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, leases, and holds easements on 11,917 acres of land, of which 8,544 acres are in Fairfax County. The Regional Park system serves a population of 1.8 million people. Parklands within the system include: Aldie Mill, Carlyle House, Mount Defiance and Mount Zion Historic Parks, Meadowlark Botanical Gardens, the W&OD Trail, Blue Ridge, Bull Run, Bull Run Marina, Fountainhead, Sandy Run, Pohick Bay, Gilbert's Corner, Potomac Overlook, Upton Hill, Algonkian, Red Rock, Occoquan, Hemlock Overlook, Cameron Run, Gateway, Ball's Bluff Battlefield, Temple Hall Farm, White's Ford, and Brambleton Regional Parks, the Upper Potomac properties, and the Rust Sanctuary and Webb Sanctuary.

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 multi-jurisdictional 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, Policy Plan Element, Parks and Recreation Section, as amended.

CURRENT PROGRAM INITIATIVES

Since FY 2009, the NVRPA has received $23,403,533 in support from its regional membership jurisdictions, plus an additional $6,120,238 in grants, donations and miscellaneous revenue, representing an actual program level of $29,523,771. Accomplishments during recent years include: acquisition of 295 acres for White's Ford Regional Park with more than ½ mile of Potomac River frontage, and development of the park access road, parking and boat launch ; acquisition of the 150-acre Gilbert's Corner Regional Park and development planning for the park access, parking and trails; acquisition of Mount Defiance Historic Park, Rust Sanctuary and Webb Sanctuary; construction of a LEED certified Visitor Center and interpretive facility at Temple Hall Farm Regional Park; upgrades to the campgrounds and a new playground at Bull Run Regional Park; installation of a new waterslide and replacement of boat ramp at Pohick Bay Regional Park; improvements to the Bull Run Festival of Lights; construction of a new group shelter and the addition of the Winter Walk of Lights at Meadowlark Botanical Gardens; renovation and expansion of the mountain bike trails at Fountainhead Regional Park; trail improvements on the Washington & Old Dominion Railroad Regional Park; a new event shelter and climbing outdoor play feature at Cameron Run Regional Park; and on-going renovations and upgrades to existing roads, parking and restroom facilities.

Replacement of Boat Ramp 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 2012, 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. Fairfax County's contribution for FY 2015 is $3.0 million. Funds for FY 2016 and beyond have not been formally allocated to specific projects and the following schedule lists only projects for FY 2015.

CURRENT PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS

1. **Algonkian Regional Park** (Loudoun County). $655,000 for conference center road renovations, water system renovations, and golf course improvements.

2. **Brambleton Regional Park** (Loudoun County.) $60,000 for golf course improvements.

3. **Bull Run Regional Park** (Fairfax County). $40,000 for holiday light show improvements.

4. **Cameron Run Regional Park** (City of Alexandria). $492,400 for pool building renovations and parking lot expansion.

5. **Headquarters** (Fairfax County). $60,000 for automated systems and building renovations.

6. **Hemlock Overlook Regional Park** (Fairfax County). $10,000 for building improvements.

7. **Meadowlark Botanical Gardens** (Fairfax County). $120,000 for garden development, irrigation and seasonal event facility improvements.

8. **Occoquan Regional Park** (Fairfax County). $537,400 for master planning, design and development of multipurpose building, shelter, waterfront improvements and new park facilities and infrastructure.

9. **Pohick Bay Regional Park** (Fairfax County). $60,000 for golf course improvements .

10. **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.

11. **ADA Improvements** (Region-wide). $400,000 for accessibility improvements throughout the park system.

12. **Land Acquisition** (Region-wide). $600,000 for land and easement purchase.

13. **Vehicles and Equipment** (Region-wide). $825,000 for vehicles and capital equipment at all parks, central maintenance and headquarters.

14. **Project Support and Miscellaneous Improvements** (Region-wide). $895,000 for new facilities, renovations, and energy enhancements. This category includes project management, development and capital maintenance not specifically assigned to a particular public use facility or park location.

15. **Roads and Parking** (Region-wide). $149,355 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 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	Total FY2015-FY2019	Total FY2020-FY2024	Total Project Estimate
1	Algonkian Regional Park (Loudoun County)	B	***C***	***655***					655		655
2	Brambleton Regional Park (Loudoun County)	B	***C***	***60***					60		60
3	Bull Run Regional Park (Fairfax County)	B	***C***	***40***					40		40
4	Cameron Run Regional Park (City of Alexandria)	B	***C***	***492***					492		492
5	Headquarters (Fairfax County)	B	***C***	***60***					60		60
6	Hemlock Overlook Regional Park (Fairfax County)	B	***C***	***10***					10		10
7	Meadowlark Botanical Gardens (Fairfax County)	B	***C***	***120***					120		120
8	Occoquan Regional Park (Fairfax County)	B	***C***	***537***					537		537
9	Pohick Bay Regional Park (Fairfax County)	B	***C***	***60***					60		60
10	W&OD Railroad Regional Park (Fairfax, Arlington and Loudoun Counties, Falls Church and Fairfax Cities)	B	***C***	***500***					500		500
11	ADA Improvements (Region-wide)	B	***C***	***400***					400		400
12	Land Acquisition (Region-wide)	B	***C***	***600***					600		600
13	Vehicles and Equipment (Region-wide)	B	***C***	***825***					825		825
14	Project Support and Miscellaneous Improvements (Region-wide)	B	***C***	***895***					895		895
15	Roads and Parking (Region-wide)	B	***C***	***150***					150		150
	TOTAL PROJECT COST			***$5,404***	$5,567	$5,716	$5,869	$6,027	$28,583	$32,680	$61,263
	TOTAL FAIRFAX COUNTY CONTRIBUTION			***$3,000***	$3,000	$3,090	$3,183	$3,278	$15,551	$17,927	$33,478

Notes: Funds beyond FY 2015 have not been formally allocated to specific projects. NVRPA project funding is provided by six jurisdictions. Numbers in ***bold italics*** represent funded amounts. A "C" in the 'Budgeted or Expended' column denotes a continuing project.

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

Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority Project Locations

3 Bull Run Regional Park

5 Headquarters

6 Hemlock Overlook Regional Park

7 Meadowlark Gardens Regional Park

8 Occoquan Regional Park

9 Pohick Bay Regional Park

10 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.