



FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY



M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Chairman and Members
Park Authority Board

VIA: John W. Dargle, Jr., Director *JWD/gy*

FROM: Cindy Walsh, Director
Resource Management Division

DATE: March 19, 2009

Agenda

**Resource Management Committee
Wednesday, March 25, 2009 – 6 p.m.
Board Room – Herrity Building
Chairman: Frank Vajda
Vice Chair: Harry Glasgow**

1. Park Authority Stewardship Update (with presentation) – Information*
2. Community Horticulture Program Update (with presentation) – Information*

*Enclosures



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

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Board Agenda Item
April 8, 2009

INFORMATION (with presentation)

Park Authority Stewardship Update

The purpose of the Stewardship Update is to provide information on a quarterly basis on current museum collections and cultural and natural resource issues, to highlight projects of note and to provide updates on activities related to the implementation of the Cultural Resource Management Plan (CRMP) and the Natural Resource Management Plan (NRMP). This includes both Park Authority-specific and countywide activities.

ENCLOSED DOCUMENTS:

Attachment 1: Park Authority Stewardship Update dated March 25, 2009

STAFF:

John W. Dargle, Jr, Director
Cindy Messinger, Deputy Director/COO
Cindy Walsh, Director, Resource Management Division
David Bowden, Director, Planning and Development Division
Barbara Nugent, Director, Park Services Division
Todd Johnson, Director, Park Operations Division
Miriam Morrison, Director, Administration Division

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**Park Authority Stewardship Update
Cultural Resource Management and Protection
March 2009**

Item	Background	Status	Lead Agency
POLICY & PLANNING			
Heritage Resource Management Plan Out of Turn Plan Amendment	Cultural Resource staff partners with Department of Public Works to protect cultural resources.	Cultural Resource staff worked with DPZ staff on the Out of Turn Plan Amendment (OTPA) to update the Fairfax County Inventory of Historic Sites. A public hearing was held by the Planning Commission on November 20, 2008. The OTPA was approved by the Board of Supervisors on January 26, 2009.	Planning Commission/ History Commission
EDUCATION AND OUTREACH			
Civil War Sesquicentennial Committee	Cultural Resource staff participates in local, regional and national professional conferences.	A steering committee was selected for the Fairfax County Civil War Sesquicentennial. The steering committee includes representatives from the Park Authority, FXVA, Libraries, National Park Service, Bull Run Civil War Roundtable, Chantilly Battlefield Association, History Commission and other organizations. The steering committee discussed a signature event and planning for other events that will occur as part of this five-year commemoration.	Park Authority/FXVA
AAM Guidelines and Best Practices	Staff provides education and training to other members of the agency to ensure that guidelines best practices are followed.	Museum Collections staff assisted Frying Pan Park staff in the improvement of the handling and management of historic objects in accordance with the American Association of Museums (AAM) guidelines and best practices.	Park Authority
Collections in Action	The Cultural Resource Staff participates in educational opportunities which demonstrate our expertise in the museum field.	Staff assisted in the Virginia Association of Museums (VAM) Collections Management Board legal responsibilities and director's operational procedures.	Park Authority/ Virginia Association of Museums

**Park Authority Stewardship Update
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March 2009**

Item	Background	Status	Lead Agency
PARTNERSHIPS Cemetery Committee	The Cultural Resource Management and Protection Section partners with the Fairfax County History Commission and other agencies to protect cultural resources.	Cultural Resource Management and Protection Section staff is working with the members of the History Commission, local historians and concerned citizens to identify, clean up and protect historic cemeteries in the county that have been subject to neglect.	Park Authority and History Commission
Fairfax County Archaeology and Cultural Resources Friends Group	The Cultural Resource Management and Protection Section partners with the Fairfax County History Commission and other agencies to protect cultural resources.	Interested members of the history and archaeology community are forming a Friends' group to support the Park Authority's archaeology and cultural resources in the county. The initial meeting was held on March 5, 2009.	Interested parties, Park Authority
Civil War Bike Trails	The Cultural Resource Management and Protection Section partners with the Fairfax County History Commission and other agencies to protect cultural resources.	The Park Authority is part of a team to establish a heritage biking/hiking trail connecting the Defenses of Washington (the circle of forts built during the Civil War to protect the capital). The bike route will extend from Fort Marcy (on National Park Service (NPS) land in Arlington to Fort Willard in Fairfax County. Representatives from the NPS, Arlington, Alexandria and Fairfax are participating.	National Park Service
George Mason University Anthropology Department	The Cultural Resource Management and Protection Section partners with the Fairfax County History Commission and other agencies to protect cultural resources.	The Cultural Resource Management and Protection Section is continuing to work with George Mason University to have students intern during the academic year.	Park Authority and George Mason University
Fairfax County History Conference	The Cultural Resource Management and Protection Section partners with the Fairfax County History Commission and other agencies to protect cultural resources.	The Park Authority is partnering with the History Commission to sponsor the 2009 Fairfax County History Conference. The proposed location of the 2009 conference is the theatre at the James Lee Center.	Fairfax County History Commission/ Park Authority

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Item	Background	Status	Lead Agency
<p>CULTURAL RESOURCES/RESEARCH Section 106 compliance/ Clarks Branch Crossing, Riverbend Park</p>	<p>The Cultural Resource Management and Protection Section works with the Virginia Department of Historic Resources and federal agencies to conduct review in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.</p>	<p>Staff is working on Section 106 compliance for the National Register eligible archaeological site at Clarks Branch in Riverbend Park. To expedite the process, staff prepared letters for the National Park Service to invite the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) and 7 Indian tribes to be consulting parties. In addition, staff prepared a draft Memorandum of Agreement in consultation with Virginia Department of Historic Resources to be signed by interested parties. These steps must be taken before data recovery archaeological investigations and bridge construction can occur.</p>	<p>Park Authority/Virginia Department of Historic Resources</p>
<p>Nominations to Fairfax County Inventory of Historic Sites and National Register of Historic Places</p>	<p>Cultural Resource staff nominates sites on parkland to the Inventory of Historic Sites, Virginia Landmarks Register and National Register of Historic Places, as appropriate.</p>	<p>Cultural Resource staff is preparing nominations for 15 sites to be listed in the Fairfax County Inventory of Historic Sites. Research has been completed and documentation submitted for the first, prehistoric steatite quarries at Fairfax Villa Park.</p>	<p>Park Authority, DPZ, History Commission</p>

**Park Authority Stewardship Update
Natural Resource Management and Protection
March 2009**

Item	Background	Status	Lead Agency
<p>POLICY & PLANNING Environmental Quality Advisory Council</p>	<p>The Environmental Quality Advisory Council's (EQAC) purpose is to advise the Board of Supervisors on environmental issues and its principal product is the Annual Report on the Environment. EQAC members are appointed by the Board of Supervisors.</p>	<p>EQAC published its 2008 Annual Report on the Environment in December 2008. The Park Authority was assigned the lead in responding to two items in the report related to outdoor lighting and the Natural Resource Management Plan, and as a coordinating agency for two other items related to outdoor lighting and wildlife. Responses to the report were submitted in January 2009 to the county Environmental Coordinator and will be submitted to EQAC as a combined county package in March 2009.</p>	<p>Environmental Quality Advisory Council</p>
<p>EDUCATION AND OUTREACH</p>			
<p>Stewardship Education Team</p>	<p>As part of the Cultural Resource Management Plan and the Natural Resource Management Plan and in response to the 2003 All Hands staff meeting that focused on values, an agency wide strategy was developed to emphasize Stewardship Education. As a result the Stewardship Education Team was created and consists of members from all Divisions in the agency.</p>	<p>The Stewardship Education Team (SET) has been working on several projects this year including evaluating recycling throughout the agency, raising awareness of cultural resources and developing a concept for a Stewardship Ambassador certification program.</p>	<p>Park Authority</p>
<p>Green Breakfast</p>	<p>The Green Breakfast is a monthly gathering of environmental activists and interested citizens. Meetings involve breakfast at a local restaurant followed by announcements and a speaker on a selected topic.</p>	<p>The Park Authority was asked to speak at the January 10, 2009 Green Breakfast on the Huntley Meadows wetlands restoration project. Charles Smith presented an overview of the project using a program prepared by Kevin Munroe.</p>	<p>Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District</p>

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<p>Virginia Native Plant Society Chapter Meeting Presentation</p>	<p>The Potowmack Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society is the local organization for people interested in native plants. They meet monthly, with an invited guest speaker at each meeting.</p>	<p>About 40 members of the Potowmack Chapter were present on February 12th to learn about the ecological success of the Park Authority's Invasive Management Area (IMA) Volunteer Program. Attendees learned that invasive plant cover has decreased in IMA work areas by 24%. Attendees also learned of success with species like mile-a-minute, English ivy and stilt grass. Although the ecological data does not show decreases in some other target species, monitoring the program has allowed staff to learn more effective and efficient methods for eradicating undesirable invasive plants.</p>	<p>Virginia Native Plant Society</p>
<p>PARTNERSHIPS Forest Pest Monitoring and Control</p>	<p>Each year the Park Authority works with Urban Forest Management to support county efforts to control and monitor for forest pest species.</p>	<p>Urban Forest Management has generated their plan for gypsy moth spraying for 2009. Emerald Ash Borer monitoring will be greatly increased this year with approximately 2000 traps placed in Fairfax County. There will likely be at least one trap in every park. On average, there will be two traps per square mile, with denser trapping closer to the infestation sites and along the southern border of the county.</p>	<p>Department of Public Works and Environmental Services</p>

**Park Authority Stewardship Update
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<p>WATER RESOURCES Stormwater and Watershed Planning</p>	<p>Fairfax County has a comprehensive stormwater program that includes assessment and monitoring of stream conditions; maintenance of current and future stormwater management facilities; retrofit and upgrade of stormwater conveyance systems and stabilization of streams to improve water quality; watershed planning efforts to establish baseline information and propose efforts to improve streams countywide; and compliance with applicable federal and state regulations and permitting programs.</p>	<p>Watershed planning efforts are currently underway for Accotink Creek, Johnny Moore Creek/Little Rocky Run, Pohick Creek, Sugarland Run/Horsepen Run, Dogue Creek/Belle Haven/Four Mile Run, Lower Occoquan, and Nichol Run/Pond Branch. The Park Authority submitted input for the County's MS4 Permit annual report in late January 2009. Stream stabilization is currently underway for a tributary of Pohick Creek in Pohick Stream Valley Park at former Hatcher's Lake off of Shifflet Boulevard. Construction is underway or will soon begin for retrofit projects at Pinecrest Golf Course, Bucknell Manor, and Collingwood Park.</p>	<p>Department of Public Works and Environmental Services</p>
<p>2004 Bond Stream Stabilization Plans - Huntley Meadows Wetland Restoration</p>	<p>Funding from the 2004 park bond was allocated for the restoration of the central wetland at Huntley Meadows Park. An additional \$2,250,000 in funds for this project were approved in the 2008 park bond.</p>	<p>Park Authority staff gave a presentation on this project at the Fairfax County Green Breakfast meeting on January 10, 2009. Staff has been working on the permitting issues related to the project. On January 29, 2009, staff met to discuss the options for permitting the dam required for the project. A determination was made that there are no provisions available to county staff short of revising the Public Facilities Manual for allowing a dam that does not meet the dam standards. Park Authority staff was referred to the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation to determine if there is an applicable exemption at the state level.</p>	<p>Park Authority</p>

**Park Authority Stewardship Update
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RESOURCE MANAGEMENT		
<p>Board of Supervisors Environmental Agenda - Invasive Management Area Program</p>	<p>This Environmental Agenda funded project is to remove invasive species from parkland. This program fits neatly with the goals of the Natural Resource Management Plan to educate the public about natural resource issues and to take management action with regards to invasive species.</p>	<p>May 2, 2009 will be a state-wide Invasive Plant Removal day. This year approximately 10 sites will be participating, focusing on removing garlic mustard, an invasive biennial associated with inhibiting tree germination. The state Master Naturalists and Virginia Native Plant Society are coordinating the effort with Virginia Cooperative Extension, Virginia Department of Forestry and the Master Gardeners.</p>
<p>Deer Management</p>	<p>The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors adopted a County Deer Management Plan in 1998. The Park Authority supports this plan as a county agency, the county's major landowner, and as a steward of natural resources.</p>	<p>The deer management budget within the police department was cut as part of the measures required by the current fiscal climate. Enough funds were retained to complete several sharpshoots in Cub Run Stream Valley Park and one public managed hunt in the Sully Woodlands assemblage. The public hunt was held on February 11, 2009 and 32 deer were taken. Park Authority staff was interviewed by a reporter from the Washington Post for an article on deer around the time of the hunt.</p>
<p>Laurel Hill Resource Management</p>	<p>A portion of the funds allocated for Laurel Hill from fund 303 were set aside for natural resource management services at Laurel Hill Park. The focus of those services will be to assess existing resources, develop a management plan for the meadow and old field areas covering much of the site, and begin implementation of that plan.</p>	<p>The Park Authority is using contractor Lardner/Klein to conduct assessment of park natural resources, identify resource needs, and develop a management plan for the extensive meadow and old field habitat areas at Laurel Hill. The project began in January 2009 and will be completed by Spring 2010. The Audubon Society of Northern Virginia will be a partner in the project.</p>

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Meadow Management	<p>Meadows and old fields are two of the fastest disappearing habitat types in Northern Virginia. Meadows harbor a diverse array of wildlife. The Park Authority has conducted management activities on a limited number of meadows since 1997. Park Authority staff has worked to protect a few high-quality meadows and meadows at parks that have staff available for meadow management. The Park Authority works in partnership with numerous partners to include the Fairfax Fire and Rescue Department and the Virginia Department of Forestry in conducting meadow management.</p>	<p>Staff completed its fourth year of the prescribed burn program at the Meadow Management Area at Ellick Preserve. Twenty-one acres were successfully burned, and an assessment of the vegetation over the whole meadow complex was completed. A second year of burning was conducted at Huntley Meadows. Two fields containing about seven acres were burned. Staff also conducted its first forest burn successfully in a five-acre stand at Huntley Meadows.</p>	Park Authority
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Board Agenda Item
April 8, 2009

INFORMATION (with presentation)

Community Horticulture Program Update

Staff from Green Spring Gardens will present an update 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

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