



# FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY



## M E M O R A N D U M

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

**VIA:** Kirk W. Kincannon, Director

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

**DATE:** May 22, 2014

### *Agenda*

**Resource Management Committee  
Wednesday, May 28, 2014 – 6 p.m.**

**Boardroom – Herrity Building**

**Chairman: Frank S. Vajda**

**Vice Chair: Anthony J. Vellucci**

**Members: Edward R. Batten, Sr., Mary Cortina, Ken Quincy**

1. FY 2015 Deer Management Overview (with presentation) – Information\*
2. Program and Interpretation Update (with presentation) – Information\*
3. Approval – 2014 Telecommunications Spending for Natural and Cultural Resources – Information\*

\*Enclosures



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**INFORMATION** (with presentation)

FY 2015 Deer Management Overview

The Park Authority has been participating in the Fairfax County Deer Management Program since its inception in 1998. Each year staff has presented the Park Authority Board with planned deer management activities for the coming fiscal year in cooperation with the Fairfax County Police Department–Animal Services Division (FCPD–ASD). The most recent herd management activities occurred between September 14, 2013, and February 20, 2014, in conjunction with permits held by the FCPD–ASD.

From September 2014 through March 2015, Park Authority staff will work in cooperation with the FCPD–ASD to plan and conduct deer herd reduction activities in up to 67 parks (Attachment 1).

FY 2014 Deer Management Summary

During the FY 2014 season, deer herd reduction was sustained and incorporated three management methods: archery hunts, managed hunts, and sharpshooting. For the first time, sharpshooting was conducted on parkland using a private vendor in addition to FCPD staff.

- Permitted deer management activities included sharpshooting at up to 81 parks, archery hunting at up to 77 parks, and managed hunts at up to 8 parks.
- Deer herd reduction activities occurred at 51 parks with 900 deer removed (Attachment 2), as compared to the FY 2013 season where reduction activities occurred at 38 parks with 930 deer removed.
  - Fewer deer were harvested at the two managed hunts this season for reasons unknown (50 vs. 125 the prior season). The number of hunters was approximately the same.
  - Police Department sharpshooting was significantly more limited this season than in prior years (three nights only), due to staffing changes.

In FY 2014 managed hunts and sharpshoots continued in parks that previously had received these management methods, with the addition of privately contracted sharpshooting at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park and Old Colchester Park and Preserve.

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The group archery program was increased to 44 parks, including several new locations in the county:

- Annandale Cluster (Lilian Carey, Holmes Run Stream Valley, Roundtree, Mason District, White Gardens)
- Reston Cluster (Fred Crabtree, Little Difficult Run Stream Valley, Difficult Run Stream Valley)
- Fairfax Station Cluster (Piney Branch Stream Valley, Patriot, Popes Head).

These archery hunts were successful, particularly along Difficult Run Stream Valley in Vienna and Pohick Stream Valley in Springfield. The hunts resulted in low wounding rates and no safety incidents. Under this program hunting groups must meet strict qualifications and carry liability insurance. Once a group is qualified, they are entered into a lottery drawing for available hunting locations on public land. Twenty-one groups were selected in the FY 2014 hunting lottery for FCPA parks. These groups consisted of over 650 qualified individual volunteers.

Last July 10,000 notification letters were sent to residents bordering parks where deer management was slated to occur during FY 2014. Feedback from citizens in the FY 2014 season focused on both the archery and sharpshooting programs, and was of typical volume. Park and police staff managed interactions with citizens, elected officials and reporters in person, via phone and email.

During August two public information meetings regarding the Deer Management Program were held by the FCPD, with only a few citizens in attendance. The vast majority of residents remained supportive of deer management efforts as did senior staff, the Park Authority Board, and elected officials. Anecdotally, park staff has seen improvements in park conditions over the years since deer management has been implemented and sustained.

A pilot study has been underway in Fairfax County since 2012 to test the effectiveness of 4-Poster deer treatment stations as a method for host-based tick management. The Park Authority has authorized use of Sully Woodlands as an active treatment site, with Twin Lakes Golf Course and Laurel Hill Park as control sites. Deer are being culled at these sites using sharpshooting to obtain tick and tissue data for the study. During FY 2014, two sharpshoots were held each at Twin Lakes, Laurel Hill, and Sully Woodlands in accordance with their sampling protocols.

In FY 2014 park staff undertook several efforts to obtain better measurements of deer populations and also quantify the impact that deer populations have upon on park natural resources. These efforts support the FCPA Natural Resource Management Plan by providing a scientific basis on which to base natural resource management

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decisions. Collecting scientific data over time will also help staff adapt management strategies to meet ecological recovery goals on parkland. Data-gathering efforts conducted during FY 2014 include the following, with documented reports on file:

- Conducted Browse Impact Surveys in 140 plots at 11 parks, including repeating 35 plots at three parks surveyed in 2010 to analyze change over time. The impacts of deer were still measurable in many parks.
- Obtained aerial estimates of deer density at a fixed point in time using Forward-Looking Infrared (FLIR) counts on fixed-wing aircraft. This was the first time using this survey method.
  - Twenty FCPA parks were included in the FLIR survey
- Conducted a Camera Survey at Old Colchester Park and Preserve to estimate the deer population at the park.
- Established four deer exclosures each at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park and Old Colchester Park and Preserve, coupled with vegetation plots, to measure over time the effect of sharpshooting at these two parks.

### FY 2015 Deer Management Plan

Attachment 1 includes a summary of proposed parks where deer management may occur in FY 2015. New parks on this list include:

#### Archery

- Alexandria Cluster: Lee District, Amberleigh, Island Creek Parks
- Fairfax Station Cluster: Fairfax Villa Park
- Reston Cluster: Waples Mill Meadow and Garnchayne Park
- Sugarland Run Cluster: Shaker Woods Park
- Vienna Cluster: Eudora Park

#### Sharpshooting

- Mason Neck West

Deer Management Program Public Meetings will be held by FCPD-ASD on August 14 and 21, 2014, (time and location TBD). Archery notification letters will be mailed by park staff during July to property owners immediately adjacent to or within 200 feet of parks where archery will occur. Sharpshooting notification letters will be mailed in the fall at least two weeks in advance of sharpshooting activities in parks where sharpshooting

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has not occurred in the past. Sharpshooting notification will extend further to include homes in adjacent HOAs (if boundaries are known) and 1,000 feet from park boundaries. All notification mailings will be sent on FCPD letterhead.

The focus for the FY 2015 season will be slightly expanded over FY 2014:

- Sustain the existing archery program, add one new hunt cluster (Alexandria), and add several new parks to the existing clusters (listed above). FCPA parks in the archery program are grouped into clusters to accommodate 22 hunt groups selected via lottery (Attachment 1).
- Continue managed hunts at Sully Woodlands, potentially adding a third late-season hunt during February or March to improve harvest yields.
- Use FCPD sharpshooting at a few parks and potentially incorporate new and strategic methods of baiting and shooting (currently under FCPD review).
- Continue to contract with White Buffalo, Inc. to significantly reduce herd levels at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park and Old Colchester Park and Preserve to meet natural resource management goals. Continue monitoring park vegetation.

Archery will be restricted to the portions of the park where it can be implemented safely and discreetly. The parks will remain open with no closures since archery is safe and compatible with other park uses. Signs will be posted at park entrances and along trails notifying the public of the ongoing deer management activity and asking park patrons to remain on trails. For sharpshooting, park closures will vary depending on the location of the activity, the time of day, and the level of visitor activity. Safety is the top priority; all sharpshooting operations are planned in close cooperation with the FCPD. For Managed Hunts, the included parks will be closed to the public on the days of the hunt.

Research on the deer herd and the effect of deer browse on park vegetation will continue to be a part of FCPA's deer management strategy moving forward. Staff ecologists are particularly interested in quantifying the effect of various control methods as they relate to park management goals, such as reducing damage to vegetation. Herd estimates (likely camera surveys) and vegetation surveys will be conducted at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park and Old Colchester Park and Preserve as part of FY 2015 natural resource management activities, in addition to vegetation or browse surveys conducted at parks countywide as resources allow.

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FISCAL IMPACT:

All deer herd management will be conducted with existing Park Authority and FCPD staff, equipment and funding.

ENCLOSED DOCUMENT:

Attachment 1: FY 2015 FCPA Deer Management Parks

Attachment 2: FY 2014 Deer Harvest Totals for Fairfax County Parks

STAFF:

Kirk W. Kincannon, Director

Cindy Messinger, Deputy Director/CFO

Sara Baldwin, Deputy Director/COO

Cindy Walsh, Director, Resource Management Division

Kristen Sinclair, Senior Natural Resource Specialist, Resource Management Division

Barbara Nugent, Director, Park Services Division

Todd Johnson, Director, Park Operations Division

Judy Pedersen, Public Information Officer

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## Attachment 1: FY 2015 FCPA Deer Management Sites

Cluster Number	Archery Cluster Name	Park Name(s)	Acreage by Park	Acreage by Cluster	Research	Proposed Methods
1	Accotink North	ACCOTINK STREAM VALLEY PARK	205	365	Staff Observations	Archery
		EAKIN PARK (MANTUA SECTION)	72		Staff Observations	Archery
		SALLY ORMSBY PARK	40		Staff Observations	Archery
		EAKIN COMMUNITY PARK	48		Staff Observations	Archery
2	Accotink South	ACCOTINK STREAM VALLEY PARK	428	490	FLIR Survey, Browse Impact Survey	Archery
		CARRLEIGH PARKWAY PARK	10		FLIR Survey	Archery
		BROOKFIELD PARK	26		FLIR Survey	Archery
		BYRON AVENUE PARK	6		FLIR Survey	Archery
		HUNTER VILLAGE PARK	20		FLIR Survey	Archery
3	Alexandria	LEE DISTRICT PARK	77	191	Staff Observations	Archery
		AMBERLEIGH PARK	18		Staff Observations	Archery
		ISLAND CREEK PARK	96		Staff Observations	Archery
4	Annandale	LILLIAN CAREY PARK	58	279	Staff Observations	Archery
		HOLMES RUN STREAM VALLEY PARK	12		Staff Observations	Archery
		ROUNDTREE PARK	74		Browse Impact Survey	Archery
		MASON DISTRICT PARK	121		Browse Impact Survey	Archery
		JOHN C & MARGARET K WHITE GARDENS	14		Staff Observations	Archery
5	Burke Lake	BURKE LAKE PARK & GOLF COURSE	409	409	FLIR Survey, Browse Impact Survey	Archery
6	Clifton	JOHNNY MOORE STREAM VALLEY PARK	342	492	Staff Observations	Archery
		CONFEDERATE FORTIFICATIONS HISTORIC SITE	150		Staff Observations	Archery
7	Colvin Run	COLVIN RUN STREAM VALLEY PARK	44	220	Browse Impact Survey	Archery
		COLVIN RUN MILL PARK	58		Staff Observations	Archery
		DIFFICULT RUN STREAM VALLEY PARK	118		Staff Observations	Archery

Cluster Number	Archery Cluster Name	Park Name(s)	Acreage by Park	Acreage by Cluster	Research	Proposed Methods
8	Cub Run	CUB RUN STREAM VALLEY PARK	626		FLIR Survey, Browse Impact Survey	Archery
		ELLANOR C LAWRENCE PARK	433	<b>1059</b>	FLIR Survey, Browse Impact Survey	Archery and Sharpshooting*
9	Elklick	ELKCLICK PRESERVE	490		FLIR Survey, Browse Impact Survey	Archery, Managed Hunts, Sharpshooting †
		MOUNTAIN ROAD DISTRICT PARK	201	<b>691</b>	FLIR Survey	Archery
10	Fairfax Station	PINEY BRANCH STREAM VALLEY PARK	140		Staff Observations	Archery
		PATRIOT PARK	130		Staff Observations	Archery
		POPES HEAD PARK	41		Staff Observations	Archery
		FAIRFAX VILLA PARK	60	<b>371</b>	Staff Observations	Archery
11	Great Falls	RIVERBEND PARK	406		FLIR Survey	Archery
		SCOTTS RUN NATURE PRESERVE	379	<b>785</b>	FLIR Survey	Archery
12	Huntley Meadows	HUNTLEY MEADOWS PARK	537	<b>537</b>	Camera Survey	Archery
13	Lake Accotink	LAKE ACCOTINK PARK	448	<b>448</b>	FLIR Survey, Browse Impact Survey	Archery
14	Laurel Hill	LAUREL HILL PARK	1157		FLIR Survey, Browse Impact Survey	Archery and Sharpshooting †
		NEWINGTON HEIGHTS PARK	59		FLIR Survey	Archery
		OLD COLCHESTER PARK & PRESERVE	144	<b>1360</b>	FLIR Survey, Camera Survey, Browse Impact Survey	Archery and Sharpshooting*
15	Pohick Stream Vall	POHICK STREAM VALLEY PARK	548		Browse Impact Survey	Archery
		BURKE STATION PARK	18		Staff Observations	Archery
		SHANNON STATION PARK	13		Staff Observations	Archery
		WEST SPRINGFIELD VILLAGE PARK	10	<b>589</b>	Staff Observations	Archery

Cluster Number	Archery Cluster Name	Park Name(s)	Acreage by Park	Acreage by Cluster	Research	Proposed Methods
16	Poplar Ford	POPLAR FORD PARK	365		FLIR Survey	Archery
		HICKORY FOREST PARK	95	<b>460</b>	FLIR Survey	Archery
17	Reston	FRED CRABTREE PARK	208		FLIR Survey, Browse Impact Survey	Archery
		LITTLE DIFFICULT RUN STREAM VALLEY PARK	94		Staff Observations	Archery
		WAPLES MILL MEADOW PARK	18		Staff Observations	Archery
		GARNCHAYNE PARK	21		Staff Observations	Archery
		DIFFICULT RUN STREAM VALLEY PARK	262	<b>603</b>	Staff Observations	Archery
18	South Run	SOUTH RUN DISTRICT PARK	189		Browse Impact Survey	Archery
		SOUTH RUN STREAM VALLEY PARK	195		Browse Impact Survey	Archery
		LAKE MERCER PARK	195	<b>579</b>	Staff Observations	Archery
19	Sugarland Run	SUGARLAND RUN STREAM VALLEY PARK	200		Staff Observations	Archery
		SHAKER WOODS PARK	14	<b>214</b>	Staff Observations	Archery
20	Sully Historic Site	SULLY HISTORIC SITE	113	<b>113</b>	Staff Observations	Archery
21	Vienna	TAMARACK PARK	21		Staff Observations	Archery
		DIFFICULT RUN STREAM VALLEY PARK	237		Staff Observations	Archery
		LAHEY LOST VALLEY PARK	23		Staff Observations	Archery
		CLARKS CROSSING PARK	124		Staff Observations	Archery
		EUDORA PARK	14	<b>419</b>	Staff Observations	Archery
22	Wakefield	WAKEFIELD PARK	288		FLIR Survey	Archery
		AMERICANA PARK	4	<b>292</b>	FLIR Survey	Archery
		Total acres in archery:		<b>10,966</b>		
	N/A	GREEN SPRING GARDENS			Staff Observations	Sharpshooting
	N/A	MARIE BUTLER LEVEN PRESERVE			Staff Observations	Sharpshooting
	N/A	LAKE FAIRFAX			FLIR Survey, Browse Impact Survey	Sharpshooting
	N/A	FRYING PAN FARM			FLIR Survey	Sharpshooting
	N/A	MASON NECK WEST			Staff Observations	Sharpshooting

Cluster Number	Archery Cluster Name	Park Name(s)	Acreage by Park	Acreage by Cluster	Research	Proposed Methods
	N/A	TWIN LAKES GOLF COURSE			Staff Observations	Sharpshooting †
	N/A	ROCK HILL DISTRICT			FLIR Survey	Managed Hunt
	N/A	RICHARD JONES/PLEASANT VALLEY GOLF			FLIR Survey	Managed Hunt; Sharpshooting †

\* Private contractor scheduled to sharpshoot after Thanksgiving; Archery will cease prior to sharpshooting.

† Sharpshooting to be conducted as part of the ongoing 4-Poster Pilot Study.

## FY 2014 Deer Harvest Totals for Fairfax County Parks

Archery	
Site	Number of Deer Taken
1. Accotink North Cluster	40
2. Accotink South Cluster	33
3. Annandale Cluster	46
4. Burke Lake Park	11
5. Colvin Run Stream Valley (SV)/ Difficult Run SV	13
6. Cub Run SV	52
7. Difficult Run SV/Clark's Crossing/Tamarack/ Lahey Lost Valley	67
8. Elklick Cluster	24
9. Fairfax Station Cluster	22
10. Great Falls Cluster	38
11. Huntley Meadows Park	38
12. Johnny Moore SV + Confederate Fortifications	24
13. Lake Accotink Park	33
14. Laurel Hill Cluster	42
15. Pohick Cluster	63
16. Poplar Ford	32
17. Reston Cluster	49
18. South Run Cluster	19
19. Sugarland Run SV	12
20. Sully Historic Site	17
21. Wakefield + Americana	16
Archery Total:	<b>691</b>

Managed Shotgun Hunts				
Site	Date	Number of Deer Taken	Doe	Buck
Sully Woodlands	11/20/2013	27	12	15
Sully Woodlands	1/9/2014	23	11	12
Managed Hunt Total:		<b>50</b>	23	27

## Sharpshooting

FCPD Standard Ops				
Site	Date	Number of Deer Taken	Doe	Buck
Huntley Meadows	12/5/2013	17	8	9
Lake Fairfax	12/12/2013	19	12	7
Marie Butler Leven Preserve	12/19/2013	7	1	6
Standard Ops total:		<b>43</b>	21	22

4-Poster Pilot Study Ops				
Site	Date	Number of Deer Taken	Doe	Buck
Twin Lakes	7/17/2013	2	2	0
Sully Woodlands & Pleasant Valley	7/23/2013	1	0	1
Laurel Hill	7/24/2013	3	2	1
Sully Woodlands & Pleasant Valley	10/22/2013	5	1	4
Laurel Hill	10/23/2013	4	4	0
Twin Lakes	10/30/2013	3	2	1
4 Poster Study total:		<b>18</b>	11	7

White Buffalo, Inc. (Private Contractor)				
Site	Date	Number of Deer Taken	Doe	Buck
Ellanor C. Lawrence Park	Jan & Feb 2014	92	54	38
Old Colchester Park and Preserve	Jan & Feb 2014	6	4	2
White Buffalo, Inc. total:		<b>98</b>	58	40

Sharpshooting total (all types): **159**

Deer Management Total for FY 2014: **900**

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## **INFORMATION**

### Program and Interpretation Update (with presentation)

Resource management programs provide engaging, relevant, and purposeful interpretive experiences to communicate resource stewardship messages. These interpretive programs, exhibits, and publications advance stewardship by increasing the public's awareness, appreciation, understanding, caring about and for Fairfax County's natural and cultural resources. Resource Management programs fulfill FCPA's mission but are also contributing financially to their own sustainability bringing in gross revenue of \$1.4 M annually.

The high quality interpretation provided for Fairfax County citizens is the result of capable and talented individuals who have honed their skills through practice, observation, evaluation, training, and by achieving professional certification.

At the May 28, 2014, Resource Management Committee meeting, staff will highlight the recent changes to stewardship programming including the conversion of scout programs to online listing and registration, the continuing expansion of sites and programming opportunities, and the success of the Roving Interpreter Program. These initiatives meet the Strategic Plan's objectives of Managing and Protecting Facilities and Properties and the strategic initiative to Foster and promote natural and cultural stewardship.

### ENCLOSED DOCUMENTS:

None

### STAFF:

Kirk W. Kincannon, Director  
Sara Baldwin, Deputy Director/COO  
Cindy Messinger, Deputy Director/CFO  
Barbara Nugent, Director, Park Services Division  
Cindy Walsh, Director, Resource Management Division  
Tammy Schwab, RMD Manager, Education and Outreach

# Stewardship Interpretation Program Update

Tammy Schwab  
Manager, Education and Outreach  
Resource Management Committee

5-28-14

# What is Interpretation

- A mission-based communication process that forges emotional and intellectual connections between the interests of the audience and meanings inherent in the resource. (Source: National Association for Interpretation)

# What Types of Programs Do We Offer?

- School field trips e.g. Meaningful watershed education experiences
- Scout badge programs and projects
- Family Programs / Campfires/ Wagon rides
- Children's preschool Classes and series
- Birthday parties
- Outreach to Schools, Libraries, and other County Agencies
- Teacher training and Master Naturalist training
- Outreach to Community and Civic Events i.e. Springfest & celebrate Fairfax, Chantilly day, and many more
- Historic Tours
- Gardening and Birding Classes
- Special Events Car show, Indian festival, Wetlands Awareness Day
- Nature Center Exhibits and interaction
- Much Much More

# RMD Program Staff

- The high quality interpretation provided for Fairfax County citizens is the result of capable and talented individuals who have honed their skills through
  - practice,
  - observation,
  - evaluation,
  - training,
  - and by achieving professional certification.

# Role of Interpretation in FCPA Mission

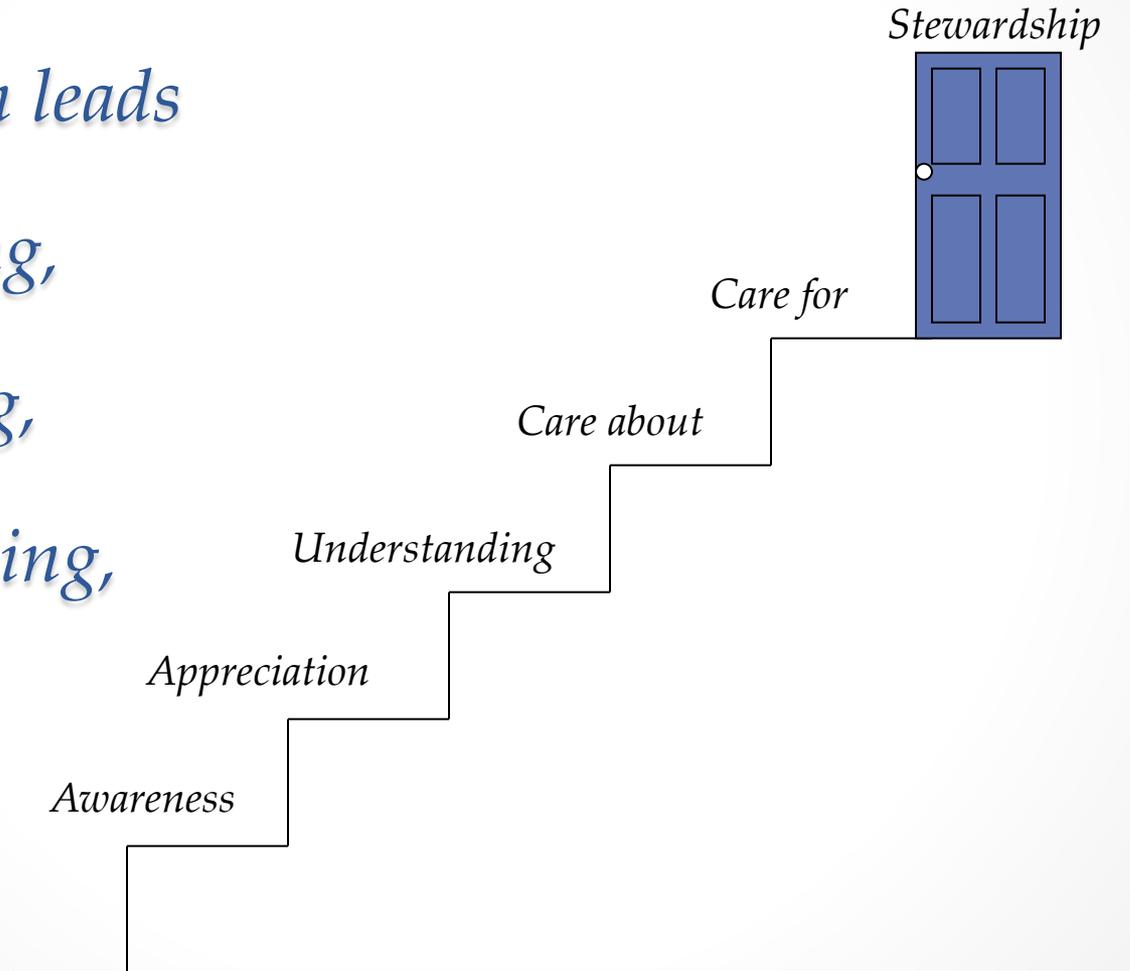
*Interpretation leads*

*to learning,*

*exploring,*

*understanding,*

*caring!*



“In the end we will conserve only what we love. We will love only what we understand. We will understand only what we are taught.”

Baba Dioum

# Interpretation Changes Perceptions







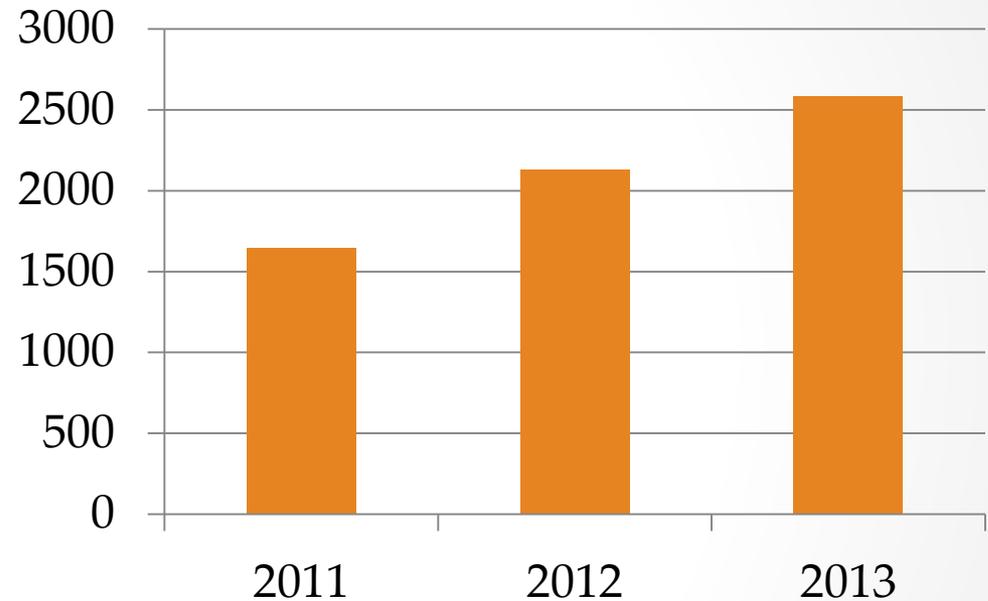
# The Evolution and Growth of Stewardship Programs

- In 2013 Coded stewardship programs: Programs using our
  - grossed \$1,229,226 in revenue
  - 21780 registrations in 2586 programs
  - 13.7% increase from the previous year.
- These numbers do not include the more than 30,000 students teachers and chaperons we serve in our school programs and other events that are not tracked the same way.

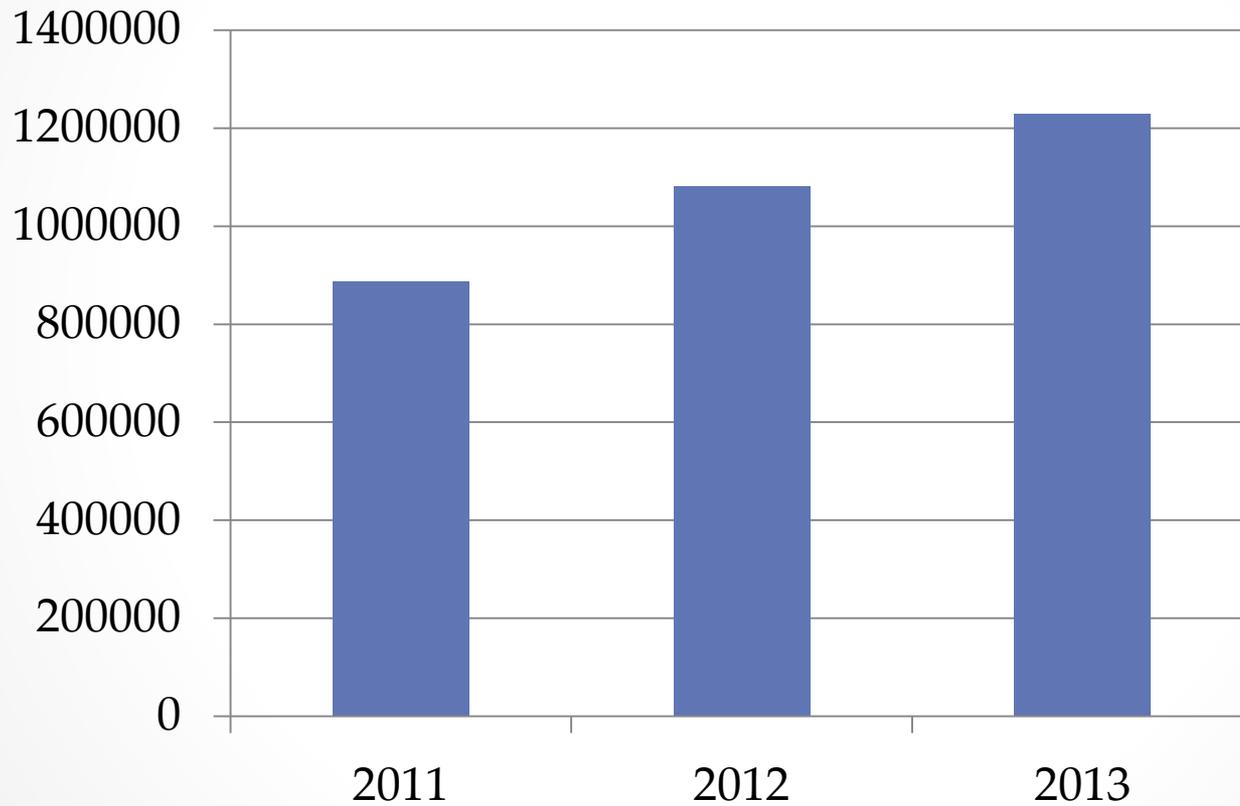
# Number of Programs

RMD continues to expand types and location of programs embedding stewardship education throughout the Fairfax county Community

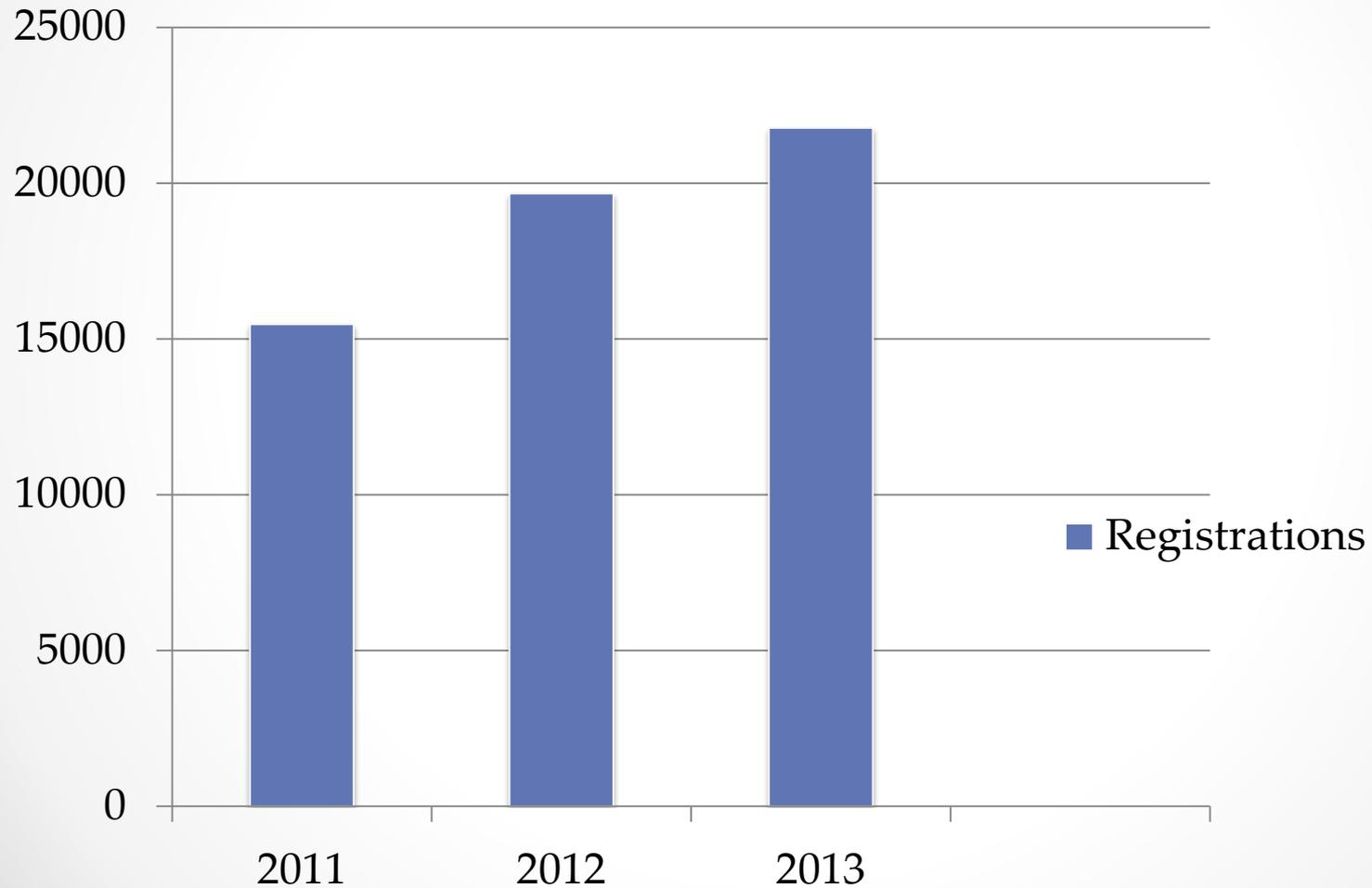
- 18 different categories
- 18 different sites including Historic property rental sites (HPRS), Cub Run RECenter, Lake Fairfax Park, Lake Accotink and unstaffed parks like Eakin Park and Scott's Run Nature preserve.



# Gross Revenue



# Registrations



# Growth in Stewardship Education Camps

- Offered In house history All-American girl doll camp
- More camps than last year
- More full day options to make it easier for working parents
- Specialty camps in Archaeology and Farm Zoology that put our unique park resources on display



All American girls doll time traveler workshop at hunter house. This will be a full week 1/2 day camp this summer.

# Meaningful Watershed Education Experience

MWEE comes in many forms

- a partnership with George Mason, FCPA, and Fairfax county Schools. Serves over 3000 kids a year
- A grant program from Exxon Mobile at hidden oak Nature center and on school grounds
- Partnerships with individual schools and sites at Hidden Pond Nature center and Hidden Oaks Nature.



# Roving Interpreter Program

- Roving interpreters are hired to support the MWEE Partnership with Schools but have been valuable resources for staffed sites to cover
  - school programs at lake fronts
  - birthday parties
  - large weekend events
  - scout badges
  - day camps
  - and much more



# Roving Interpreter Program

- Rovers have helped with Resources Railroad and the development of new scout programs and camp workshops at Hunter house. The next task is to develop an out reach program about weather for the winter months when MWEE is not an option.



# Roving Interpreter Program

- Rovers are key players in expanding programming to lake fronts and other parks that do not have dedicated interpretive staff. Like the New 5<sup>th</sup> grade earth and sky program.



# Scout programs

- Scout presented need to the board committees for South county Merit badges in Sept. 2011 For the 2011 calendar year there were only 7 program listed at 3 sites.
- For the 2013 CY there were 140 merit badge programs at 7 South County sites.
- As of 2013 merit badge programs have increased 193% compared to the same time in 2011
- almost all scout programs are coded into parknet i.e. searchable via our web registration system. Growth from 2 scout programs in 2011 to 485 in 2013 system wide.

# Next Steps

- Continue to expand programming to under-used resource parks especially Lake fronts as identified in the strategic plan
- Continue to expand outreach in untapped markets (e.g. interpretive train rides at new sites, events, evening programs)
- Focus marketing stewardship programming in categories that have room for growth like...

# Focus Area CY2014 Cultural Resources



## New Special Event Goals

- Increase stewardship programming at Lake front parks
- Create fun festive events that attract new audiences to history themed events
- Create partnerships between RMD and PSD programmers to increase resource sharing and cross promotion.

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## **ACTION**

### Approval – 2014 Telecommunication Spending for Natural and Cultural Resources

#### ISSUE:

Approval of Cultural and Natural Resource funding for telecommunication projects

#### RECOMMENDATION:

The Park Authority Director recommends approval of the Natural and Cultural Resource telecommunication funding projects.

#### TIMING:

Board action is requested on June 11, 2014, to move forward with these initiatives in a timely manner.

#### BACKGROUND:

At the January 29, 2014, meeting the Park Authority Board approved an annual review and distribution process for telecommunications revenues on a countywide basis. Twenty percent (20 %) of the annual telecom revenues in all districts will be dedicated to Cultural Resource Management and Protection and Natural Resource Management and Protection projects. Cultural Resource and Natural Resource staff has identified projects to be funded in the current cycle. Work on these projects will begin this summer. A report of the status of these projects will be brought to the Resource Management Committee in the fall of 2015 along with those projects approved with FY2014 carryover.

#### ***Cultural Resources: Upgrade of Archaeological Collections to Best Practices - \$105,000***

Funding is requested to upgrade archaeological collections to comply with federal and state regulations, Park Authority Policy 206 and the Cultural Resource Management Plan. The goal of the project is to correct deficiencies identified as the result of an inspection by federal agencies (the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Army, and other federal agencies) on March 25, 2014, to continue to uphold our stewardship mission and to work towards American Alliance of Museums reaccreditation. Collections storage for artifacts and associated records will be brought to current standards to ensure that artifact collections are not affected by humidity and pest infestation and that they are secure from theft and vandalism. A

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computer database upgrade will be undertaken. Efforts will be put in place to implement environmental monitoring and pest control and improve security. The collections being upgraded originate from all supervisory districts in the county. Work will occur June 2014 through June 2015.

***Natural Resources: Managing Wild Populations and Restoring Ecosystems - \$137,000***

Funding is requested to purchase a tracked mulching machine to be operated by agency staff to control non-native invasive plant species and perform habitat restoration to meet the objectives of Park Authority Policy 201 and the Natural Resource Management Plan. This machine will be used to clear infested areas and prepare sites for restoration plantings. Suitable conditions are present at many parks including Ellanor C. Lawrence, Laurel Hill, and Poplar Ford, and having the machine will enable us to address large-scale infestations. Work will begin in the fall of 2014.

Funding is also requested to hire limited-term staff to conduct assessment, monitoring, treatment, follow-up assistance for the invasive plant management program, the deer management program, and current restoration projects to ensure the continued success of these initiatives. Improving data collection and managing parks adaptively meets the objectives of Park Authority Policy 201 and the Natural Resource Management Plan.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

Based on the cost estimates, funding in the amount of \$242,000 is requested for CRMP and NRMP projects; \$105,000 is requested for the upgrade of archaeological collections and \$137,000 is requested to manage wild populations and restore ecosystems.

**ENCLOSED DOCUMENTS:**

Attachment 1: Telecom Cost Estimate

**STAFF:**

Kirk W. Kincannon, Director  
Cindy Messinger, Deputy Director  
Sara Baldwin, Deputy Director/COO  
Cindy Walsh, Director, Resource Management Division  
Todd Johnson, Director, Park Operations Division  
David Bowden, Director, Planning and Development Division  
Janet Burns, Senior Fiscal Administrator, Financial Management Branch  
Michael P. Baird, Capital Services Manager, Financial Management Branch  
Elizabeth Crowell, Manager, CRMP

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Kristen Sinclair, Senior Natural Resource Specialist, NRMP  
Justin Roberson, Natural Resource Specialist, NRMP

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**TELECOM COST ESTIMATE**

**Telecommunication Cost Estimate for Cultural Resources: Upgrade of Archaeological Collections to Best Practices**

LTE Archaeologist Salaries [Team leader and lab techs]	\$75,000
Supplies [Shelving, storage, environmental monitoring]	\$50,000

**Telecommunication Cost Estimate for Natural Resources: Managing Wild Populations and Restoring Ecosystems**

Tracked Machine w/ Forestry Cutter	\$95,000
Natural Resource LTE Salary and Supplies	\$42,000

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