



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*

FROM: Cindy Walsh, Acting Director
Resource Management Division

DATE: June 19, 2008

Agenda

**Resource Management Committee
Wednesday, June 25, 2008 – 6 p.m.
Board Room – Herrity Building
Chairman: Frank Vajda
Vice Chair: Harry Glasgow**

1. Park Authority Stewardship Update – Information*

*Enclosures



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Board Agenda Item
July 9, 2008

INFORMATION

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 June 2008.

STAFF:

John W. Dargle, Jr., Director
Cindy Messinger, Deputy Director/COO
Cindy Walsh, Acting Director, Resource Management Division
David Bowden, Director, Planning and Development Division
Charles Bittenbring, Director, Park Services Division
Todd Johnson, Director, Park Operations Division
Miriam Morrison, Director, Administration Division
Michael Rierson, Manager, Resource Stewardship Branch

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**Park Authority Stewardship Update
Museum Collections
June 2008**

Item	Background	Status	Lead Agency
<p>POLICY & PLANNING Live Animal Collections Policy</p>	<p>While the Park Authority has both wild captive and farm animals under its stewardship, primarily at Resource Management Division nature centers and at Frying Pan Farm Park, it has never had a formal policy addressing them. Adoption of a formal policy by the Park Authority Board will help address any potential concerns the public may have about live animals at Park Authority sites, and also further demonstrate agency professionalism in this area of stewardship.</p>	<p>Staff review of Policy 207 - Live Animal Collections and its Appendix 16 - Guiding Principles for the Care and Management of Live Animal Collections are complete and are in the Director's Office for review.</p>	<p>Park Authority</p>
<p>Riverbend Park Visitor Center Exhibit Plan</p>	<p>Riverbend Park is planning a major exhibit on the history and geology of the park in the site Visitor Center.</p>	<p>The floor plan for the redesign of the center interior is near completion with changes to relocation of the main entrance to beneath the breezeway and removal of the wall to the manager's office to creating more floor space in the main area. Themes of the exhibits have been narrowed down to focus more on the unique features of Riverbend Park, namely the floodplain, river and geology. Also there will be a component dealing with the Virginia Indian Tribes who lived in the region to highlight the important role that the land that is now Riverbend played in the prehistoric past. Design phase will be completed this fall and expect exhibit installation spring 2009.</p>	<p>Park Authority</p>
<p>Frying Pan Farm Park Visitor Center Exhibit Plan</p>	<p>Frying Pan Farm Park is planning an exhibit on the family farm and community in the site's new Visitor Center.</p>	<p>The exhibit schematic design phase has been completed. The exhibit team will be meeting with the new design/fabrication firm in June, 2008. This change of consultants will result in a 3 month delay in the project which is now projected for completion in summer 2009.</p>	<p>Park Authority</p>

Park Authority Stewardship Update
Museum Collections
June 2008

Item	Background	Status	Lead Agency
Frying Pan Farm Park Museum Assessment	Frying Pan Farm Park received a grant for the American Association of Museums (AAM) Museum Assessment Program to conduct an institutional assessment. The site is going through this consultative process to aid future site planning and as a preliminary step prior to seeking accreditation by the AAM.	The Institutional Assessment Report was completed and received in April for review by the site and Museum Collections staff. Staff has reviewed the report and is developing an action plan for implementing recommendations from the report. A division accreditation committee is meeting in July to begin planning for accreditation and re-accreditation for FY2010.	Park Authority
Furnishings Plans	Furnishings Plans, based on extensive historic and material culture research, detail what objects are displayed, where they are placed and how they are arranged in period room exhibitions at RMD historic sites. Visitors gain a powerful visual understanding of life in the past for inhabitants of a specific site, social-economic status, geographic location and time period.	A request was presented to the Sully Foundation at the May 2008 Annual Meeting for contract funds to hire a professional consultant to complete furnishings plans for the Dairy, Smokehouse and Kitchen/Laundry buildings at Sully Historic Site. The Sully Foundation is currently reviewing the proposal and their decision is pending.	Park Authority
Furnishings Plans		As of April, Resource Management Division intern Stephanie Towns has completed the furnishings plan project and Acquisitions Matrix for the Sears/Spindle House in Centreville, under the direction of the Collections Manager. Implementation of the Furnishings Plan is underway and appropriate period and reproduction acquisitions proceed.	Park Authority
EDUCATION AND OUTREACH			
Stewardship Education	The Museum Collections Section is conducting an ongoing series of behind-the-scenes VIP Tours of Collections for Park Authority board members, staff and other VIPs to give them a better understanding of the remarkable objects in the collections, stewardship activities conducted by Collections staff, and the policies and professional practices which guide them.	The Central Intelligence Agency's Information Management staff has an outreach program that allows them to visit and gather information on local government information processing and storage policies and procedures. Upon request, FCPA Collections staff provided a VIP Tour for a group of nine (9) members of the CIA staff of the collections at Walney as well as a tour of Sully Historic Site.	Park Authority

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Item	Background	Status	Lead Agency
PARTNERSHIPS George Mason University - Department of History	The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors authorized a panel to study the possibility of establishing a museum of Fairfax County history. The county-wide panel is headed by a faculty member in the Department of History at George Mason University, a steering committee was formed and sub-committees were assigned research and development projects.	Jeanne Niccolls continues to serve on the Scope Committee after her retirement and Susan Clark was appointed chair of the Interior Architecture committee. Sub-committee meetings are attended as scheduled.	BOS
George Mason University - Department of History	The Museum Collections Section presents an annual symposium on changing topics in social history and material culture in early America. The program is conducted in partnership with George Mason University's Department of History, enhancing the scholarship and credibility of the program and providing appropriate lecture space and support at a nominal cost to the Park Authority.	<i>All Manner of Necessary Goods: Crafts and Craftsmanship in Early America</i> was held on March 28, 2008. 183 were in attendance with \$9,020 recorded in revenue.	Park Authority
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT Conservation Treatment Projects	The Park Authority annually undertakes a series of conservation treatment projects for its Historic Object Collections, including items from the Carlotta Gonzales Lahey Collection. Certified conservators assess selected items and perform the necessary treatment.	Conservation treatment was completed for the portraits of Samuel and Katherine Jenkins (former owners of Dranesville Tavern).	Park Authority
Digitization Project	The Resource Management Division is embarking on a long-term project to digitize its Archival Collections of materials pertaining to the history and restoration of agency historic sites so that they will be in a conversion-ready format suitable for new and future technology.	Conversion of the fourth group of slides to digital format was completed by a contract media specialist; a fifth group is being organized and reviewed.	Park Authority

**Park Authority Stewardship Update
Cultural Resource Management and Protection
June 2008**

Item	Background	Status	Lead Agency
POLICY & PLANNING Archaeology in Historic Overlay Districts	A Zoning Ordinance Amendment was passed by the Board of Supervisors on October 23, 2006. The amendment said that prior to any development in County Historic Overlay Districts, archaeology would have to be done by the time the developers put in their paperwork for the development.	CRMP is responding to the first three submittals since the ordinance passed as part of the Survey Submission requirements for Archaeology in Historic Overlay Districts.	Park Authority/ Department of Planning and Zoning
EDUCATION AND OUTREACH			
30 Years of Archaeology in Fairfax County	Cultural Resource Management and Protection Section is celebrating 30 years of their being a county-supported program in Fairfax County.	On October 25, 2008, Cultural Resources will be sponsoring a symposium and reception to celebrate 30 Years of County-sponsored Archaeology in Fairfax County. The symposium will include presentations by current and former staff members, volunteers and interns. The proceedings of the symposium and the transcriptions of oral history accounts will be published. Cultural Resources is pursuing a grant to help support the symposium and celebration. "History 4 All" is publishing the proceedings of the symposium and will be funding the collection of up to 20 oral history interviews. Lyonshare Studios is providing design assistance for posters, brochures and other promotional materials pro bono. A donor who wishes to remain anonymous has pledged \$500 for refreshments.	Park Authority
Donation of Research Materials	Cultural Resource Management and Protection Section is supported by organizations and individuals interested in history and archaeology.	Recently, Cultural Resources has been gifted with books to enhance the staff library and assist paid and volunteer staff in the identification of artifacts. The Northern Virginia Chapter of the Archaeological Society of Virginia is providing \$350 for the purchase of the <i>Ceramics in America</i> series. This will assist in the identification of historic period ceramics. A donor who wishes to remain anonymous has provided more than \$500 in books for artifact identification.	Northern Virginia Chapter of the Archaeological Society of Virginia/ Anonymous Donor/ Park Authority

**Park Authority Stewardship Update
Cultural Resource Management and Protection
June 2008**

Item	Background	Status	Lead Agency
Intern Funding	Cultural Resource Management and Protection Section is supported by the Fairfax County History Commission and other organizations.	At its May meeting, The Fairfax County History Commission awarded the Cultural Resource Management and Protection Section \$7,000 to fund archaeological interns.	Fairfax County History Commission/ Park Authority
Funding of Pre-settlement Survey	Cultural Resource Management and Protection Section is supported by the Fairfax County History Commission and other organizations.	At its May meeting, the Fairfax County History Commission at their May meeting awarded the GMU Geography Department \$5,000 to do a pre-settlement survey. This project involves the review of all early land records to map the location of natural and cultural resources referenced at the time of early settlement. The GMU geography department is working closely with the staff of the Cultural Resource Management and Protection Section. On the completion of the study, the data will be available to Cultural Resources to assist in site assessment.	Fairfax County History Commission/ Park Authority

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Cultural Resource Management and Protection
June 2008**

Item	Background	Status	Lead Agency
Publication in <i>click! Photography Changes Everything</i> , a publication of the Smithsonian Photography Initiative	Cultural Resource staff regularly publish the results of our research for public and professional audiences.	John Rutherford of the Cultural Resource Staff authored an article on the use of historic aerial photography in Cultural Resource Management entitled "Photography Changes Land Use and Planning". The article is published in <i>click! Photography Changes Everything</i> , a publication of the Smithsonian Photography Initiative. <i>click!</i> invited experts in their fields to explore the ways photography has changed a broad spectrum of disciplines. John was invited to submit an article after the publisher saw an article about our use of aerial photography in the Washington Post.	Park Authority
Civil War Sesquicentennial conference	Cultural Resource staff participates in local, regional and national professional conferences.	Liz Crowell of the Cultural Resource staff is part of a planning effort for a Civil War Sesquicentennial conference with participants from the National Park Service, the Fairfax County History Commission, the Virginia Department of Historic Resources and other agencies.	Park Authority
PARTNERSHIPS Virginia State Parks	The Cultural Resource Management and Protection Section continues to partner with Virginia State Parks to conduct archaeological studies at Lexington Plantation.	The Cultural Resource Management and Protection Section is being awarded \$15,000 to continue our archaeological study of Lexington Plantation on the Virginia State Park property on Mason Neck.	Park Authority/ Virginia State Parks
Partnership with Fish and Wildlife Service	The Cultural Resource Management and Protection Section has established a partnership with Fish and Wildlife and is seeking funding to continue excavations on resources eroding out of embankments.	The Cultural Resource Management and Protection Section has established a partnership with Fish and Wildlife to document threatened archaeological sites on the Bald Eagle Refuge on Mason Neck. Staff is utilizing volunteers in this effort and has obtained an Archaeological Resource Protection Act permit to conduct the study.	Park Authority/ Fish and Wildlife Service

Park Authority Stewardship Update
Cultural Resource Management and Protection
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Item	Background	Status	Lead Agency
<p>CULTURAL RESOURCES/RESEARCH Indigent Cemetery</p>	<p>The Cultural Resource Management and Protection Section works with other county agencies to conduct cultural resource studies.</p>	<p>A scope of work for Phase II archaeological studies was developed and the project is underway. LaGrange, an 18th century dwelling inhabited by the Bogess family, is present on the property. There is a National Register eligible trace of the Old Colchester Road which passes through the property.</p>	<p>Department of Planning and Zoning and Park Authority</p>
<p>Fort Willard Archaeology and Treatment Plan</p>	<p>The Cultural Resource Management and Protection Section conducts archaeological studies on parkland to identify and help interpret cultural resources. Treatment Plans make treatment recommendations to stabilize, restore and interpret cultural resources.</p>	<p>Cultural and Natural Resource staff have completed a treatment plan. Staff conducted archaeology in the ditch prior to the installation of a drainage system. Archaeological consultants discovered resources related to the magazine and the bombproof.</p>	<p>Park Authority/Park Foundations/Citizens Association</p>
<p>Section 106 compliance</p>	<p>The Cultural Resource Management and Protection Section is coordinating with the Virginia Department of Historic Resources, the National Park Service, the US Army Corps of Engineers, the Riverbend staff and Planning and Development to address Section 106 responsibilities.</p>	<p>Archaeological fieldwork continues at Riverbend Park in anticipation of the construction of a new bridge to cross Clark's Branch. Archaeological resources (e.g. a pre-historic spear and arrow points ranging in date from ca. 3000 BC to 1200 AD) have been discovered and a geomorphologist will be evaluating the soils.</p>	<p>Park Authority, National Park Service, US Army Corps of Engineers</p>

**Park Authority Stewardship Update
Natural Resource Management and Protection
June 2008**

Item	Background	Status	Lead Agency
POLICY & PLANNING Natural Areas Geospatial Model	In support of the Environmental Agenda, the Board of Supervisor's designated \$180,000 to the Park Authority for Geographic Information Systems and ecological modeling efforts at FY 2004 carryover. The goal of this project is to develop a framework for modeling ecologically significant resources to inform land use and development decisions in Fairfax County. This information is also needed by to provide for informed land acquisition decisions as well as to support park planning processes.	Plan Graphics, Inc. was selected as the Geographic Information Systems contractor to conduct the project. The project kicked off last fall and Park Authority and County project teams have been formed. An update on the project was presented at the June 11, 2008, Park Authority Board/ Environmental Quality Advisory Council meeting.	Park Authority
EDUCATION AND OUTREACH Board of Supervisors Environmental Agenda - Stewardship Education Project	This Environmental Agenda funded project is a campaign to advertise county stewardship of environmental resources.	Stewardship brochures continue to be developed. A new publication, the Non-native Identification and Control book consists of a set of about 30 invasive species identification cards. These will be available for sale to the public at nature centers.	Park Authority
PARTNERSHIPS Forest Pest Monitoring and Control	Each year the Park Authority works with Urban Forest Management to support county efforts to control and monitor for forest pest species.	In 2008 Park Authority staff has worked with Urban Forest Management to coordinate gypsy moth spraying on parkland, provide take off and landing zones at Lake Fairfax and Laurel Hill to support countywide gypsy moth spray operations, monitoring for beech scale and wooly adelgid, and continued monitoring for emerald ash borer using new passive traps at Lake Fairfax campground.	Department of Public Works and Environmental Services

**Park Authority Stewardship Update
Natural Resource Management and Protection
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WATER RESOURCES	This Environmental Agenda funded project is to design and install Low Impact Development (LID) stormwater management features on parkland to provide stormwater benefits and incorporate an educational component to demonstrate different LID techniques to the public.	The Wakefield rain garden was planted in April 2008 and final adjustments will be completed in summer 2008. Department of Public Works and Environmental Services will install monitoring equipment on the Cub Run rain garden in summer 2008. The LID demonstration projects will be completed with improvements to a swale at Greendale Golf Course in summer 2008.	Park Authority
2004 Bond Stream Stabilization Plans	The 2004 Park Bond contains funding for stream restoration projects on parkland.	The Huntley Meadows Central Wetland Restoration project is now in the final design phase. The staff and consultant team are working through permitting issues. The Turkeycock Run Stream Stabilization project is under construction and should be completed in August 2008.	Park Authority
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT			
Board of Supervisors Environmental Agenda - Invasive Management Area Program	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.	The Invasive Management Area (IMA) program continues in 2008, with a total of 41 sites and 43 volunteer leaders. The first ever "Invasive Plant Removal Day" was declared by proclamation by the Board of Supervisors on March 31 and was held on April 12 with over 300 hours of volunteer service donated to parkland. Fifteen sites held workdays for a total of almost 100 participants. Regular workdays continue, with many sites scheduling many more than their required four workdays.	Park Authority
Invasive Conservation Corps	The Invasive Conservation Corps (ICCs) is a Park Authority-wide summer internship to remove invasive species from parkland. This Environmental Agenda funded project augments our volunteer Invasive Management Area (IMA) program.	This is the second year this internship has been offered. Five undergraduate and graduate interns will work from May 28 through August 1 to target removing invasive plants. The Invasive Conservation Corps will provide on the ground support to areas already identified as priorities for managing invasive species. In addition, the interns develop a comprehensive understanding of how to manage invasive species in a diverse and large park system.	Park Authority

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