

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 Counties, is an example of a project that has region-wide characteristics.

The NVRPA now owns 10,316 acres of land, of which more than 7,700 acres are in Fairfax County. The Regional Parks system serves a population of 1.6 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 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:

- ✓ Support the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority's efforts to plan, acquire, develop, and maintain regional parks and facilities to serve the population of Northern Virginia.
- ✓ 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: 2003 Edition of the Fairfax County Comprehensive Plan, as amended

CURRENT PROGRAM INITIATIVES

Since FY 2002, the NVRPA has received \$17,796,104 in support from its regional membership jurisdictions, plus an additional \$4,609,459 in grants, donations and miscellaneous revenue, representing an actual program level of \$22,405,563. Many accomplishments during recent years include: acquisition of Aldie Mill Historic Park; visitor center renovations and a new composting restroom at Meadowlark Botanical Gardens; a new picnic/event shelter and golf course renovations at Brambleton Regional Park; installation of a new floating boat dock, and new camping cabins at Pohick Bay Regional Park; new camping cabins, addition of boat and RV storage, new specialty pool slides, picnic shelter additions and Special Event Center parking expansion at Bull Run Regional Park; batting cage improvements and installation of new water main at Occoquan Regional Park; conversion of the swimming pool to a family aquatic center, pool snack bar renovations, installation of energy-efficient HVAC system at clubhouse and expansion of event center, and construction of miniature golf course at Algonkian Regional Park; 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; addition of a fishing pier at Fountainhead 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; a new high ropes course, and picnic and meeting shelter at Hemlock Overlook; shelter and restroom renovations at Potomac Overlook; new crew dock at Sandy Run; family aquatic center upgrades at Upton Hill swimming pools; addition of new trail segments and improvements including Potomac Heritage Trail bridges and Occoquan Water Trail; and on-going renovations and upgrades to existing roads, parking and restroom facilities.



Photo of Meadowlark Botanical Gardens in Vienna, one of NVRPA's many beautiful parks.

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. Each of NVRPA's member jurisdictions' shares is proportionate to its population percentage in the region. Fairfax County voters approved a bond program in the fall of 2004 that included \$10 million, representing Fairfax County's share of the Authority's capital fund request for park acquisition and development. This referendum supports a level of \$2.5 million per year for four years. The next Fairfax County Park Bond Referendum is scheduled for fall 2008.

Funds for FY 2009 and beyond have not been formally allocated to specific projects and the following schedule lists only projects for FY 2008.

CURRENT PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS

1. **Aldie Mill Historic Park (Loudoun County).** \$80,000 to stabilize and restore the exterior of the historic Country Mill.
2. **Algonkian Regional Park (Loudoun County).** \$310,000 to expand the event center and golf course parking lot, golf course improvements, and replace parking lot lighting and fuel tanks.
3. **Brambleton Regional Park (Loudoun County).** \$30,000 for golf course improvements.
4. **Bull Run Regional Park (Fairfax County).** \$305,000 for swimming pool improvements, new seasonal event display and skating rink, and miniature golf course renovations.
5. **Carlyle House Historic Park (Alexandria).** \$250,000 for fire suppression and HVAC system upgrades and roof replacement.
6. **Fountainhead Regional Park (Fairfax County).** \$425,000 for development of new camping area.
7. **Headquarters (Fairfax County).** \$85,000 for automated systems and building renovations.
8. **Hemlock Overlook Regional Park (Fairfax County).** \$10,000 for building improvements.
9. **Meadowlark Gardens Regional Park (Fairfax County).** \$100,000 for garden development.
10. **Occoquan Regional Park (Fairfax County).** \$150,000 for expansion of boat and recreational vehicle storage.
11. **Pohick Bay Regional Park (Fairfax County).** \$230,000 for golf course improvements, swimming pool improvements, and installing public water main to existing park facilities.
12. **Upton Hill Regional Park (Fairfax and Arlington Counties).** \$150,000 for swimming pool admissions and bathhouse building renovations.
13. **W&OD Railroad Regional Park (Fairfax, Arlington, Loudoun Counties, Cities of Fairfax and Falls Church).** \$250,000 for widening and resurfacing asphalt trail and other trail enhancements.
14. **Land Acquisition (Region-wide).** \$550,000 for land and easement acquisition.
15. **Vehicles, Equipment and Miscellaneous Improvements (Region-wide).** \$559,115 for vehicles and capital equipment at all parks, central maintenance and headquarters.
16. **Project Support and Miscellaneous Improvements (Region-wide).** \$702,000 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.
17. **Roads and Parking (Region-wide).** \$237,281 for improving and renovating gravel and paved surfaces throughout the park system.



The Washington and Old Dominion (W&OD) Trail is one of the most popular and well-used trails in the NVRPA system.

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

Project Title/ Project Number	Source of Funds	Budgeted or Expended Through FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	Total FY2008-FY2012	Total FY2013-FY2017	Total Project Estimate
1. Aldie Mill Historic Park (Loudoun County)	B	C	80					80		80
2. Algonkian Regional Park (Loudoun County)	B	C	310					310		310
3. Brambleton Regional Park (Loudoun County)	B	C	30					30		30
4. Bull Run Regional Park (Fairfax County)	B	C	305					305		305
5. Carlyle House Historic Park (Alexandria)	B	C	250					250		250
6. Fountainhead Regional Park (Fairfax County)	B	C	425					425		425
7. Headquarters (Fairfax County)	B	C	85					85		85
8. Hemlock Overlook Regional Park (Fairfax County)	B	C	10					10		10
9. Meadowlark Gardens Regional Park (Fairfax County)	B	C	100					100		100
10. Occoquan Regional Park (Fairfax County)	B	C	150					150		150
11. Pohick Bay Regional Park (Fairfax County)	B	C	230					230		230
12. Upton Hill Regional Park (Fairfax and Arlington Counties)	B	C	150					150		150
13. W&OD Railroad Regional Park (Fairfax, Arlington and Loudoun Counties, Falls Church and Fairfax Cities)	B	C	250					250		250
14. Land Acquisition (Region-wide)	B	C	550					550		550
15. Vehicles, Equipment and Miscellaneous Improvements (Region-wide)	B	C	559					559		559
16. Project Support and Miscellaneous Improvements (Region-wide)	B	C	702					702		702
17. Roads and Parking (Region-wide)	B	C	237					237		237
TOTAL PROJECT COST			\$4,423	\$4,847	\$4,847	\$4,847	\$4,847	\$23,811	\$24,235	\$48,046
TOTAL FAIRFAX COUNTY CONTRIBUTION			\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$12,500	\$12,500	\$25,000

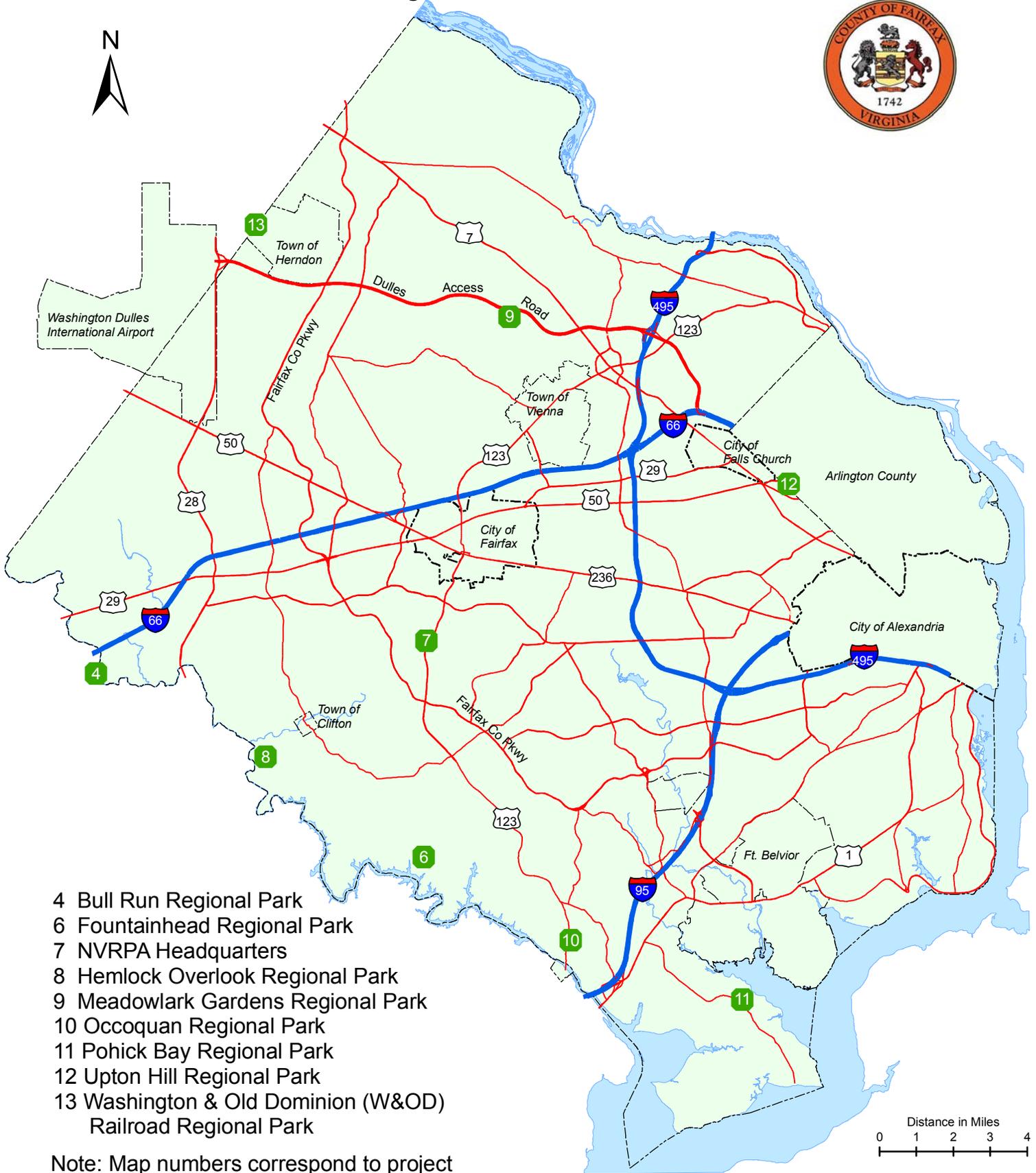
Notes:

Funds beyond FY 2008 have not been formally allocated to specific projects. NVRPA project funding is provided by six jurisdictions. Fairfax County's share is approximately 61% of the total based upon its population in the region. 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



- 4 Bull Run Regional Park
- 6 Fountainhead Regional Park
- 7 NVRPA Headquarters
- 8 Hemlock Overlook Regional Park
- 9 Meadowlark Gardens Regional Park
- 10 Occoquan Regional Park
- 11 Pohick Bay Regional Park
- 12 Upton Hill Regional Park
- 13 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.

