

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 purpose is to plan, acquire, develop and operate a system of regional parks for Northern Virginia's citizens as well as to supplement and augment local facilities. Regional parks are distinguished from county and local parks because they are designed to appeal to and serve the broad-based population of the entire Northern Virginia region and, or they include park projects which a single jurisdiction could not undertake alone. The Washington and Old Dominion Railroad Regional Park, which extends from Alexandria through Arlington, Falls Church, Fairfax and Loudoun Counties, is an example of a project which has region-wide characteristics.

The NVRPA now owns 10,256 acres of land, of which more than 7,700 acres are in Fairfax County. The Regional Parks system serves a population of 1.5 million people. Parklands within the system include: 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.

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 in its mission to plan, acquire, develop and maintain regional parks and facilities to serve the population of Northern Virginia.
- ✓ Coordinate with the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority to provide mutually beneficial active and passive recreation facilities and to develop a regional open space system.

Source: 2003 Edition of the Fairfax County Comprehensive Plan, as amended

CURRENT PROGRAM INITIATIVES

Since FY 1999, the NVRPA has received \$14,681,916 in support from its regional membership jurisdictions, plus an additional \$2,401,180 in grants, donations and miscellaneous revenue, representing an actual program level of \$17,083,096. Many accomplishments during recent years include: the development of specialty gardens and trails, and the restoration of the 18th century log cabin 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 campground upgrades at Pohick Bay

Regional Park; renovations to Pohick Bay Golf Course; acquisition of land at the park entrance, addition of boat and RV storage, pool slides, and shooting center renovations at Bull Run Regional Park; batting cage improvements at Occoquan Regional Park; conversion of the swimming pool to a water park with specialty slides and play features, installation of energy-efficient HVAC system at clubhouse/meeting center, construction of the maintenance facility, and a new paved trail system throughout Algonkian Regional Park; trail realignment and widening, and bridge and wayside improvements on the Washington & Old Dominion Railroad Regional Park; addition of a fishing pier and dock renovations at Fountainhead Regional Park; installation of new pool slides, and mini-golf renovations at Cameron Run Regional Park; a new high ropes course, and picnic and meeting shelter at Hemlock Overlook; and on-going renovations and upgrades to existing roads, parking and restroom facilities, and modification of existing features to comply with the Americans With Disabilities Act.

A portion of the capital improvement program includes the repair and renovation of existing, 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 program have historically come from General Obligation Bonds. Each of NVRPA's member jurisdictions share is proportionate to its population percentage in the region. Fairfax County voters approved a bond program in the fall of 1998 which included \$12 million, representing Fairfax County's share of the Authority's capital fund request for park acquisition and development. FY 2004 represented the last year of bond funding available from the 1998 referendum. A Park Bond Referendum for the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority is proposed for fall 2004.

NVRPA is in the process of finalizing its own Capital Improvement Program and will hold a series of public meetings on the CIP in early 2004. Since future development and acquisition projects have yet to be identified through NVRPA's typical planning and public comment process, the following schedule lists only specific projects proposed for FY 2005.

CURRENT PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS

1. **Brambleton Regional Park (Loudoun County).** \$75,000 for model park infrastructure.
2. **Bull Run Regional Park (Fairfax County).** \$600,000 for shooting center enhancements, and swimming pool renovations with an aquatic play area.
3. **Cameron Run Regional Park (Alexandria).** \$450,000 for play pool, water slide, and concession renovations.
4. **Carlyle House Historic Park (Alexandria).** \$150,000 for fire suppression and HVAC system renovations.
5. **Hemlock Overlook Regional Park (Fairfax County).** \$60,000 for a classroom building addition.
6. **Meadowlark Gardens Regional Park (Fairfax County).** \$40,000 for garden development.
7. **Occoquan Regional Park (Fairfax County).** \$100,000 for park utilities and infrastructure.
8. **Pohick Bay Regional Park (Fairfax County).** \$350,000 for golf course renovations and clubhouse improvements.
9. **Sandy Run Regional Park (Fairfax County).** \$25,000 for a new boat launch dock.
10. **Upton Hill Regional Park (Fairfax and Arlington Counties).** \$100,000 for pool renovations.
11. **W&OD Railroad Regional Park (City of Falls Church, City of Fairfax, Arlington, Fairfax and Loudoun Counties).** \$206,000 for trail resurfacing, widening, and realignment, drainage improvements, and for interpretive displays.

12. **Land Acquisition (Region-wide).** \$320,000 for acquisition of new park lands and easements.
13. **Project Support (Region-wide).** \$902,000 for new facilities, renovations, equipment and vehicle replacement. This category includes project management, development and capital equipment purchases not specifically assigned to a particular public use facility or park location.
14. **Roads & Parking (Region-wide).** \$229,000 for improving and renovating gravel and paved surfaces in all parks.

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

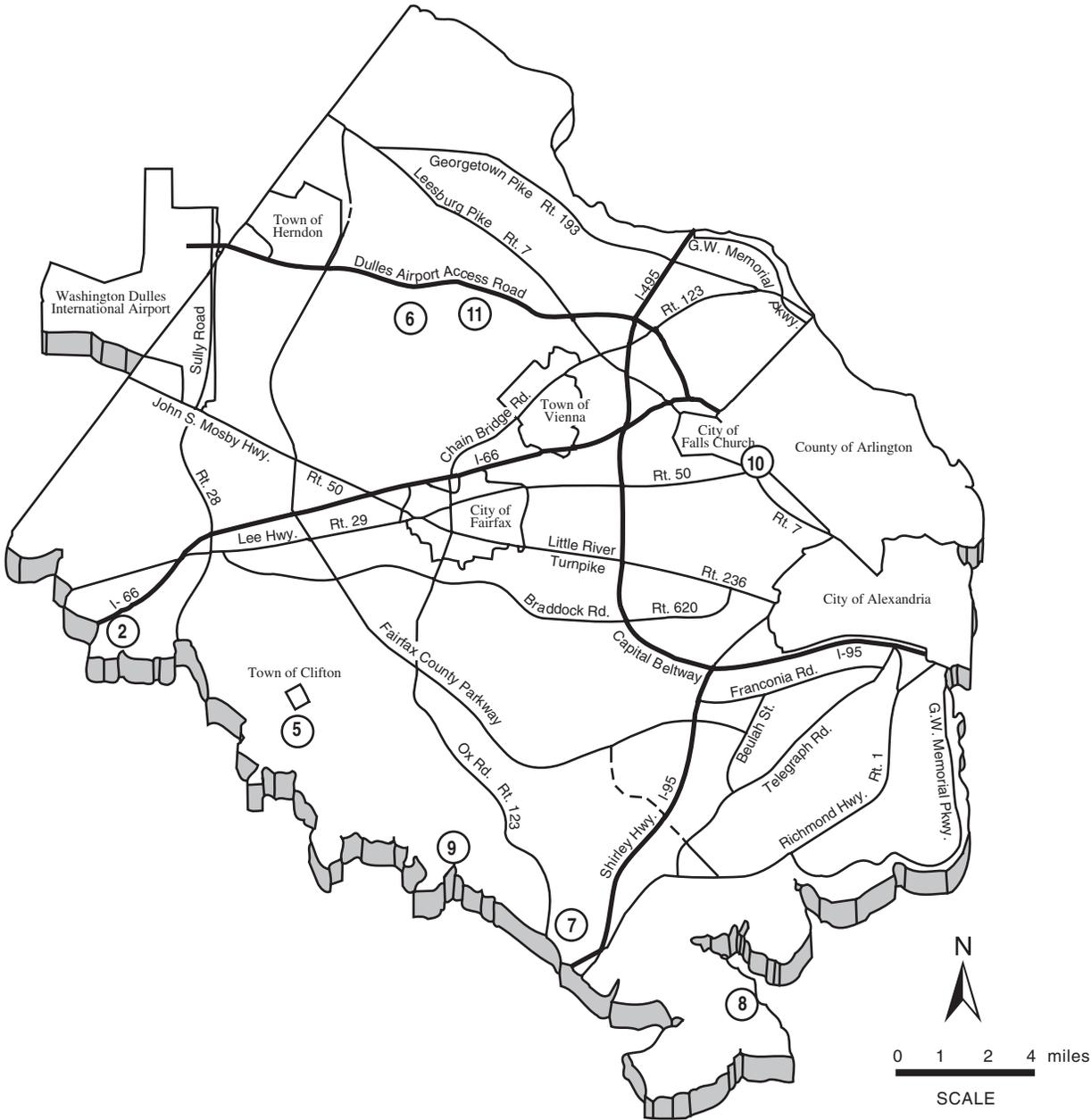
Project Title/ Project Number	Source of Funds	Anticipated to be Expended Thru FY 2004						Total FY2005-FY2009	Total FY2010-FY2014	Total Project Estimate
			FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009			
1. Brambleton Regional Park (Loudoun County)	B	C	75					75		75
2. Bull Run Regional Park (Fairfax County)	B	C	600					600		600
3. Cameron Run Regional Park (Alexandria)	B	C	450					450		450
4. Carlyle House Historic Park (Alexandria)	B	C	150					150		150
5. Hemlock Overlook Regional Park (Fairfax County)	B	C	60					60		60
6. Meadowlark Gardens Regional Park (Fairfax County)	B	C	40					40		40
7. Occoquan Regional Park (Fairfax County)	B	C	100					100		100
8. Pohick Bay Regional Park (Fairfax County)	B	C	350					350		350
9. Sandy Run Regional Park (Fairfax County)	B	C	25					25		25
10. Upton Hill Regional Park (Fairfax and Arlington Counties)	B	C	100					100		100
11. W&OD Railroad Regional Park (City of Falls Church, City of Fairfax, Arlington, Fairfax and Loudoun Counties)	B	C	206					206		206
12. Land Acquisition (Region-wide)	B	C	320					320		320
13. Project Support (Region-wide)	B	C	902					902		902
14. Roads and Parking (Region-wide)	B	C	229					229		229
TOTAL			\$3,607	\$4,224	\$4,224	\$4,224	\$4,877	\$21,156	\$24,385	\$45,541

Notes:
 Numbers in bold italics represent funded amounts.
 A "C" in the Authorized or Expended Column denotes a continuing project.
 Projections beyond FY 2005 have yet to be allocated to specific projects.
 NVRPA funding includes all jurisdictions. Fairfax County's share is projected to be approximately \$2.5 million annually.

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

Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority

Location of CIP Projects



- 2. Bull Run Regional Park
- 5. Hemlock Overlook Regional Park
- 6. Meadowlark Gardens Regional Park
- 7. Occoquan Regional Park
- 8. Pohick Bay Regional Park
- 9. Sandy Run Regional Park
- 10. Upton Hill Regional Park
- 11. Washington & Old Dominion (W&OD) Railroad Regional Park

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



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