



# FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY

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# M E M O R A N D U M



**TO:** Chairman and Members  
Park Authority Board

**VIA:** Michael A. Kane, Director

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**FROM:** Cindy Messinger, Director  
Resource Management Division

**DATE:** February 23, 2007

## *Agenda*

**Resource Management Committee**  
**Wednesday, February 28, 2006 – 6 p.m.**  
**Board Room – Herrity Building**  
**Chairman: Frank Vajda**

1. Scouting in Parks: Builds Character and Strengthens Stewardship (with presentation) - Information\*
2. Invasive Management Area Pilot Program Assessment and Update (with presentation) - Information\*
3. Community Horticulture Program Update (with presentation) - Information\*

\*Enclosures

cc: Timothy K. White  
Leadership Team



If accommodations and/or alternative formats are needed, please call (703) 324-8563. TTY (703) 803-3354

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Board Agenda Item  
March 14, 2007

**INFORMATION –**

Scouting in Parks: Builds Character and Strengthens Stewardship (with presentation)

For more than 30 years, the Fairfax County Park Authority has supported scouting organizations, Boy Scouts of America and Girl Scouts of the USA. This partnership continues with hundreds of stewardship-related badge programs offered annually and thousands of hours of hands-on caring of park resources by scouts each year.

At the February 28, 2007, Resource Management Committee meeting, staff will present an overview of the educational programs and stewardship projects offered by the Resource Management Division in partnership with scouts during 2006.

ENCLOSED DOCUMENTS:

Attachment 1: Webelos – Naturalist Badge

Attachment 2: Junior Girl Scouts – Local Lore Badge

STAFF:

Michael A. Kane, Director

Timothy K. White, Chief Operating Officer

Judy Pedersen, Public Information Officer

Todd Johnson, Director, Park Operations Division

Charles Bittenbring, Director, Park Services Division

Cindy Messinger, Director, Resource Management Division

Mona Enquist-Johnston, Manager, Volunteer, Interpretation and Program Services

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## WEBELOS - NATURALIST BADGE



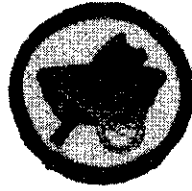
### **Do these:**

1. With your parent, guardian, or Webelos den leader, complete the **Respect Character Connection**.
  - a. **Know:** Tell what interested you most when completing the requirements for this activity badge. Tell what you learned about how you can show appreciation and respect for wildlife.
  - b. **Commit:** Tell things that some people have done that show a lack of respect for wildlife. Name ways that you will show respect for and protect wildlife.
  - c. **Practice:** Explain how completing the requirements for this activity badge gives you the opportunity to show respect.

### **And do five of these:**

2. Keep an "insect zoo" that you have collected. You might have crickets, ants, or grasshoppers. Study them for a while then release them. Share your experience with your Webelos den.
3. Set up an aquarium or terrarium. Keep it for at least a month. Share your experience with your Webelos den by showing them photos or drawings of your project, or having them visit to see your project.
4. Visit a museum of natural history, nature center, or zoo with your family, Webelos den, or pack. Tell what you saw.
5. Watch for birds in your yard, neighborhood, or town for one week. Identify the birds you see and write down where and when you saw them.
6. Learn about the bird flyways closest to your home. Find out which birds use these flyways.
7. Learn to identify poisonous plants and venomous reptiles found in your area.
8. Watch six wild animals (snakes, turtles, fish, birds, or mammals) in the wild. Describe the kind of place (forest, field, marsh, yard, or park) where you saw them. Tell what they were doing.
9. Give examples of
  - A producer, a consumer, and a decomposer in the food chain of an ecosystem
  - One way humans have changed the balance of nature
  - How you can help protect the balance of nature
10. Identify a plant, bird, or wild animal that is found only in your area of the country. Tell why it survives only in your area.
11. Learn about aquatic ecosystems and wetlands in your area. Discuss with your Webelos den leader or activity badge counselor the important role aquatic ecosystems and wetlands play in supporting lifecycles of wildlife and humans.
12. Look around your neighborhood and identify how litter might be dangerous to the birds and other animals. Clean up the litter. Identify what else you might do to make your neighborhood safer for animals.
13. While you are a Webelos Scout, earn the Cub Scout Academics belt loop for **Wildlife Conservation**.

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## Junior Girl Scouts - Local Lore Badge

**Complete any six of the following requirements to earn this badge:**

1. **Word of Mouth**  
Find out about a story, legend, monument, or landmark in your community. Older residents or your librarian can help. Share your findings with others.
2. **It's All on the Map**  
How has your community changed? Locate a map of your town that's at least 25 years old. Your library, chamber of commerce, or planning commission should have one. Compare that map with one from today. What has changed? What has remained the same? Are all the changes for the better? Which ones would you like to undo? Why?
3. **From Above**  
Ask someone from the Soil Conservation Service, the U.S. Geological Service, or a local college or real estate agency if you can see aerial photos of your community made over a period of time. What story do these photos tell you about changes in your community?
4. **Tour Your Community**  
Take part in a tour of your community. Look for three different examples of architecture from different historical periods. When and why were the buildings or houses built? What types of materials were used? Try sketching, photographing, or writing down information about the buildings.
5. **Extra, Extra, Read All About It!**  
Create a one-page poster, newspaper page, or flyer that describes a past period of your community. Include news, ads, or editorials that might have appeared at that time. Share your item with others.
6. **Sing Someone's Praises**  
Create a story, song, or poem about the efforts of one person who has had a major impact on your city or town.
7. **Take a Trip**  
Visit a local museum, historical society, library, or town hall to learn more about the history of your city or town. What new things did you learn?
8. **Take Pride**  
Volunteer at an event, fair, or special occasion in your area. Find an event that brings people together in celebration of the past; for example, one that highlights important dates in history, or one that recognizes the past contributions of different cultures.
9. **Walk the Talk**  
Pitch in on a project that will help preserve the history of your community or something unique about it. Examples would be replanting native plants, or cleaning or fixing up an historical site.
10. **Focus on the Future**  
Given how your community has changed in the past 25 years, how do you think your community will change in the next 20, 50, or 100 years? Share your prediction of the future in a creative way—you might use charts, maps, drawings, or a skit.

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**INFORMATION –**

Invasive Management Area (IMA) Pilot Program Assessment and Update (with presentation)

The Invasive Management Area (IMA) Pilot Program is a volunteer-led, community-based project designed to incorporate resident enthusiasm for stewardship on parkland into an effective invasive plant removal project. Funding for this project was provided by the Board of Supervisors at FY 2005 Carryover in support of their Environmental Agenda. In 2006, the focus was on removing six priority invasive plant species characterized as easy to identify, aggressive growers, linked to negative ecosystem effects and responsive to hand removal methods.

At the February 28, 2007, Resource Management Committee meeting, staff will present year one accomplishments and an assessment of the lessons learned and plans for year two of the pilot program.

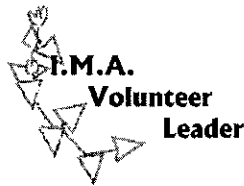
ENCLOSED DOCUMENTS:

Attachment 1: Summary of Invasive Management Area 2006 results

STAFF:

Michael A. Kane, Director  
Timothy K. White, Chief Operating Officer  
Judy Pedersen, Public Information Officer  
Todd Johnson, Director, Park Operations Division  
Charlie Bittenbring, Director, Park Services Division  
Cindy Messinger, Director, Resource Management Division  
Michael Rierson, Manager, Resource Stewardship Branch  
Heather Schinkel, Manager, Natural Resource Management and Protection Section  
Meghan Fellows, Naturalist  
Kathy Frederick, IMA Volunteer Coordinator

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## **2006 IMA Fast Facts**

### **Sites**

**21 sites**

**Over 8 acres maintained**

16 IMA sites were ½-acre plots and five IMA sites were under ½ acres

### **Volunteers**

**875 volunteer participants**

Three large group/corporate events

**Contributing a total of 1,300 volunteer hours**

**133 total workdays**

### **Partnership Support**

NRMP, various park staff, Earth Sangha, Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District, Department of Forestry, Potomac Conservancy, and Fairfax ReLeaf among others.

### **Debris**

**Over 250 bags** collected, not including trailer loads of loose debris, or debris cut and dropped on site.

### **Native Plants**

**Over 300 native species were planted** at six different IMA sites.

Two sites were planted with native meadow seed.

### **Outreach Activities**

**Reached 2,900 known customer contacts through:**

Attendees at the EcoSavvy conference

Homeowner's newsletter articles (Rutherford, Folkstone & Woodglen)

NEST program participants

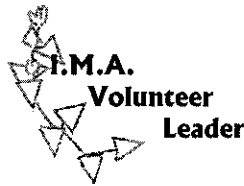
Green Rangers program participants

Watershed/water event

Neighbor notification letters

Numerous phone calls & emails from the general public

Web site – ResOURces on line



## **2006 IMA Lessons Learned**

- Raised participant awareness of invasive, non-native plants
- Fairfax Residents have a deep commitment to their parks
- The IMA model works
- Full time staff support is required
- Adequate funding is critical: purchased tools, gloves, provided educational materials, and signage
- The Chesapeake Bay Preservation Ordinance: legislation meant to protect water resources can be challenging for ecological restoration projects
- Volunteer recruitment for the actual workday will be an ongoing challenge
- The "Weed Wrench" is a great tool

## **2007 IMA Plans**

- Ecological monitoring of 2006 activities
- Grow the IMA Volunteer Leaders base to 30 or 40 leaders – Eleven new volunteers
- Expand the IMA Sites to increase overall managed acreage – Eight new sites for an additional four acres
- Expand IMA species list from six to ten to include four more invasive plants: porcelain-berry, oriental bittersweet, garlic mustard and autumn olive
- Staff Support Priorities:
  - Recruit volunteers
  - Expand education and outreach
  - Incorporate contractor herbicide treatments with volunteer efforts

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**INFORMATION -**

Community Horticulture Program Update (with presentation)

Staff from Green Spring Gardens will conduct the annual presentation on the current activities of the County-wide Horticulture Program. The presentation will highlight information on the Fairfax County Garden Plot Program, the Green Spring Master Gardener Program and the Fairfax County Farmers Market Program.

ENCLOSED DOCUMENTS:

None

STAFF:

Michael A. Kane, Director  
Timothy K. White, Chief Operating Officer  
Judy Pedersen, Public Information Officer  
Todd Johnson, Director, Park Operations Division  
Charles Bittenbring, Director, Park Services Division  
Cindy Messinger, Director, Resource Management Division  
Cindy Walsh, Manager, Operations Branch, Resource Management Division  
Mary Olien, Manager, Green Spring Gardens

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