and renovating gravel and paved surfaces throughout the park system.

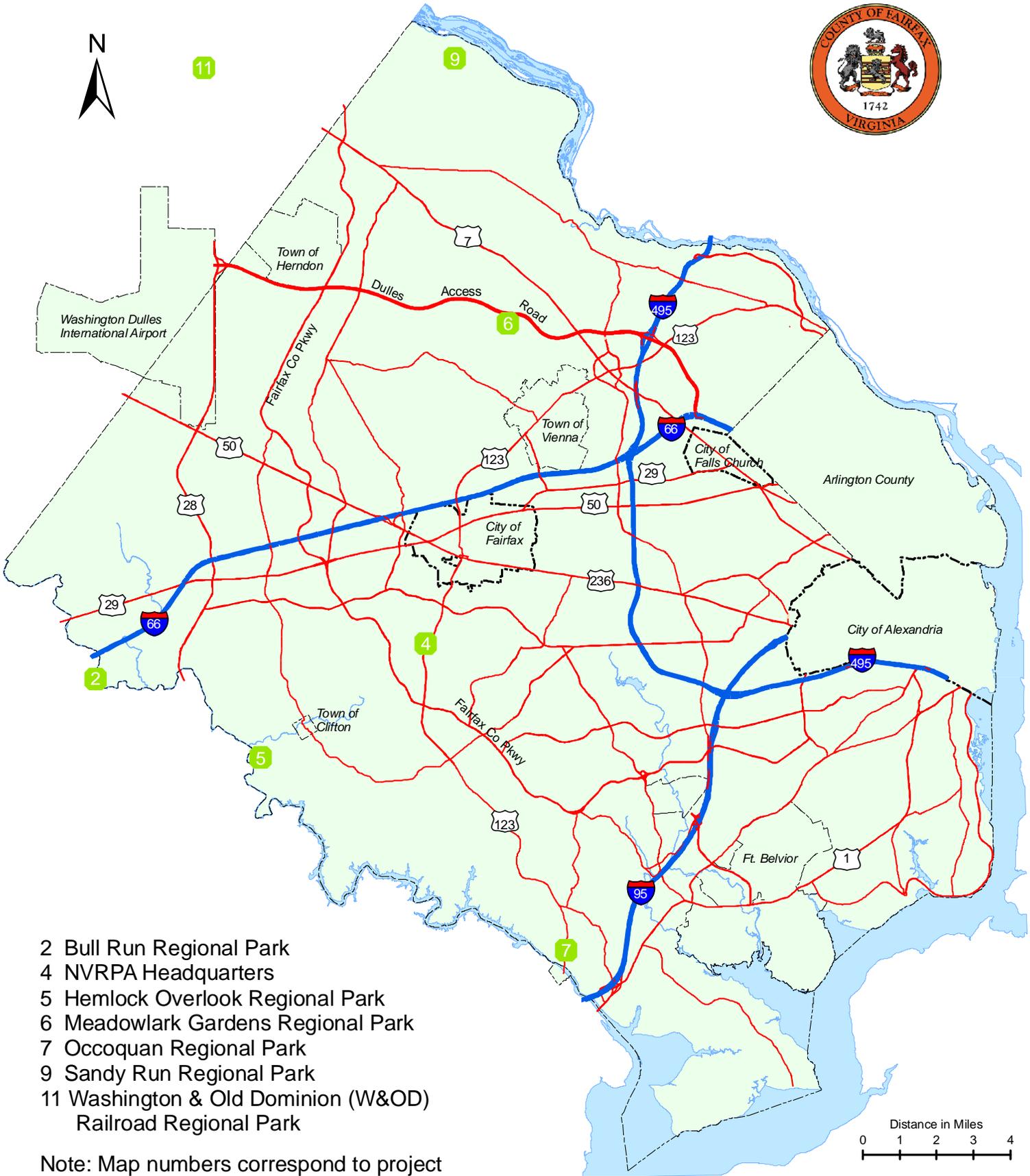
**PROJECT COST SUMMARIES
NORTHERN VIRGINIA REGIONAL PARK AUTHORITY
(\$000's)**

Project Title/ Project Number	Source of Funds	Budgeted or Expended Through FY 2009						Total FY2010-FY2014	Total FY2015-FY2019	Total Project Estimate
			FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014			
1. Algonkian Regional Park (Loudoun County)	B	C	40					40		40
2. Bull Run Regional Park (Fairfax County)	B	C	60					60		60
3. Cameron Run Regional Park (Alexandria)	B	C	75					75		75
4. Headquarters (Fairfax County)	B	C	80					80		80
5. Hemlock Overlook Regional Park (Fairfax County)	B	C	10					10		10
6. Meadowlark Botanical Gardens (Fairfax County)	B	C	30					30		30
7. Occoquan Regional Park (Fairfax County)	B	C	825					825		825
8. Potomac Overlook Regional Park (Arlington County)	B	C	10					10		10
9. Sandy Run Regional Park (Fairfax County)	B	C	50					50		50
10. Temple Hall Farm Regional Park (Loudoun County)	B	C	60					60		60
11. W&OD Railroad Regional Park (Fairfax, Arlington and Loudoun Counties, Falls Church and Fairfax Cities)	B	C	500					500		500
12. White's Ford Regional Park (Loudoun County)	B	C	350					350		350
13. Land Acquisition (Region-wide)	B	C	600					600		600
14. Vehicles and Equipment (Region-wide)	B	C	600					600		600
15. Project Support and Miscellaneous Improvements (Region-wide)	B	C	1,275					1,275		1,275
16. Roads and Parking (Region-wide)	B	C	222					222		222
TOTAL PROJECT COST			\$4,787	\$4,487	\$4,698	\$4,920	\$5,153	\$24,045	\$29,717	\$53,762
TOTAL FAIRFAX COUNTY CONTRIBUTION			\$2,700	\$2,700	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$14,400	\$16,830	\$31,230

Notes:
Funds beyond FY 2010 have not been formally allocated to specific projects.
NVRPA project funding is provided by six jurisdictions.
A "C" in the 'Budgeted or Expended' column denotes a continuing project.
Numbers in **bold italics** represent funded amounts.

Key: Source of Funds
B Bonds
G General Fund
F Federal
X Other
U Undetermined

Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority Project Locations



- 2 Bull Run Regional Park
- 4 NVRPA Headquarters
- 5 Hemlock Overlook Regional Park
- 6 Meadowlark Gardens Regional Park
- 7 Occoquan Regional Park
- 9 Sandy Run Regional Park
- 11 Washington & Old Dominion (W&OD) Railroad Regional Park

Note: Map numbers correspond to project descriptions in the text and cost summary tables. Only CIP projects with selected, fixed sites are shown on the map.