




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 

FROM: Cindy Walsh, Director
Resource Management Division

DATE: September 17, 2009

Agenda

Resource Management Committee
Wednesday, September 23, 2009 – 6:30 p.m.
Board Room – Herrity Building
Chairman: Frank Vajda
Vice Chair: Harry Glasgow

1. Stewardship Update (with presentation) – Information*
2. FY 2010 Deer Management Program (with presentation) – Information*

*Enclosures



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

This page intentionally left blank.

Board Agenda Item
October 14, 2009

INFORMATION

Park Authority Stewardship Update (with presentation)

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 September 23, 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

This page intentionally left blank

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

Item	Background	Status	Lead Agency
EDUCATION AND OUTREACH			
Civil War Sesquicentennial Committee	Cultural Resource staff participates in local, regional and national professional conferences.	Liz Crowell and Patrick Lennon from Visit Fairfax held a meeting with Park Authority staff at Sully to introduce the County Sesquicentennial committee and to begin future planning.	Park Authority/FXVA
Collaborative Exhibit	Cultural Resource staff prepares exhibits using artifacts, documents and museum objects to interpret the past.	Susan Clark of Museum Collections Management designed and installed a new ' Collections Collaboration ' exhibit outside the entrance to the Resource Management Division suite; <i>Discovering Chinese Exportware at Sully</i>	Park Authority
American Association of Museums Accreditation	The Park Authority maintains accreditation with the American Association of Museums (AAM). Cultural Resources and Museum Collections Management staff are working with site staff and others in the AAM accreditation process. Sully Historic Site, Green Spring Gardens and Colvin Run Mill are applying for reaccreditation. Frying Pan Farm Park and Archaeological Collections are seeking accreditation.	Several planning meetings have been held to begin the process of completing the self study.	Park Authority/AAM
PARTNERSHIPS			
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.	A Friends' group has been established to support the Section's archaeological and cultural resource activities in the county. A steering committee has been meeting. The group has adopted bylaws, elected officers, and is drafting an MOA. A kick-off event has been scheduled for October 18 at Huntley Historic Site in cooperation with the Friends of Historic Huntley.	Interested Parties/ Park Authority
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 and summer.	Two George Mason students participated in summer internships for course credit during the summer. Two more students will be interning in the fall. Students work with the archaeological collections or on archaeological field projects and in turn get course credit.	Park Authority and George Mason University

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

Item	Background	Status	Lead Agency
CULTURAL RESOURCES/RESEARCH			
Section 106 Compliance/ Clarks Branch Crossing, Riverbend Park	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.	Archaeological fieldwork has been completed for the Section 106 project at the National Register eligible archaeological site at Clarks Branch in Riverbend Park. Artifacts recovered from the site are being analyzed and a report is being prepared.	Park Authority/ Virginia Department of Historic Resources/ National Park Service/Virginia Council on Indians/History Commission/ Northern Virginia Chapter of the Archeological Society of Virginia
Section 106 Compliance/ Laurel Hill Noman Cole effluent waterline alignment	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.	Cultural Resource staff is working with staff from Planning and Development, Department of Public Works and Environmental Services, Virginia Department of Historic Resources and the archaeological consultant to coordinate the Section 106 undertaking prior to the construction of a waterline.	Park Authority/ Department of Public Works and Environmental Services/ Virginia Department of Historic Resources
Fort Belvoir/BRAC	The Cultural Resource Management and Protection Section works with federal agencies to conduct review and compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.	Cultural Resource staff is serving on a BRAC committee and reviewing Cultural Resource reports generated as a result of proposed impacts to National Register eligible or listed cultural resources by BRAC activities.	Park Authority/ Department of Planning and Zoning/Virginia Department of Historic Resources /Army/National Trust for Historic Preservation

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

Item	Background	Status	Lead Agency
Save America's Treasures Grant/ Section 106 compliance/ Huntley Historic Site	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.	Cultural Resource staff is working with staff from Planning and Development, Huntley Meadows, the National Park Service, and the Virginia Department of Historic Resources to initiate Section 106 consultation with reference to the Save America's Treasures Grant. A Programmatic Agreement is being drafted, as are letters to American Indian tribes and potential consulting parties (as per Section 106 mandates). Cultural Resource staff is working to expedite the process with the NPS and Virginia Department of Historic Resources.	Park Authority/ National Park Service/Virginia Department of Historic Resources/ Consulting parties
Nominations to Fairfax County Inventory of Historic Sites and National Register of Historic Places	Cultural Resource staff nominates sites on parkland to the Inventory of Historic Sites, Virginia Landmarks Register and National Register of Historic Places, as appropriate.	Cultural Resource intern, Elizabeth Peebles, has completed eight nominations for sites to be listed in the Fairfax County Inventory of Historic Sites.	Park Authority/ Department of Planning and Zoning/History Commission
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT			
Museum Collections Storage	Improvement of collections storage has been identified as key strategy (2.5) for the "Protecting Park Resources" issue under the Stewardship Opportunity Area of the Park Authority Strategic Plan. It is also an issue that will strongly influence the future re-accreditation of the agency museum sites. Existing spaces for storage of the Museum Collections has been reported as grossly inadequate and beyond capacity, especially for oversize objects and farm equipment.	Susan Clark purchased conservation safe pallets for installation in the auxiliary storage area located at Ash Grove for large farm tools and equipment. Continued improvements in the Collections storage facility are ongoing as a preventative conservation project. Selected hardware from the Moffitt Blacksmith Shop was transferred, cleaned and rehoused in conservation safe materials at the Collections storage facility.	Park Authority
Ellanor C. Lawrence Survey	Cultural Resource staff document and record cultural resources on parkland.	Cultural Resource Management and Protection Section staff is working with staff from Ellanor C. Lawrence Park (ECLP), interns and volunteers to relocate archaeological resources identified, but not reported in the 1980s and complete appropriate documentation for these sites. John Rutherford and Aimee Wells are working with John Shaffer of ECLP and the interns and volunteers.	Park Authority

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

Item	Background	Status	Lead Agency
POLICY AND PLANNING			
Natural Resource Management Plan	An administrative revision to the Agency Natural Resource Management Plan was approved by the Park Authority Board on September 9, 2009.	As an accompaniment to the revision, staff have developed a summary of the past 5 years' accomplishments and the status of each strategy in the Natural Resource Management Plan. This can be viewed at: http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/nrmp.htm	Park Authority
Elklick Woodlands Natural Area Preserve Natural Resource Management Plan	The Elklick Woodlands Natural Area Preserve, a 226-acre parcel of the rare diabase flatwoods community, was procured with help from the state over five years ago. As part of good management of the site, and as agreed upon in the deed, a Natural Resource Management Plan must be developed.	A Natural Resource Management Plan was developed with an interdivisional staff team and contract assistance by Lardner/Klein Associates. The Division of Conservation and Recreation has approved the plan, and staff are exploring funding resources to implement the highest priority recommendations, including non-native invasive species control.	Park Authority
Environmental Quality Advisory Council	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.	Staff provided input for EQAC's Annual Report on the Environment for 2009 in June. There was a joint Environmental Coordinating Committee EQAC meeting on July 8, 2009 at which discussion topics included energy efficiency software, a new energy efficiency committee, and budget impacts for environmental programs. Staff have been invited to present at a future EQAC meeting on the Executive Committee and future meetings with EQAC, an update on natural resource management activities and the FY 2011 budget outlook.	Environmental Quality Advisory Council

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

Natural Capital Project	A Natural Capital project has been initiated to explore funding for natural resources by researching natural capital concepts and evaluating other agencies programs and funding sources.	A project team has been formed with representatives from the Administrative Division, the Planning and Development Division and the Resource Management Division. Research has begun and staff have found a handful of agencies that have used bond funding for natural resource management. Some of these agencies justified the use of bond funds based on the premise that the first several years of restoration can be considered a capital expense, with follow up maintenance being an operating expense. Staff are also researching the use of natural capital valuation by other agencies as well as examining the structure and staffing of successful natural resource programs.	Park Authority
EDUCATION AND OUTREACH			
Fairfax County Restoration Project	As a result of the I-495 HOT Lanes project by the Virginia Department of Transportation, a citizen proposed working on countywide restoration issues. The Fairfax County Office of Public-Private Partnerships (OP3) is coordinating a working group of citizens, county agencies, interest groups and elected officials.	Natural Resource Management and Protection (NRMP) Section staff has participated in project meetings which include Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) and Trans-Urban staff (the contractor for HOT Lanes), a meeting with Dominion Power to discuss right-of-way management methods, and public workshops to discuss restoration of the 495 corridor. The Fairfax County Restoration Project (FCRP) is being coordinated by the initiating citizen Amy Gould, and Karen Fuentes of OP3. FCRP now has a URL for the project website: http://www.fcrpp3.org . Website development is underway. NRMP staff will participate in several upcoming FCRP meetings and is assisting with the development of restoration specifications with FCRP members and VDOT staff and contractors.	Fairfax County Office of Public-Private Partnerships

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

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, the Emerald Ash Borer, a non-native insect pest from Asia was discovered in three places in Fairfax County. In response, the U.S. Department of Agriculture has set out over 2,000 monitoring traps in northern Virginia. These traps will assist in determining the extent of the population; preliminary data suggest that the population has not significantly spread.	Department of Public Works and Environmental Services
County Wildlife Biologist	The Fairfax County Wildlife Biologist works under the Department of Animal Control to establish and implement Fairfax County's urban wildlife program to include deer management. The position was vacated when Earl Hodnett left the county for a position with the United States Department of Agriculture Wildlife Services in February 2009. It was filled in June 2009 by Vicky Monroe.	Vicky Monroe began her duties as the new County Wildlife Biologist on June 8, 2009. She is working on deer management issues in preparation for the 2009-10 permit season. In addition, staff have been discussing with her issues including public education, wildlife conflict management, goose egg addling, and general coordination. Vicky will be introduced to the Park Authority Board Resource Management Committee on September 23, 2009.	Fairfax County Police Department
WATER RESOURCES			
Stormwater and Watershed Planning	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.	Stormwater efforts are very active on several fronts: permitting and reporting, watershed planning, and project planning and implementation. The county still does not have an approved revised MS4 permit from US Environmental Protection Agency and Virginia Department of Environmental Quality. Efforts are underway to work toward agreeable permit language with those agencies. The seven watershed plans underway have progressed to the point of having proposed project maps for actions to be taken to improve water quality. Several Low Impact Development projects and one stream restoration have recently been completed on parkland, while planning and permitting is moving forward for several stream restorations, stormwater pond renovations and outfall improvements.	Department of Public Works and Environmental Services

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

2004 Bond Stream Stabilization Plans - Huntley Meadows Wetland Restoration	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.	Burgess and Niple completed a dam breach analysis in July 2009 to determine what impact a dam failure could have on down stream properties and roadways. Staff are waiting for more information on the analysis to share with the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation Dam Safety Engineer so that a hazard class for the future dam can be established and design can move forward.	Park Authority
Stream Mitigation	Wetland Studies and Solutions Incorporated (WSSI) is constructing the Northern Virginia Stream Mitigation Bank on private land in Reston. Two of the future restoration reaches flow directly into Lake Fairfax. Mike Rolband of WSSI approached the Park Authority to see if they could extend their restoration work onto parkland.	Staff met with Mike Rolband in August 2009 to discuss the WSSI proposal. The areas of parkland effected would be relatively small. Staff will meet with WSSI representatives in the field to look at the effected stream segments. If the Park Authority agrees with the project, several easements would have to be granted. Planning and permitting would take place within the next year, however, construction activity is dependent on the economy and could occur several years in the future.	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 volunteers of the Invasive Management Area program continue to donate hours and services to removing invasive plants and restoring native habitats. The results of monitoring indicate that non-native invasive cover has been reduced by an average of 34% (from 86% to 52%) and native cover increased by 40%.	Park Authority
Laurel Hill Resource Management	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.	The field work to assess the current resource conditions and develop a vegetative map was largely completed in summer 2009. Preparation of the demonstration meadow areas at Laurel Hill Golf progressed through June and July, and seeding took place in August accompanied by a training on meadow management for agency and non-agency resource managers. The management plan will be developed in fall and winter 2009 and completed in early 2010.	Park Authority

This page intentionally left blank.

Board Agenda Item
October 14, 2009

INFORMATION

FY 2010 Deer Management Program (with presentation)

From September 2009 through March 2010, Park Authority staff will work in cooperation with the Fairfax County Wildlife Biologist to conduct deer herd reduction activities in up to twenty-three parks (see Attachment 1).

The Park Authority has been participating in the Fairfax County deer herd management program since 1998. Each year staff has presented the Park Authority Board with a deer management program for the coming fiscal year in cooperation with the County Wildlife Biologist. The most recent deer herd management activities occurred between September 1, 2008, and March 31, 2009, in conjunction with permits held by the Fairfax County Police Department Animal Control Division.

Deer management activities approved by the Park Authority Board for the past year included sharpshooting events at up to 23 parks, archery hunts at up to seven parks, and managed hunts at two parks. In the FY 2009 permit season, deer herd reduction activities and assessments of impact and herd size continued to be very limited due to significant staffing and funding shortages in the county wildlife biologist office.

In the FY 2009 permit season, six herd reduction events were held at two park sites with 59 deer removed, as compared to the FY 2008 permit season where 29 herd reduction events were held at five park sites with 284 deer removed. In FY 2009, herd reduction events were continued at Cub Run Stream Valley Park and one public hunt was held at Sully Woodlands which was moderately successful. The FY 2009 breakdown of shooting events and deer taken was as follows:

Park	Method	No. of Events	Deer Taken
Cub Run Stream Valley	Sharpshooting	5	27
Sully Woodlands	Managed Hunts	1	32
Total:			59

The Park Authority conducts direct mailings of notification letters to property owners immediately adjacent to parks where deer herd management activities are going to occur in the first year of activity and each year for sites where managed hunts will occur. Prior to each shooting event, staff consults with the local Park Authority Board member. Feedback from citizens in regard to deer herd management on park land was overwhelmingly supportive with only one negative comment received associated with

Board Agenda Item
October 14, 2009

potential herd reduction activities at Green Spring Gardens. This citizen was opposed to lethal deer control.

The list of proposed parks where deer management may occur for FY 2010 is the same as that for FY 2009, with the exception of four parks. Ash Grove, Raglan Road, the I-66 Landfill and Old Courthouse Spring Branch were removed for FY 2010 since they are smaller sites with lower likelihood of success and higher safety concerns.

The focus for the FY 2010 season will be to improve efficiency to conduct deer management at more park locations than last year and to increase the number of deer taken at each site. In addition, staff will work closely with the County Wildlife Biologist to improve scheduling and employ more flexible control methods. These methods will likely include shooting at dusk when deer are most active in parks, and employing shooters from the Animal Control Division to supplement the Police Department Tactical Team. While Tactical Team members are employed in both stationary and mobile sharpshoots, Animal Control Officers would likely only be employed in stationary shooting scenarios.

Staff will also explore opportunities to expand deer management options, such as leasing properties to hunting groups and conducting contracted deer management. Employment of any of these methods would be done to complement the core county sharpshooting program and in coordination with the County Wildlife Biologist.

Deer population research will remain a focal point of the deer herd management program and will be conducted prior to herd control activities being conducted at a given location. The primary method used to estimate population is based on calculations comparing individuals captured in images at infra-red motioned triggered camera stations. Staff is exploring a transect survey method that could utilize volunteers to collect deer population data in parks. The current Fairfax County goal for maximum deer density in forest habitats is 15 per square mile.

FISCAL IMPACT:

All deer herd management will be conducted with existing Park Authority, Police Department and Facilities Management Division staff and equipment.

ENCLOSED DOCUMENT:

Attachment 1: FY 2010 FCPA Deer Management Sites (Matrix)

Board Agenda Item
October 14, 2009

STAFF:

John W. Dargle, Jr., Director

Cindy Messinger, Deputy Director/COO

Cindy Walsh, Director, Resource Management Division

Barbara Nugent, Director, Park Services Division

Todd Johnson, Director, Park Operations Division

Judy Pedersen, Public Information Officer

This page intentionally left blank.

FY 2010 FCPA Deer Management Sites				
Park	Acreage	Problem Indicator(s)	Research	Methods
Clark's Crossing/Tamarack	163	Public Health Public Safety Environmental Damage	Done: IR Camera Census	Sharpshooting
Colvin Run SV	71	Public Health Public Safety Environmental Damage	Done: IR Camera Census	Archery Sharpshooting
Cub Run SV	825	Public Health Public Safety Environmental Damage	Done: Accident Study, IR Camera Census	Archery Sharpshooting
Difficult Run SV	863	Public Health Public Safety Environmental Damage	Done: IR Camera Census	Archery Sharpshooting
Eakin Park	57	Public Safety Environmental Damage	Done: IR Camera Census	Sharpshooting
Ellanor C. Lawrence Park	670	Public Health Public Safety Environmental Damage	Done: Spotlight Survey Accident Study, IR Camera Census	Sharpshooting
Fred Crabtree	209	Public Health Public Safety Environmental Damage	Planned: IR Camera Census	Archery Sharpshooting
Green Spring Gardens	20	Public Health Public Safety Environmental Damage	Staff Observations	Sharpshooting
Huntley Meadows	1425	Public Health Public Safety Environmental Damage	Done: Spotlight Survey, Browse Survey, Tick Survey, IR Camera Census	Archery Managed and Controlled Hunts Sharpshooting
Lake Fairfax	479	Public Health Environmental Damage	Planned: Browse Survey & other indirect methods	Sharpshooting
Laurel Hill	835	Public Health Public Safety Environmental Damage	Done: Visual Count Planned: IR Camera Census	Archery Managed and Controlled Hunts Sharpshooting
Marie Butler Leven Preserve	20	Environmental Damage	Initial field survey for browse impacts	Sharpshooting
Riverbend	418	Environmental Damage	Done: Spotlight Census Repeat: IR Camera Census	Archery Managed and Controlled Hunts Sharpshooting
Scotts Run	384	Public Safety Environmental Damage	Done: Accident Study Planned: IR Camera Census	Archery Sharpshooting
South Run SV	363	Public Health Public Safety Environmental Damage	Planned: IR Camera Census	Sharpshooting

Park	Acreage	Problem Indicator(s)	Research	Methods
Sully Historic Site	62	Public Safety Environmental Damage	Done: IR Camera Census	Archery Managed Hunts Sharpshooting
Sully Woodlands (in part: Elklick Preserve, Rock Hill, Mountain Road, Poplar Ford, Hickory Forest and Richard Jones)	1421	Public Health Public Safety Environmental Damage	Done: Aerial Survey, visual survey Planned: IR Camera Census	Archery Managed and Controlled Hunts Sharpshooting
Wakefield	293	Public Health Public Safety Environmental Damage	Done: Accident Survey, IR Camera Census	Archery Controlled Hunt Sharpshooting
Note: This is a list of possible sites, not all of which will be managed this year. Site selection depends on validation of site conditions, relative need, and staffing capacity of the deer management program.				