

Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority (NOVA Parks)

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority (NOVA Parks) 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. NOVA Parks' 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.

NOVA Parks now owns, leases, and holds easements on 11,921 acres of land, of which 8,545 acres are in Fairfax County. The Regional Park system serves a population of 1.9 million people. Parklands within the system include: Aldie Mill, Carlyle House, Mount Defiance, Mount Zion and Tinner Hill 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, the Rust Sanctuary and Webb Sanctuary.

In its conservation role, NOVA Parks 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, NOVA Parks 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 2010, NOVA Parks has received \$23,014,268 in support from its regional membership jurisdictions, plus an additional \$6,676,228 in grants, donations and miscellaneous revenue, representing an actual program level of \$29,690,496. Accomplishments during recent years include: development of the park access roads, parking and trails at White's Ford and Gilbert's Corner Regional Parks; acquisition of Mount Defiance Historic Park, Rust Sanctuary, Webb Sanctuary, Tinner Hill and additional land at Gilbert's Corner and Ball's Bluff; development of Tinner Hill Historic Site with a new shelter and parking area; completion of the connector trail linking the W&OD Trail with Meadowlark Gardens; construction of a new shelter facility at Temple Hall Farm Regional Park; upgrades to the campgrounds and a new playground at Bull Run Regional Park; replacement of the 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; and on-going renovations and upgrades to existing roads, parking and restroom facilities.

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, Americans with Disabilities Act and energy improvements, expansion of existing facilities and new features to meet the needs of the region.

Funds from Fairfax County to support NOVA Parks' 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. NOVA Parks' Capital Fund revenues consist primarily of capital appropriations received from the six member jurisdictions. Fairfax County's contribution for FY 2016 is \$3.0 million. Funds for FY 2017 and beyond have not been formally allocated to specific projects and the following schedule lists only projects for FY 2016.



Replacement of Boat Ramp at Pohick Bay Regional Park

CURRENT PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS

1. **Algonkian Regional Park** (Loudoun County). \$448,333 for conference center and road renovations.
2. **Brambleton Regional Park** (Loudoun County.) \$58,333 for golf course improvements.
3. **Bull Run Regional Park** (Fairfax County). \$205,000 for shelter and building renovations, and water park improvements.
4. **Cameron Run Regional Park** (City of Alexandria). \$2,020,000 for a new water ride, pool renovations and theming, 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). \$578,019 for garden development, including a new children's garden, and seasonal event facility improvements.

8. **Occoquan Regional Park** (Fairfax County). \$7,300,000 for design and development of multipurpose building with rental space, interpretive area and concessions; shelter, waterfront improvements and new park facilities and infrastructure.
9. **Pohick Bay Regional Park** (Fairfax County). \$358,333 for golf course club house renovations, campsite and restroom improvements, and pool building renovations
10. **Potomac Overlook Regional Park** (Arlington County). \$50,000 for nature center renovations.
11. **Rust Sanctuary** (Loudoun County). \$50,000 for manor house improvements.
12. **Upton Hill Regional Park** (Fairfax and Arlington Counties). \$105,000 for pool splash pad improvements and building renovations.
13. **W&OD Railroad Regional Park** (Fairfax, Arlington, Loudoun Counties, Cities of Fairfax and Falls Church). \$750,000 for widening and resurfacing asphalt trail and other trail enhancements.
14. **ADA Improvements** (Region-wide). \$200,000 for accessibility improvements throughout the park system.
15. **Land Acquisition** (Region-wide). \$600,000 for land and easement purchase.
16. **Vehicles and Equipment** (Region-wide). \$825,000 for vehicles and capital equipment at all parks, central maintenance and headquarters.
17. **Project Support and Miscellaneous Improvements** (Region-wide). \$841,317 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.
18. **Roads and Parking** (Region-wide). \$146,326 for improving and renovating gravel and paved surfaces throughout the park system.

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

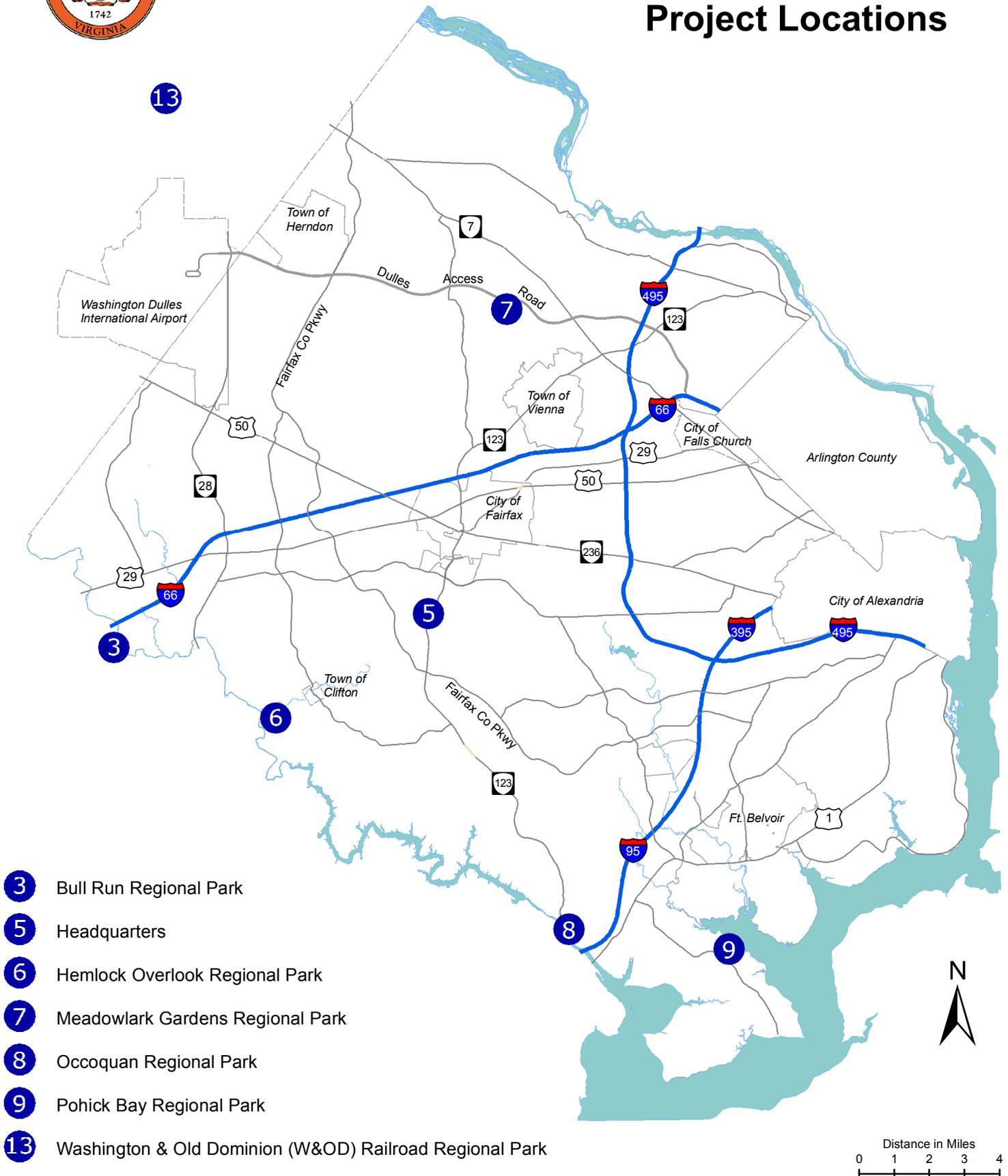
	Project Title/ Project Number	Source of Funds	Budgeted or Expended Through FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	Total FY2016-FY2020	Total FY2021-FY2025	Total Project Estimate
1	Algonkian Regional Park (Loudoun County)	B	C	448					448		448
2	Brambleton Regional Park (Loudoun County)	B	C	58					58		58
3	Bull Run Regional Park (Fairfax County)	B	C	205					205		205
4	Cameron Run Regional Park (City of Alexandria)	B	C	2,020					2,020		2,020
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	578					578		578
8	Occoquan Regional Park (Fairfax County)	B	C	7,300					7,300		7,300
9	Pohick Bay Regional Park (Fairfax County)	B	C	358					358		358
10	Potomac Overlook Regional Park (Arlington County)	B	C	50					50		50
11	Rust Sanctuary (Loudoun County)	B	C	50					50		50
12	Upton Hill Regional Park (Fairfax and Arlington Counties)	B	C	105					105		105
13	W&OD Railroad Regional Park (Fairfax, Arlington and Loudoun Counties, Falls Church and Fairfax Cities)	B	C	750					750		750
14	ADA Improvements (Region-wide)	B	C	200					200		200
15	Land Acquisition (Region-wide)	B	C	600					600		600
16	Vehicles and Equipment (Region-wide)	B	C	825					825		825
17	Project Support and Miscellaneous Improvements (Region-wide)	B	C	841					841		841
18	Roads and Parking (Region-wide)	B	C	146					146		146
	TOTAL PROJECT COST			\$14,604	\$5,617	\$5,660	\$5,886	\$6,005	\$37,772	\$32,074	\$69,846
	TOTAL FAIRFAX COUNTY CONTRIBUTION			\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,026	\$3,161	\$3,232	\$15,419	\$17,386	\$32,805

Notes: Funds beyond FY 2016 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



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.