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 enhances the communities of Northern Virginia and enriches 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 just one example of many NOVA Parks facilities that have region-wide characteristics.

NOVA Parks now owns, leases, and holds easements on 12,219 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, Springdale, 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 2011, NOVA Parks has received $23,527,939 in support from its regional membership jurisdictions, plus an additional $7,956,807 in grants, donations and miscellaneous revenue, representing an actual program level of $31,484,746. Accomplishments during recent years include: development of the park access roads, boat launch, parking and trails at White's Ford and Gilbert's Corner Regional Parks; acquisition of 150 acres for Springdale Regional Park and 147 acres to expand Brambleton Regional Park; 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 Botanical Gardens; construction of a new shelter facility at Temple Hall Farm Regional Park; upgrades to the campgrounds at Bull Run Regional Park; replacement of the boat ramp at Pohick Bay Regional Park and the addition of camping cabins; improvements to the Bull Run Festival of Lights; renovation and expansion of the mountain bike trails and building improvements at Fountainhead Regional Park; trail improvements on the Washington & Old Dominion Railroad Regional Park; construction of a new shelter at Hemlock Overlook 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 2017 is $3.0 million. Funds for FY 2018 and beyond have not been formally allocated to specific projects and the following schedule lists only projects planned for FY 2017.

CURRENT PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS

1. **Aldie Mill Historic Park** (Loudoun County). $25,000 for renovations to the Country Mill.

2. **Algonkian Regional Park** (Loudoun County). $408,000 for conference center, entrance road and golf course improvements.

3. **Brambleton Regional Park** (Loudoun County.) $558,000 for Beaverdam facilities design, permitting, and development.

4. **Bull Run Regional Park** (Fairfax County). $240,000 for shelter and building renovations, and seasonal event facility improvements.

5. **Cameron Run Regional Park** (City of Alexandria). $99,000 for pool renovations and theming.

6. **Headquarters** (Fairfax County). $85,000 for automated systems and building renovations.

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

8. **Meadowlark Botanical Gardens** (Fairfax County). $285,000 for garden development, including a new children's garden, and seasonal event facility improvements.

9. **Mount Defiance Historic Park** (Loudoun County). $100,000 for entrance road renovations and parking area improvements.

10. **Occoquan Regional Park** (Fairfax County). $6,276,000 for design and development of multipurpose building with rental space, interpretive area and concessions; shelter, waterfront improvements and new park facilities and infrastructure.

11. **Pohick Bay Regional Park** (Fairfax County). $329,000 for expansion of boat rental building, and campsite, golf course and pool improvements.

12. **Temple Hall Farm Regional Park** (Loudoun County). $20,000 for seasonal event improvements.

13. **Upton Hill Regional Park** (Fairfax and Arlington Counties). $150,000 for pool building improvements and renovations.

14. **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.

15. **ADA Improvements** (Region-wide). $500,000 for accessibility improvements throughout the park system.

16. **Land Acquisition** (Region-wide). $475,000 for land and easement purchases.

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

18. **Project Support and Miscellaneous Improvements** (Region-wide). $1,166,000 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.

19. **Roads and Parking** (Region-wide). $151,000 for improving and renovating gravel and paved surfaces throughout the park system.

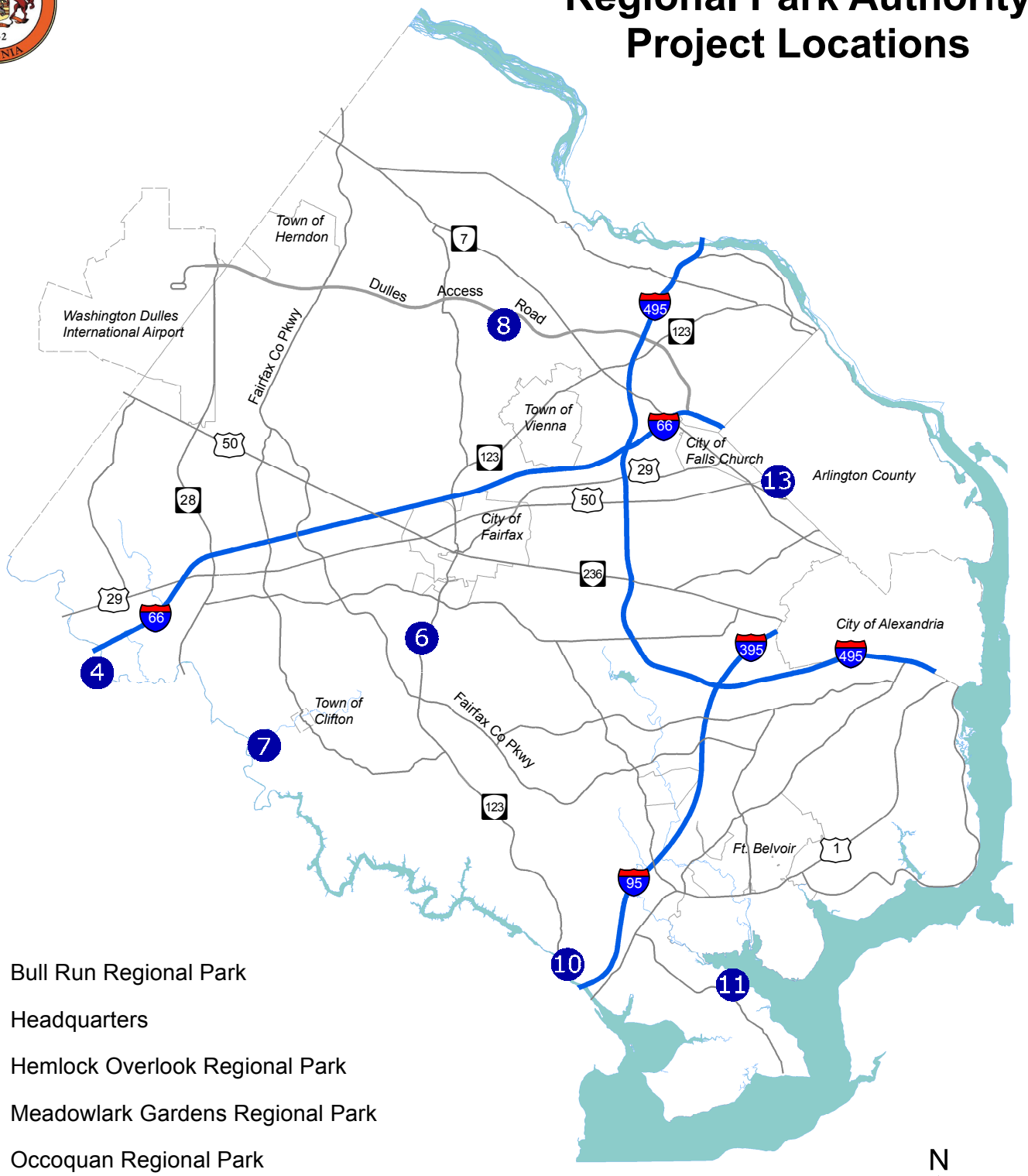
PROJECT COST SUMMARIES
NORTHERN VIRGINIA REGIONAL PARK AUTHORITY
($000's)

	Project Title/ Project Number	Source of Funds	Budgeted or Expended Through FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	Total FY2017-FY2021	Total FY2022-FY2026	Total Project Estimate
1	Aldie Mill Historic Park (Loudoun County)	B	***C***	***25***					25		25
2	Algonkian Regional Park (Loudoun County)	B	***C***	***408***					408		408
3	Brambleton Regional Park (Loudoun County)	B	***C***	***558***					558		558
4	Bull Run Regional Park (Fairfax County)	B	***C***	***240***					240		240
5	Cameron Run Regional Park (City of Alexandria)	B	***C***	***99***					99		99
6	Headquarters (Fairfax County)	B	***C***	***85***					85		85
7	Hemlock Overlook Regional Park (Fairfax County)	B	***C***	***10***					10		10
8	Meadowlark Botanical Gardens (Fairfax County)	B	***C***	***285***					285		285
9	Mount Defiance Historic Park (Loudoun County)	B	***C***	***100***					100		100
10	Occoquan Regional Park (Fairfax County)	B	***C***	***6,276***					6,276		6,276
11	Pohick Bay Regional Park (Fairfax County)	B	***C***	***329***					329		329
12	Temple Hall Farm Regional Park (Loudoun County)	B	***C***	***20***					20		20
13	Upton Hill Regional Park (Fairfax and Arlington Counties)	B	***C***	***150***					150		150
14	W&OD Railroad Regional Park (Fairfax, Arlington and Loudoun Counties, Falls Church and Fairfax Cities)	B	***C***	***500***					500		500
15	ADA Improvements (Region-wide)	B	***C***	***500***					500		500
16	Land Acquisition (Region-wide)	B	***C***	***475***					475		475
17	Vehicles and Equipment (Region-wide)	B	***C***	***825***					825		825
18	Project Support and Miscellaneous Improvements (Region-wide)	B	***C***	***1,166***					1,166		1,166
19	Roads and Parking (Region-wide)	B	***C***	***151***					151		151
	TOTAL PROJECT COST			***$12,202***	$8,695	$5,801	$4,332	$6,121	$37,151	$33,230	$70,381
	TOTAL FAIRFAX COUNTY CONTRIBUTION			***$3,000***	$3,044	$3,178	$3,251	$3,348	$15,821	$18,307	$34,128

Notes: Funds beyond FY 2017 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



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

N

Distance in Miles
0 1 2 3 4

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.