

# Fairfax County Park Authority

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA) is directed by a twelve-member board appointed by the county Board of Supervisors. One member is appointed from each of the county's nine supervisor districts, and three are appointed at-large. Since its establishment in 1950, the Authority has acquired 23,346 acres of parkland, including 426 individual parks. In the past, most of the funds to carry out capital acquisition and improvements were provided through bond referenda. Currently, more than half of the Park Authority operating funds are raised by revenue-producing facilities in the system; additional funding for the operations and maintenance of parks is appropriated annually by the county Board of Supervisors. Grants from the state and federal government supplement funds on a limited basis; however, gifts and donations from individuals, community organizations, corporations and foundations are an increasingly important source of funding for community improvements.

## LINK TO THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

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

- ✓ Identify and serve park and recreation needs through an integrated park system that provides open space, recreational services and facilities and stewardship of natural and cultural resources.
- ✓ Protect appropriate land areas in a natural state to ensure preservation of significant and sensitive natural resources, and protect and preserve significant cultural resources on parklands.
- ✓ Provide for current and future parks and recreational needs through development of new and existing sites and the optimal use of all existing facilities, including Fairfax County Public Schools.
- ✓ Ensure the long-term protection, preservation and sustainability of park resources.
- ✓ Ensure the mitigation of adverse impacts to park and recreation facilities and service levels caused by growth and land development.
- ✓ Utilize the Urban Parks Framework to encourage developers to cooperatively develop and maintain publicly accessible urban parks, connective trails, park amenities and active recreation facilities in Tysons and other designated mixed-use centers.

Source: 2007 Edition of the Fairfax County Comprehensive Plan, Policy Plan Element, Parks and Recreation Section, as amended

## CURRENT PROGRAM INITIATIVES

The Park Authority acquired 36 acres of land in FY 2015 for a total of 23,346 park acres which equates to over 9.2 percent of the land mass of Fairfax County. In FY 2015, the cumulative level of parkland in the County held by the Fairfax County Park Authority increased by 36 acres primarily due to the acquisition of the Roat property that adds a new 10 acre park in the Mason District, a proffer for an additional 11 acres at Loisdale Community Park in the Lee District and transfer of 11.7 acres from the Board of Supervisors in the Dulles Station area of the Dranesville District. The agency has been challenged to acquire an additional 1,934 acres of land, which would ensure that 10 percent of the total county landmass, or a total of 25,280 acres, are held as county parks. The current Land Acquisition Work Plan programs the expenditure of funds authorized by the 2012 Park Bond Referendum.

One of the Park Authority's primary objectives over the CIP period is to complete construction already begun in county parks and to upgrade the various athletic fields and courts maintained by the Park Authority. An objective is also to sustain existing parks, facilities and natural resources. Another major objective is to continue land acquisition and work toward meeting the acreage standard established for acquisition of developable parkland. In addition, many park facilities are 20-30 years old. Without a significant reinvestment in building and park infrastructure and facilities many of these older parks will fall into a state of deteriorating condition and functionality and repair/operating costs will increase.

Recently completed improvements include:

- Continued expansion of synthetic turf fields including: Jones Branch fields in the Tysons area included the construction of one lighted, full-size synthetic turf field and one lighted half-size synthetic turf field and parking. These are the first athletic fields developed under the Tysons Urban Center Plan and Tysons Park System Concept Plan. Rolling Valley West included the conversion of an existing, lighted, natural turf field to synthetic turf. Additional amenities included the development of a lighted accessible trail, and improvements to the existing accessible parking spaces. Enhanced stormwater features including a vegetated swale and plunge pool outfall were constructed in partnership with DPWES Stormwater Planning Division. The lighted synthetic turf field at Loisdale Park was developed through a turnkey development proffer. The field is stripped for soccer, lacrosse, and field hockey.
- Spring Hill RECenter Renovation and Addition: Improvements to Spring Hill RECenter included the addition of a new full-size 20,000 square foot gymnasium with an elevated running track and a 15,000 square foot, two story fitness center, conversion of the existing fitness room to three multipurpose rooms, renovation of the locker rooms to provide five full service family changing cabanas and updating the existing lobby and administration areas.
- Burke Lake Park restroom replacement project: Replaced the existing restroom facility serving Picnic Shelter "A" with a new, 900 square foot restroom building that meets the Americans with Disability Act (ADA) accessibility standards. Additional site enhancements include new ADA walkways and parking spaces as well as new low impact development storm water management rain garden facility.
- Green Springs Gardens: Reconstructed and expanded the patio area, modified the gazebo and patio to make them fully ADA accessible, enhanced of the area's appearance, replaced existing fencing, and other related improvements.
- ClemyJontri Park Playground Rubber Safety Surfacing Replacement: Demolished and resurfaced the rubber safety surfacing under the entire playground area (Approximately 53,668 square feet). The project was completed in three phases to keep this active playground available for public use during construction.
- Twin Lakes Golf Course Oaks Course New Practice Green-Bunker and Chipping Green Renovations: Project included excavating all 56 sand bunkers on the Oaks Course and reconstruction using the patented Billy Bunker drainage system, construction of a new practice putting green with paved cart path access and conversion of the existing practice putting green to a chipping green.
- Wakefield Park Audrey Moore RECenter Natatorium West Wall Repairs: Replaced the existing window system with a new curtain wall system and repaired the adjacent structural steel supports. Additional work included repairs to the three storage rooms and two sunrooms, and the replacement of the roof and roof deck.
- Brookfield Park Pond Reconstruction: Reconstructed the dam embankment, and installed a new riser structure with an observation deck, a wetland forebay system, grasscrete access road,

vegetated floating wetlands, and an accessible trail connection from the existing asphalt trail to the observation deck, as well as the replacement of the asphalt parking lot with permeable pavers.

- Colvin Run Mill Restoration and Shaft Replacement: Fabricated and installed the mechanical equipment and features required to fully implement the automated mill design developed by Oliver Evens in the 1794 *Young Mill-wright and Miller's Guide*. This is the first time the mill has been fully operational per the original design since pre-civil war times. The aging main power shaft and water wheel spokes were also replaced.
- Stratton Woods Racquetball/Handball Courts: Construction of four lighted, three-walled racquetball courts and three lighted one-wall courts. These are the first outdoor racquetball courts developed in the Park Authority's system of recreation facilities. Soil amendments to improve stormwater percolation were added to turf areas in partnership with DPWES Stormwater Planning Division.
- Pine Ridge Park Trail: Designed and constructed 1,200 linear feet of asphalt trail between Chivalry Road and Pine Ridge Park athletic fields. The completed trail will provide a safe pedestrian connection between active recreation areas in Pine Ridge Park and the neighborhoods to the south which include sidewalks connecting to the Cross County Trail (CCT).

The Park Authority Board approved eleven master plans/master plan revisions during the past fiscal year for Brookfield Park, Greenbriar Commons, Bruin Park, South Run District Park, Poplar Ford, Hickory Forest, Mountain Road District, Elklick Preserve, Halifax Point District Park, Mason Neck West, and Old Colchester Park and Preserve.

The continuing urbanization of the County requires that the existing suburban park system be supplemented by parks that are more suitable for the urban context and provide appropriate functions, uses, amenities, visual form, ownership, and accessibility to various users of the urban environment. In 2013, the Board of Supervisors adopted a policy in the Comprehensive Plan that incorporates the Park Authority's Urban Park Framework as official guidance to define urban park metrics, elements and types. The Urban Park Framework policy clarifies expectations for community decision makers and developers who seek to implement changes to existing development patterns and provide for park and recreation needs in these areas. Prior to 2010, there were almost 90 acres of publicly owned parkland in Tysons Corner. In addition, approximately eight and a half acres of privately owned land that will either be dedicated to the Park Authority or accessible for public use was committed in major zoning applications approved prior to that time. Combined, the major applications approved since 2010 provide commitments to create an additional 41 acres of new publicly-accessible urban park space in Tysons Corner. Collectively, the major rezoning applications approved since 2010 generate a need for five and a half new athletic fields under their maximum development levels. Applicants have proffered to provide for this need through dedication of land areas, construction of facilities, and/or contribution of funds to Fairfax County to be used towards land acquisition and facility development.

The implementation of the Laurel Hill Master Plan is proceeding. Funding is earmarked for infrastructure development for this project. Development of Phase I of the equestrian area in Laurel Hill is underway. An area-wide signage and way finding plan is nearly complete and a cultural resource study for the Laurel Hill House was completed as well as a historic landscape study of its gardens. Further archeological work at the site is anticipated. Improvements to the Laurel Hill Greenway portion of the Cross County Trail continue to be made. Construction of a lighted synthetic turf diamond and rectangular athletic fields were completed at the South County Middle School in partnership with Fairfax County Public Schools to provide additional athletic fields to the surrounding communities. Maintenance and land management activities continue to be provided. In addition, there continues to be some informal interest from proposers for options for the Sportsplex.

A large portion of Fairfax County Park Authority projects are supported by General Obligation Bonds. Park Bond referenda were approved in November 2004, 2006, 2008, and 2012 totaling \$218 million. The completion of the 2004 Park Authority Needs Assessment Study resulted in a phased 10-year Capital Improvement Plan. The foundation of this plan is based on data gathered on citizen demand, population growth and leisure trends. In 2004, the Fairfax County Park Authority Board adopted a 10-year needs-based Capital Improvement Plan that identifies new recreational facilities, renovation and land acquisition capital projects through the year 2013 that were projected to cost \$376 million. The \$376 million has been inflated to \$435 million to reflect the increasing prices of land for acquisition and escalating construction costs. Funding to meet this identified 10-year need has primarily been in the amount of \$65

million from the fall 2004 Park Bond Referendum, \$25 million from the fall 2006 Interim Park Bond Referendum, \$65 million from the 2008 Park Bond Referendum, and \$63 million from the fall 2012 Park Bond Referendum. The Park Authority would require an additional \$217 million in order to fully fund the identified needs. It is important to note that the additional \$217 million needed would only meet the identified capital need for new park facilities and major renovation of existing facilities identified through 2013. An update to the Needs Assessment has been initiated to determine countywide capital park and recreation needs through 2023 and the final report is anticipated to be delivered by the summer of 2016. The needs assessment is complemented by "Great Parks, Great Communities," a comprehensive long range park plan adopted in 2011 that examines needs within 14 planning districts. This plan uses data from the Needs Assessment and serves as a decision making guide for future park land use, service delivery and resource protection to better address changing needs and growth forecasts through 2020. Based on continual facility condition assessments, growing and shifting community needs and expectations, an ever increasing amount of funding will be needed for capital maintenance of aging park assets in order to maximize the life of the existing facilities and to develop new facilities.



In addition, to fund additional facilities and land acquisition, funding will be necessary to operate, support, sustain and protect future years of County investment in existing facilities. As the county's largest landowner, the Park Authority's stewardship responsibility is documented in its Natural Resource Management Plan (NRMP) and Cultural Resource Management Plan (CRMP). These plans identify issues, strategies and projects to protect County parkland and valuable natural and cultural resources. This effort meets the County's Vision of Practicing Environmental Stewardship and is supported in the Board of Supervisors' Environmental Agenda. In addition, the Park Authority is charged with stewardship of all county cultural resources. These plans contain critical strategies for preventing the degradation of resources that cannot be reclaimed once lost.

The Park Authority also recently automated its asset tracking and maintenance scheduling system that relates to a Park Facility Condition Assessment and Lifecycle Replacement Schedule. This system is utilized to efficiently manage facility repairs and develop long-range facility life cycle plans, as well as aid in the forecasting of future capital renovations.

On June 26, 2013, the Park Authority Board approved the FY 2014–FY 2018 Strategic Plan and Balanced Scorecard. The Strategic Plan is a tool to enable the agency to focus on the most pressing concerns and opportunities over the next five years. In light of increasing demands and limited or shrinking resources, it is more important than ever that priorities be strategically determined. Key focus areas include:

- ❖ Emphasizing and communicating the park systems value and benefits
- ❖ Encouraging park users to utilize the park system from generation to generation
- ❖ Inspiring tomorrow's stewards
- ❖ Investing in aging infrastructure and natural capital
- ❖ Strengthening community partnerships
- ❖ Stabilizing funding resources and prioritizing core services
- ❖ Building leadership capacity to champion innovative solutions

Using the Balanced Scorecard approach and input from park leadership, staff, stakeholders, and the general public, the strategic plan is structured around four important perspectives: Customer, Financial, Business Process and Learning and Growth.

On December 14, 2011 the Park Authority Board approved the Financial Sustainability Plan. This Plan focuses on the evaluation of core services and options and opportunities for improving the overall cost recovery of the whole organization. The Plan contains clearly defined recommendations that when collectively implemented will position the Authority to reach a cost recovery target that is greater (more self-sufficient) than the present day one. In addition to the focus on sustainable operations, capital investment in facilities and stewardship efforts are also significant to future growth and sustainability. Work continues on the implementation of these initiatives.

## CURRENT PROGRAM INITIATIVES

1. **Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Compliance** (Countywide): This is a continuing project to address ADA Compliance measures throughout county parks. The Park Authority has retrofitted existing park facilities and continues to retrofit parks in priority order so that park facilities, programs, services and activities are readily accessible to individuals with disabilities. It should be noted that in May and June 2007, the United States Department of Justice (DOJ) conducted an audit of the county government facilities and programs to determine compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The DOJ presented the county with the audit results in August 2009. The audit covered 78 buildings in the county and listed approximately 2,100 violations as well as approximately ten program areas which needed improvement in order to comply with the ADA. These violations ranged from updating emergency management procedures, web-based services, and general communication procedures, to improving access to buildings, parking garages, restrooms and elevators. FY 2017 funding of \$2,370,000 is provided to continue to address identified deficiencies. Funding for violations associated with county buildings and facilities has also been included in FY 2017 and is detailed in the Facilities Management and Infrastructure Upgrades section of this document.

2. **Parks-General Maintenance** (Countywide): This is a continuing project to address Park Authority general maintenance requirements at non-revenue producing parks, including plumbing, electrical, lighting, security/fire systems, sprinklers and HVAC. In addition, this project funds roof repairs and structural preservation of park historic sites. The facilities maintained include, but are not limited to rental properties, historic properties, nature centers, maintenance facilities, sheds, shelters and office buildings. Park priorities are based on the assessment of current repair needs including safety and health issues, facility protection, facility renewal and improved services. Priorities are based on an assessment of current repair needs associated with safety and health issues, facility protection, facility renewal and improved services. This program also provides for the stabilization of newly acquired structures and emergency repairs as needed at these facilities. In FY 2017, an amount of \$425,000 is included for general park maintenance at non-revenue supported Park facilities.



*The Historic Huntley House*

3. **Parks-Facility/Equipment Maintenance** (Countywide): This is a continuing project to address routine repairs in non-revenue producing Park Authority buildings and to provide routine and corrective maintenance of Park Authority structures and the equipment fleet. Facility maintenance includes routine and preventive maintenance such as carpentry, plumbing, electrical HVAC, security and fire alarm systems at park sites. Equipment maintenance includes routine and preventative maintenance on operating equipment such as mowers, tractors, utility vehicles and heavy construction equipment. In FY 2017, an amount of \$484,000 is included to provide corrective and preventative maintenance for over 567,053 square feet at non-revenue supported Park Authority structures and buildings.

4. **Parks-Grounds Maintenance** (Countywide): This is a continuing project to provide for routine preventative and corrective grounds maintenance at non-revenue producing parks throughout the park system on park roads and parking lots, irrigation systems, bridges, playgrounds, picnic areas, tennis courts and trails. In FY 2017, an amount of \$1,000,000 is provided to fund annual requirements for Parks grounds maintenance at non-revenue supported parks.
5. **Stewardship - 2008** (Countywide): \$11,776,000 for projects that promote the protection, enhancement, interpretation and education of natural and cultural park resources. Projects include Phase II Huntley Meadows wetlands restoration and boardwalk replacement, Historic Huntley restoration to allow public accessibility, mandatory dam repairs, Colvin Run Mill Visitors Center design, concept design for the Stewardship Education Center, and other natural resource protection projects in Sully Woodlands and Laurel Hill. Cultural resource and archaeology projects are also included to protect various cultural resource sites associated with capital projects.
6. **Park and Building Renovations - 2008** (Countywide): \$30,711,000 for replacement of aging roofs, HVAC, and pool systems for RECenters built in the 1980s and 1990s. These RECenters include Spring Hill, Lee District, Oak Marr, and Providence. An engineering study to assess renewal requirements for Mount Vernon RECenter and Ice Rink which opened in 1981 is also funded. Replaced the 41-year-old train track at Burke Lake Park, parking and entrance improvements at Spring Hill, irrigation system at Jefferson Golf Course, and renovation at Ossian Hall Park and Kings Park will renew these facilities and extend their service life.
7. **Park Development - 2008** (Countywide): \$18,846,000 to develop new park facilities and infrastructure. This category includes funding for the conversion of four natural-turf rectangular fields to synthetic turf and to upgrade the lighting systems on eight fields. Funding is also included to continue the planning, design and site preparation of a countywide Sportsplex at Laurel Hill Park. Another goal is to add 75 miles of trails and trail connections that will increase citizen access to this highly used resource. Additional development includes the construction of the new concrete "streetscape" style urban skate park and bowl at Lake Fairfax and the expansion of the skate park at Wakefield. Future projects include the clubhouse replacement and driving range expansion at Burke Lake Golf Course and a small roll-top observatory at Observatory Park in Great Falls.
8. **Community Parks/New Facilities - 2012** (Countywide): \$7,285,000 for planning, design and construction of new parks or park facilities to implement approved master plans, meet community needs, or provide additional functionality. Projects include: development of Phase 1 of the park planned improvements per the master plan at Monticello Park, building the internal trail network and shelter at the John C. and Margaret K. White Gardens, providing Signage and Branding to develop a branding approach to identify Park Authority facilities, and development to continue the phased development of the Park at Laurel Hill.
9. **Existing Facility Renovations - 2012** (Countywide): \$26,752,000 to improve existing park facilities to maintain designed capacity or retrofit obsolete facilities and bring them up to contemporary standards and codes. Projects include renovation and upgrading infrastructure and other amenities at Lake Accotink, countywide playground equipment upgrades, and countywide trails.
10. **Facility Expansions – 2012** (Countywide): \$19,497,500 to expand existing buildings and facilities to update, renew and improve existing aging facilities and add user capacity. Projects include expansion of Spring Hill and Oak Marr RECenters, Lake Fairfax Water Mine and Twin Lakes Oaks Room and an additional practice putting area.
11. **Land Acquisition and Stewardship - 2012** (Countywide): \$12,915,000 for acquisition of parkland and/or parkland rights, including easements. Stewardship includes projects that support the approved Natural and Cultural Resource Management Plans and/or county's environmental or cultural resource initiatives, Hidden Pond Nature Center for shelter and parking, and the Sully Woodlands Environmental Education Center. Additional projects include land acquisition, energy management, and Natural and Cultural Resources.

12. **Land Acquisition and Park Development – 2016** (Countywide): It is anticipated that additional bonds will continue to fund deferred projects and adequately fund long-term projects identified in the Park Authority 10-Year Capital Plan. Projects could include land acquisition to ensure adequate parkland for future generations, new park facilities, including opportunities in the Lorton area to better serve a growing and diverse population and continued renovation and replacement of aging and well-used facilities. Increasingly, citizens recognize that parks contribute highly to their quality of life in Fairfax County. Shifting and expanding leisure interests increase the demand for parks and park facilities. These shifts will be evaluated in preparation for 2016 Bond and will likely be reflected in additional prioritized park and facility needs. Additional funding needs that were not included in the needs assessment address escalating land prices, construction and materials costs, infrastructure improvements associated with the identified projects, capital maintenance projects and site specific engineering and regulatory requirements. In addition to land acquisition and park development projects, the Park Authority adopted Natural Resource and Cultural Resource Management Plans that identify initiatives needed to provide essential stewardship efforts of environmental resources on parkland and cultural resources throughout the county.

**PROJECT COST SUMMARIES  
FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY  
(\$000's)**

	Project Title/ Project Number	Source of Funds	Budgeted or Expended Through FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	Total FY2017-FY2021	Total FY2022-FY2026	Total Project Estimate
1	Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Compliance / PR-000083	G, X	<b>C</b>	2,370	800	300	300	300	4,070	1,500	5,570
2	Parks - General Maintenance / 2G51-005-000	G	<b>C</b>	425	844	869	895	922	3,955	5,141	9,096
3	Parks - Facility/Equipment Maintenance /2G51-007-000	G	<b>C</b>	484	484	499	514	529	2,510	2,720	5,230
4	Parks - Grounds Maintenance / 2G51-006-000	G	<b>C</b>	1,000	1,151	1,186	1,221	1,258	5,816	6,802	12,618
	<b>Subtotal General Fund Projects</b>			4,279	3,279	2,854	2,930	3,009	16,351	16,163	32,514
5	Stewardship (2008 Bond) / PR-000012	B	<b>9,731</b>	950	750	345			2,045		11,776
6	Park and Building Renovations (2008 Bond) / PR-000005	B	<b>23,125</b>	2,886	2,750	1,950			7,586		30,711
7	Park Development (2008 Bond) / PR-000016	B	<b>14,500</b>	2,000	1,100	1,246			4,346		18,846
8	Community Parks/New Facilities (2012 Bond) / PR-000009	B	<b>200</b>	750	2,985	3,350			7,085		7,285
9	Existing Facility Renovations (2012 Bond) / PR-000091	B	<b>9,500</b>	5,600	5,100	5,500	1,052		17,252		26,752
10	Facility Expansions (2012 Bond) / PR-000092	B	<b>18,770</b>	450	277				727		19,497
11	Land Acquisition and Stewardship (2012 Bond) / PR-000093	B	<b>4,600</b>	3,025	3,125	2,165			8,315		12,915
12	Land Acquisition and Park Development (2016 Bond)	B	<b>0</b>		3,370	6,340	8,450	18,100	36,260	58,440	94,700
	<b>Subtotal Bond Projects</b>		<b>80,426</b>	15,661	19,457	20,896	9,502	18,100	83,616	58,440	222,482
	<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$80,426</b>	\$19,940	\$22,736	\$23,750	\$12,432	\$21,109	\$99,967	\$74,603	\$254,996

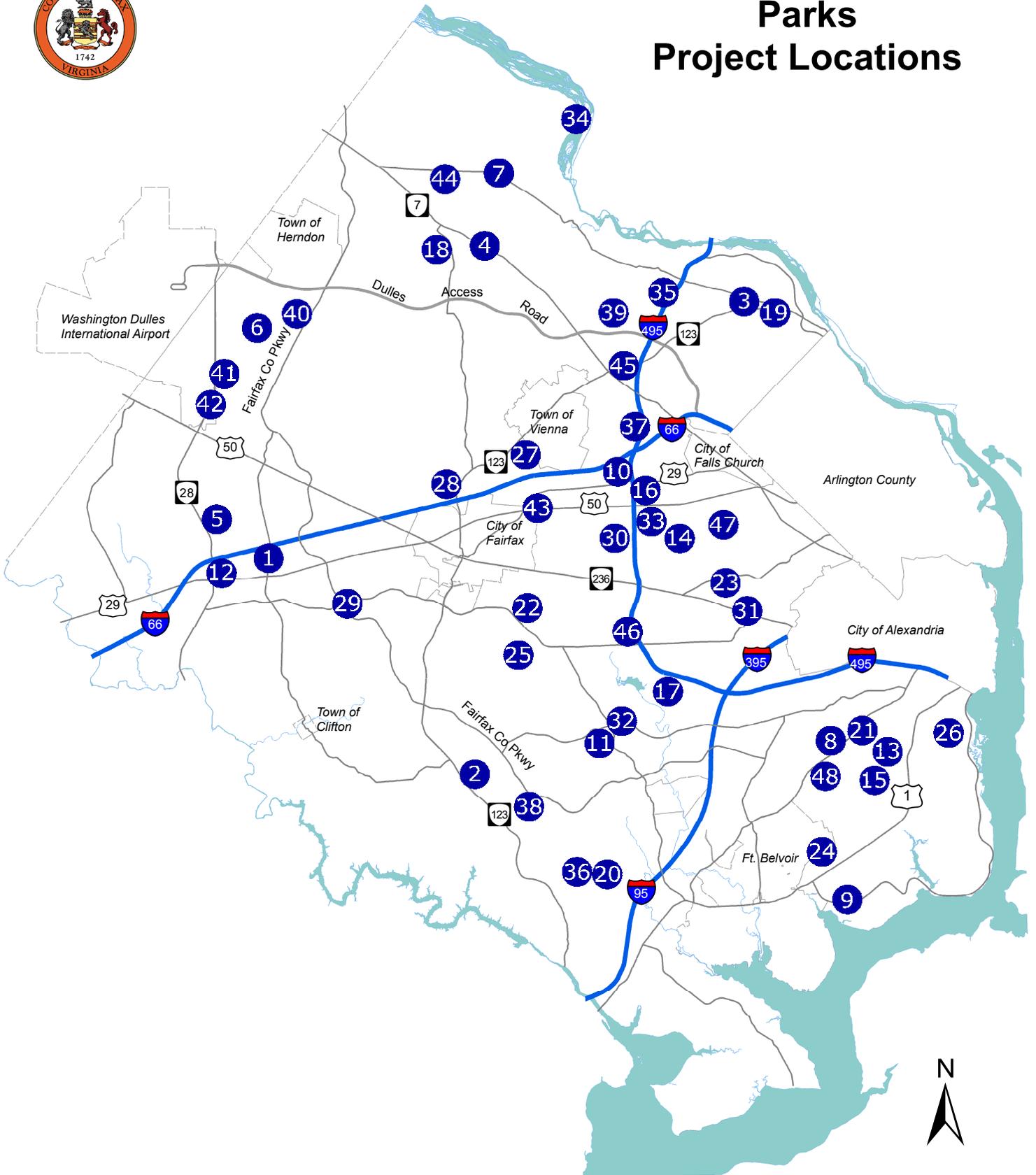
Notes: Numbers in **bold italics** represent funded amounts.  
A "C" in the 'Budgeted or Expended' column denotes a continuing project.

Key: Stage of Development	
	Feasibility Study or Design
	Land Acquisition
	Construction

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



# Parks 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.

# Fairfax County Park Authority Project Locations

1	Arrowhead	28	Oak Marr
2	Burke Lake and Golf Course	29	Patriot Park North
3	Clemyjontri	30	Pine Ridge Park
4	Colvin Run Mill	31	Pinecrest Golf Course
5	Ellanor C. Lawrence	32	Pohick Stream Valley
6	Frying Pan/Ellmore Farm	33	Providence RECenter
7	Great Falls Grange	34	Riverbend
8	Greendale Golf	35	Scotts Run Stream Valley
9	Grist Mill	36	South County Middle School
10	Hartland Green Park	37	South Railroad Street
11	Hidden Pond	38	South Run
12	Historic Centreville	39	Spring Hill
13	Historic Huntley, Phase II Tenant House	40	Stratton Woods
14	Holmes Run Stream Valley	41	Sully Highlands
15	Huntley Meadows	42	Sully Woodlands
16	Jefferson District	43	Towers
17	Lake Accotink	44	Turner Farm
18	Lake Fairfax	45	Tyson's Corner
19	Langley Fork	46	Wakefield
20	Laurel Hill	47	John C and Margaret White Gardens Park
21	Lee District	48	Wickford
22	Long Branch Stream Valley		
23	Mason District		
24	McNaughton Fields		
25	Monticello		
26	Mt. Vernon		
27	Nottoway		