




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: November 23, 2009

Agenda

**Resource Management Committee
Wednesday, December 2, 2009 – 4:30 pm
Board Room – Herrity Building
Chairman: Frank Vajda
Vice Chair: Harry Glasgow**

1. Prescribed Burns at Four Park Locations – Information*
2. Park Authority Stewardship Update – Information*

*Enclosures



INFORMATION

Prescribed Burns at Four Park Locations (Sully, Dranesville, Lee and Mt Vernon Districts)

In January and February 2010, Park Authority staff, in partnership with the Virginia Department of Forestry and Fairfax County Fire and Rescue, will conduct prescribed (controlled) burns at up to four different parks: Sully Woodlands (west side of Pleasant Valley Road), Riverbend Park (Jeffrey Road meadow), Huntley Meadows Park (several small meadows and possibly one forest stand west of the wetland complex), and Laurel Hill Park (south of the golf course in area G) (Attachments 1-4).

The burns are intended to reduce invasive plant species, remove accumulated dead material (duff and woody debris) that is inhibiting native plant establishment and poses a wildfire risk, and to promote healthy native meadows and forests which will support sensitive plant and animal species.

Prescribed burns are intended to be part of an ongoing resource management program to preserve and enhance healthy meadow complexes on parkland. Nine prescribed meadow burns have been successfully conducted in the past at Riverbend (1998), Ellanor C. Lawrence Park (1999 and 2008), Huntley Meadows (2007 and 2009), and Sully Woodlands (2006-9). Burns have not been done previously at Laurel Hill.

Prescribed burns are conducted regularly throughout Virginia and across the United States and are considered the single best way to preserve and enhance fire adapted meadow ecosystems. Whether a burn occurs is heavily dependant on weather (wind, humidity, and precipitation), site conditions (damp ground conditions), sufficient staff, and equipment support.

All burns will be conducted in accordance with all applicable state and county laws and ordinances. Permits will be obtained from the Fairfax County Fire Marshall's Office. All burns will be conducted in coordination with the Virginia Department of Forestry (VDOP) and Fairfax County Fire and Rescue. Fire and Rescue staff will be present for each burn. The Riverbend burn will be conducted as a debris burn rather than a prescribed burn due to the proximity of neighboring houses. Debris burns require fuel to be cut and concentrated in piles to centralize the burn.

As in previous years, staff will notify neighbors by letter (Attachment 5) and work with the Park Authority Public Information Office to notify the media prior to each burn, and conduct public education about the resource benefits of a prescribed burn program. A

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question and answer document has been prepared to help with this process (Attachment 6). Unless otherwise directed, staff will proceed with the prescribed burn program as planned.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is a one time permitting fee of \$100 from the Fairfax County Fire Marshall's Office for each site.

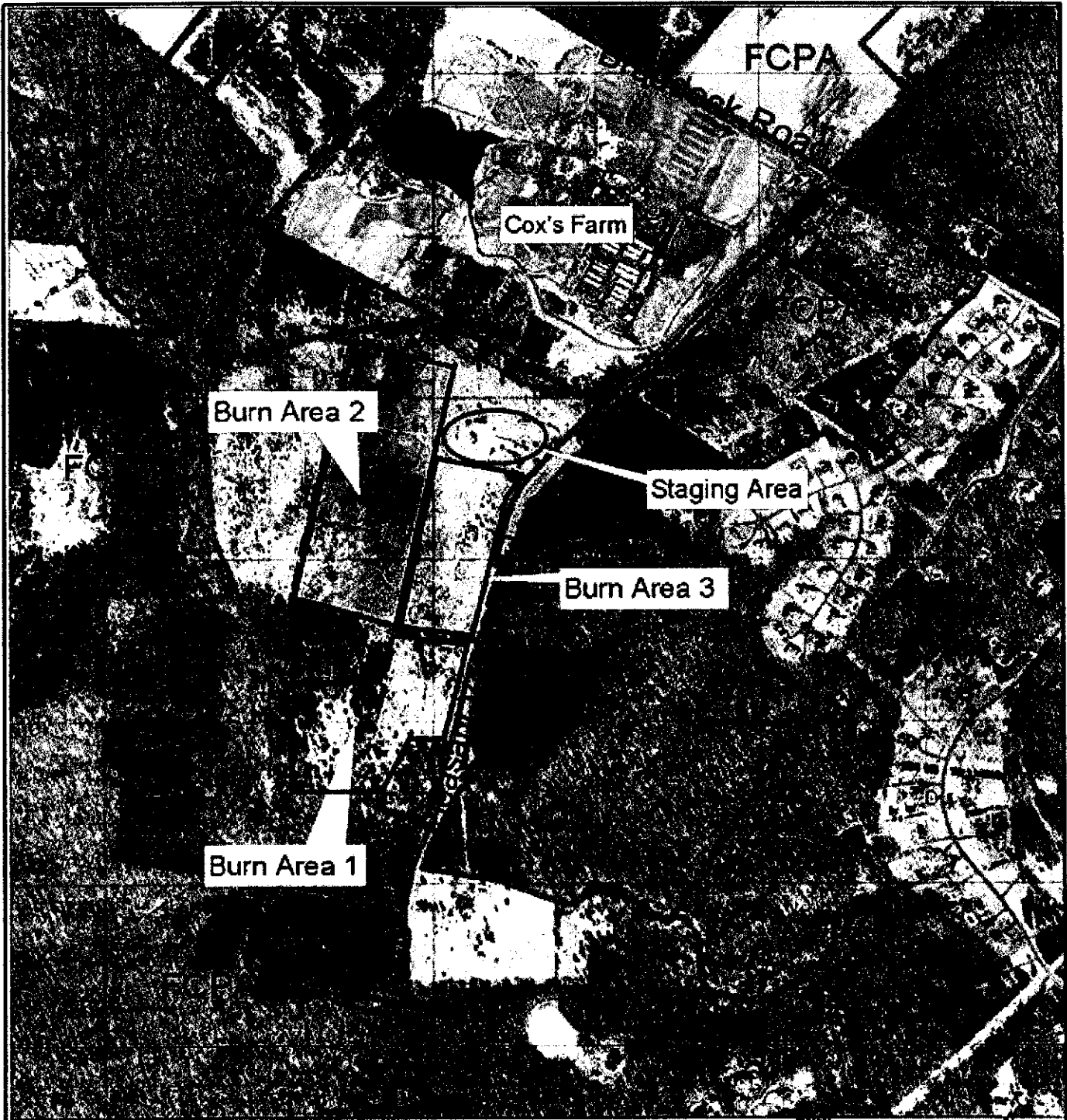
ENCLOSED DOCUMENTS:

- Attachment 1: Map of Sully Woodlands Burn Site
- Attachment 2: Map of Riverbend Burn Site
- Attachment 3: Map of Huntley Meadows Burn Site
- Attachment 4: Map of Laurel Hill Park
- Attachment 5: Sample Dear Neighbor Letter
- Attachment 6: Prescribed Burn Questions and Answers

STAFF:

John W. Dargle, Jr., Director
Cindy Messinger, Deputy Director/COO
Cindy Walsh, Director, Resource Management Division
Todd Johnson, Director, Park Operations Division
Judy Pedersen, Public Information Officer

Attachment 1



Sully Woodlands Meadow Burn Location

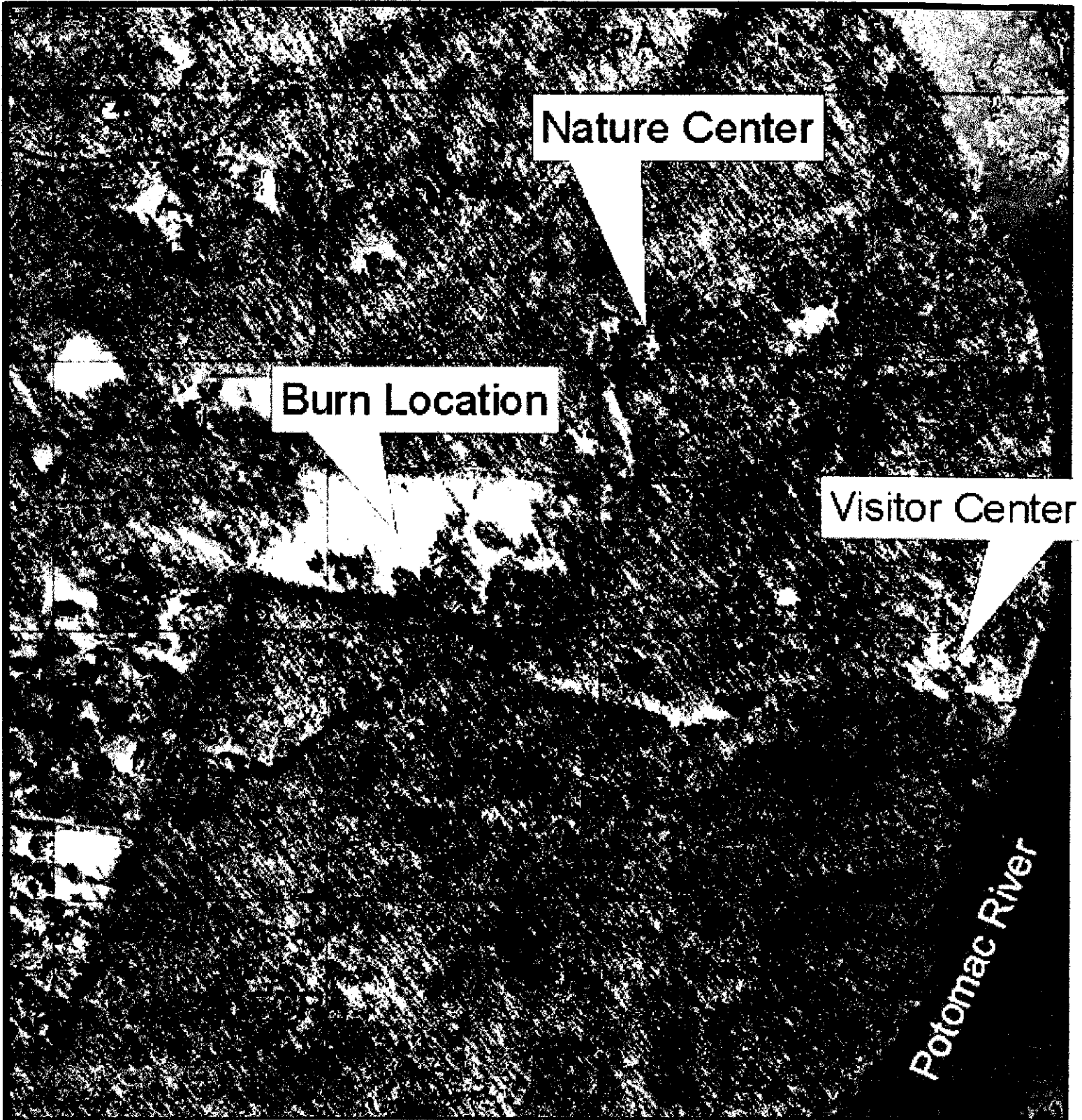


Aerial Imagery 2007 Fairfax County Virginia

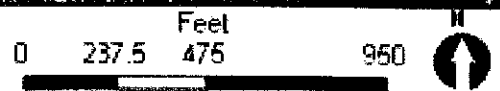
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Fairfax County Park Authority
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Riverbend Park Meadow Burn Location

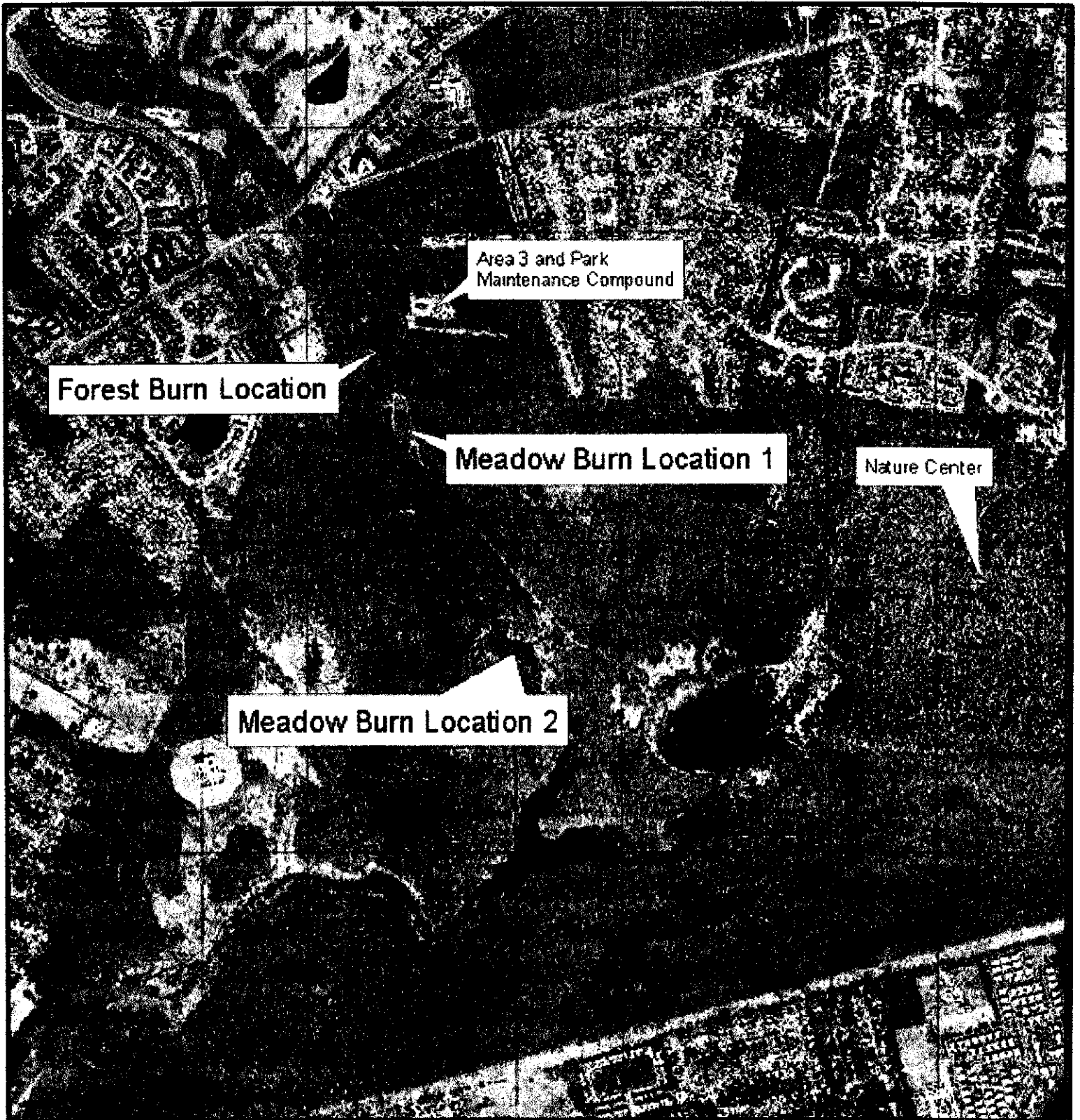


Aerial Imagery 2007 Fairfax County Virginia

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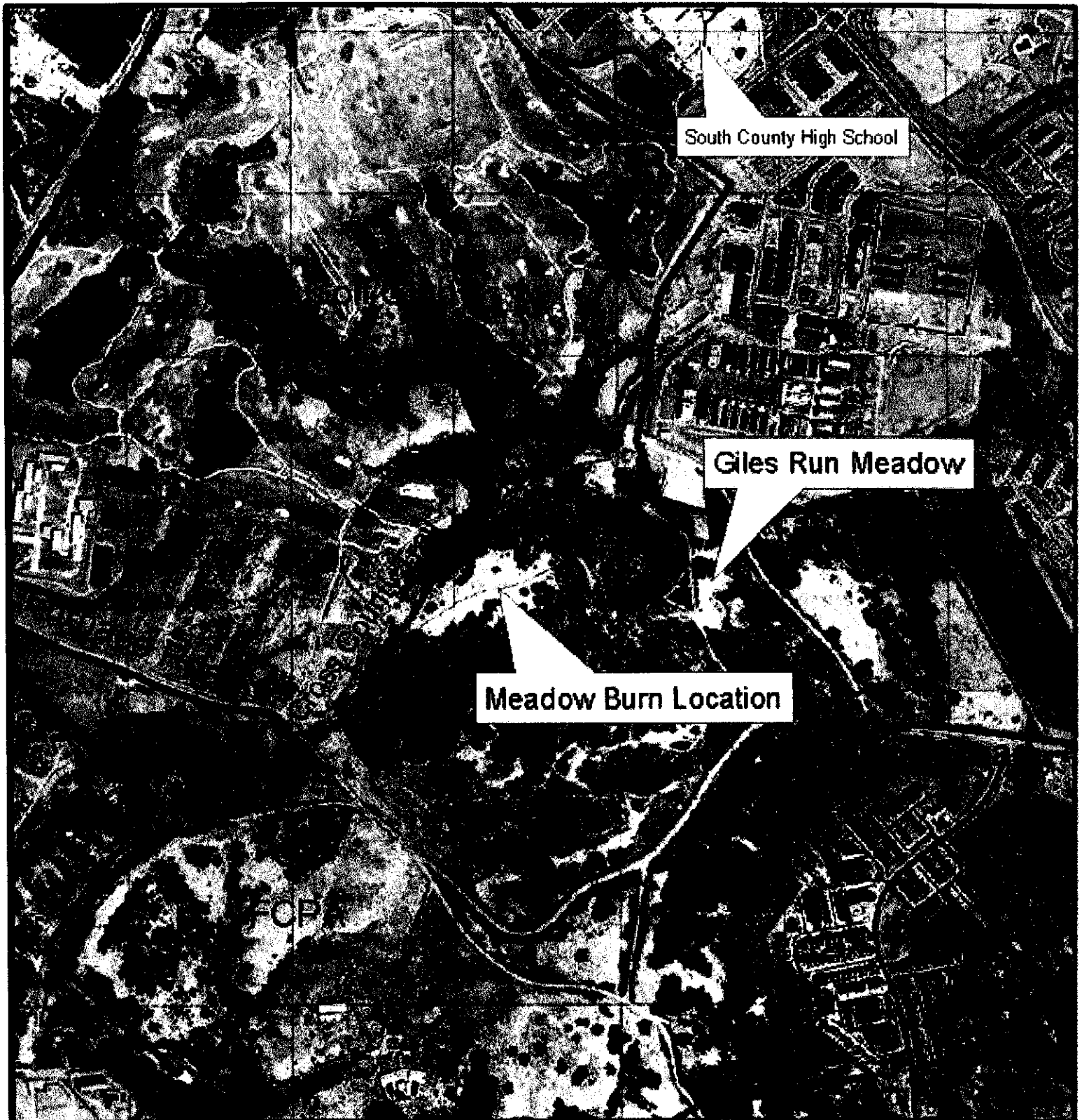
Huntley Meadows Park Meadow Burn Location 0 550 1,100 2,200 Feet 

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Meadow Burn Location

South County High School

Giles Run Meadow

Laurel Hill Park Meadow Burn Location



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FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY

12055 Government Center Parkway, Suite 927
Fairfax, VA 22035-1118



February 2, 2009

Subject: Meadow Management West of Pleasant Valley Road

Dear Park Neighbor:

You are receiving this letter because you live near Fairfax County Park Authority's Sully Woodlands Park (soon to be called Elklick Preserve). This natural area is unique in Fairfax County for its size and diversity of habitats. A portion of this park located west of Pleasant Valley Road about one half mile south of Braddock Road contains a large meadow complex. As part of a long-term plan to properly maintain this thriving meadow complex, the Park Authority is planning to conduct a controlled burn of about 22 acres between early February and mid March. It is anticipated that some portion of this meadow complex may be burned every year.

The meadow complex hosts significant natural resources to include at least one state threatened plant species and several rare animal species. In meadow ecosystems, fire is the single best method for promoting good quality native habitat, limiting or eliminating invasive plant species and reducing the risk of unplanned fires. This meadow complex is well removed from homes and businesses, and a controlled burn should have little to no impact on the park neighbors.

The controlled burn will be conducted in coordination with the Fairfax County Fire Marshal's Office, Fairfax County Fire and Rescue and the Virginia Department of Forestry. Hundreds of controlled burns occur every year throughout the state of Virginia and thousands throughout the United States. The burn will be conducted on a weekday in the morning or afternoon and geared to avoid peak traffic times. Controlled burns can only be conducted if site and weather conditions fall within tight state guidelines.

If you have any questions about this letter or the planned controlled burn, please call me at 703-324-8555.

Sincerely,

Charles Smith
Senior Natural Resource Specialist

703-324-8700 • TTY: 703-324-3988 • ONLINE: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks • E-MAIL: parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov



If accommodations and/or alternative formats are needed, please call (703) 324-8563, at least 10 working days in advance of the registration deadline or event. TTY (703) 803-3354

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Prescribed Meadow Burn Questions and Answers

Question: What is a prescribed burn?

Answer: Prescribed burns are controlled burns conducted according a prescription just like a doctor's prescription for medicine. The prescription is written to promote the health of an ecosystem just like a doctor writes a prescription to promote human health.

Question: Why is fire beneficial to an ecosystem?

Answer: Most ecosystems in our regional are fire adapted – they evolved with fire as part of the lifecycle of the plants that are the backbone of the ecosystem. Burning promotes plant health and seed germination, removes build-up of fuels that can lead to unplanned fires, and may inhibit non-native invasive plant species which are not adapted to fire.

Question: Aren't animals hurt by the burning?

Answer: Large animals and birds will leave the area before the burn begins because of the presence of humans and equipment. Cold-blooded animals like turtles and snakes are sleeping for the winter below ground and won't be harmed. Small mammals like meadow voles and mice that live in the field evolved with fire and stay low and move as much as possible. Some may be harmed, but far fewer will be harmed than if you mowed the field with heavy tractor mowers. Ultimately, the healthier meadow promoted by the fire will support more animals.

Question: How is burning a meadow better than mowing it?

Answer: Besides potentially harming fewer animals, burning removes much more of the old plant material, or duff. This allows seeds to get to the soil, and the soil to properly heat and cool which promotes seed germination. The burned duff also provides important nutrients to help plants grow. Burning may also directly harm non-native plant species which did not evolve with fire as part of their life cycle. Mowing simply chops the material up in place, so it stays there still preventing seeds from getting to the ground, insulating the soil and providing few nutrients. This insulating duff layer may benefit invasive plant species.

Question: Isn't burning dangerous?

Answer: Controlled burns are just that – Controlled! The burn is carefully planned through the prescription and coordinated with the State Department of Forestry, and County Fire and Police Departments. Special permits are obtained from the County Health Department and Fire Marshall's Office. Neighbors are notified, and the site carefully prepared to prevent the fire from getting out of control. The burn is conducted and overseen by specially trained staff that have the proper equipment to contain and guide the burn according to the plan.

Question: Won't there be a lot of smoke?

Answer: Smoke is the part that will affect people the most. In fact, the Smoke Plan is one of the most important parts of the burn prescription. It accounts for

wind direction and speed. The burn can only be conducted if all weather conditions cooperate so that the smoke will lift and leave the area properly and have minimal effect on homes, businesses, airports, schools or other sensitive locations. The burn will be conducted in the middle of the day and during a weekday to ensure maximum smoke removal and minimal impact on people.

Question: Will you burn all of the time?

Answer: No. Meadow burns are usually done in the late winter while the fuels are dry, after the animals have gotten to eat most of the seeds and before spring green-up occurs. You only burn a field every two or three years. This allows plants to grow and mature and minimizes disruption to animals. However, you may burn an adjacent field the next year. This gives your meadow a patchwork pattern that provides the most wildlife benefit.

Question: What will the meadow look like after the burn?

Answer: The area will appear black and gray from the burnt plant material. This will slowly fade with rain and weathering and then disappear during the spring and summer as the field “greens-up” with new plant growth. The goal is to develop a more diverse meadow system of native grasses and wildflowers.

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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 December 2, 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
December 2009**

Item	Background	Status	Lead Agency
POLICY & PLANNING			
EDUCATION AND OUTREACH			
Civil War Sesquicentennial Committee	Cultural Resource staff participates in local, regional, and national professional conferences.	A public meeting is being planned in January 2010 to invite members of organizations to present ideas, form committees and sign up for participation.	Park Authority/FXVA
Nineteenth Century Farming Exhibit	Cultural Resource staff prepares exhibits using artifacts, documents, and museum objects to interpret the past.	Planning and development of the "19th Century Farming at Green Spring" exhibit is underway. Historic objects were selected for the table top exhibit and programming support.	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, Greenspring Gardens and Colvin Run Mill are applying for reaccreditation. Frying Pan Farm Park and Archaeological Collections are seeking accreditation.	The Cultural Resource Management and Protection Section staff is preparing documentation that addresses archaeological and museum collections as well as appropriate photo documentation to support the application.	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 kick-off event was held October 18 at Huntley Historic Site in cooperation with the Friends of Historic Huntley. More than 100 participants attended.	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 are participating in internships in the fall semester. They are participating in the rebagging and reboxing of old collections. These students provide valuable assistance to the section and gain valuable experience and course credit.	Park Authority and George Mason University

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

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>Currently, the archaeological technical report for Clark's Branch is being prepared for submittal to the Virginia Department of Historic Resources and the National Park Service. Plans are being made for public outreach activities including lectures and displays.</p>	<p>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</p>
<p>Section 106 Compliance/ Laurel Hill Noman Cole effluent waterline alignment</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>Archaeological fieldwork for the project is complete and a report is under review.</p>	<p>Park Authority/ Department of Public Works and Environmental Services/ Virginia Department of Historic Resources</p>

**Park Authority Stewardship Update
Cultural Resource Management and Protection
December 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 have expedited the process to include a draft Programmatic Agreement, letters to the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, American Indian tribes, and potential consulting parties (as per Section 106 mandates) for the National Park Service to send. Site plans and the project manual, as well as all archaeology, historic structures, and cultural landscape reports were hand-delivered to the National Park Service. National Park Service and Virginia Department of Historic Resources staff are currently reviewing these documents.	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 nine nominations for sites to be listed in the Fairfax County Inventory of Historic Sites. Those sites are Defense Mapping (Observatory Park), Fairfax Villa Archaeological Site (prehistoric soapstone quarry), Fort Willard (update), Gabrielson Gardens, Lamond House, Lewinsville House, Minnick House, Ox Hill (updated to include the Battlefield Park), and Quinn Farm (Archaeological Site). Park Authority volunteer C.K. Gailey is preparing a National Register nomination for the Manassas Gap Railroad.	Park Authority/ Department of Planning and Zoning/History Commission

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

Item	Background	Status	Lead Agency
<p>POLICY AND PLANNING</p> <p>Best Practices for Prevention of Introductions of Non-Native Invasive Plants</p>	<p>The agency's Non-Native Invasive Plant Assessment and Prioritization Plan recommends several best practices to help prevent further spread of invasive plants on parkland.</p>	<p>A project team was formed and met several times to evaluate which best practices to implement. Examples of these best practices include cleaning maintenance equipment that has been in invaded areas, minimizing ground disturbance associated with construction and including invasive plant control in construction projects. Once the team completes evaluating each best practice, their recommendations will be forwarded to agency leadership for consideration.</p>	<p>Park Authority</p>
<p>Natural Capital Project</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>The project team includes 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.</p>	<p>Staff has interviewed a few agencies throughout the country that have used bond funds for natural resource management. It appears that the most successful cases have been those in which the natural resource project is a large scale restoration project with a defined duration (generally no more than a few years). In Broward County, Florida, \$14 million was included in their 2000 bond for ecological restoration. Metro Parks in Tacoma, Washington has been able to use bond funds for restoration for larger scale land conversion projects and for any site that has a capital project planned. In San Francisco, California bond funds will be used for Urban Forest planning and management.</p> <p>Staff presented an overview of the project as part of a panel discussion at the Northern Virginia Urban Forest Roundtable Conference <i>Community Forests Grow Community Benefits</i> on November 13, 2009.</p>	<p>Park Authority</p>

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

<p>Environmental Excellence for Fairfax County: A 20-Year Vision</p>	<p>On June 21, 2004, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors endorsed and adopted the Environmental Excellence 20-year Vision Plan, originally drafted by Chairman Gerald E. Connolly and a group of about two dozen Fairfax County environmentalists (this Environmental Vision is also known as the Environmental Agenda).</p> <p>The plan is organized into six areas, including: growth and land use; air quality and transportation; water quality; solid waste; parks/trails/open space; and environmental stewardship. The Environmental Improvement Program is the mechanism for implementing the plan.</p>	<p>For several years, the Park Authority has been successful in receiving funding for several stewardship projects as part of the Environmental Improvement Program, especially for invasive plant control. No funding was received in FY 2010 and staff has requested \$200,000 for invasive plant projects for FY 2011. Staff is looking at stretching existing project balances to get through FY 2011 should funding not be provided, including continuing the Invasive Management Area Volunteer Program and necessary follow up work on sites that have had initial treatment by contractors.</p>	<p>Environmental Coordinating Committee</p>
EDUCATION AND OUTREACH			
<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 is made up of members from all Divisions in the agency.</p>	<p>The Stewardship Education Team (SET) has kicked off a 'Junk Your Junk Mail' contest for Park Authority staff. Sites will compete over the next nine months to reduce the amount of junk mail received. The contest was inspired by Teri Tucker of Frying Pan Park who decided to reduce the amount of junk mail the park receives, resulting in a 60% reduction in just one year.</p>	<p>Park Authority</p>
PARTNERSHIPS			
<p>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>Over 3,000 traps were deployed this summer to monitor the new populations of emerald ash borer discovered in 2008. Of the 3,000 traps, less than 1% were positive for the non-native, invasive borer, and no expansion of the population was noted. The invasions appear to be contained to Northern Virginia.</p>	<p>Department of Public Works and Environmental Services</p>

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

<p>Fairfax County Restoration Project</p>	<p>As a result of the 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.</p>	<p>The Fairfax County Restoration Project (FCRP) is developing a Mission Statement and Charter. The organization will remain a county associated partnership with members from numerous public and private entities as well as private citizens. It will have no fiduciary aspects, and, therefore will not have a tax related status. The organization will focus on fostering stewardship and creating and facilitating projects that promote restoration of environmental functions, improve living conditions for residents and promote a sense of community.</p> <p>The FCRP organized a conference/workshop for October 13, 2009, which was held at the Government Center. Approximately 30 people attended. Topics included natural landscapes, Low Impact Development, reforestation and the importance of tree cover, native plants, and two case studies on applications of creative stormwater controls in built landscapes. Natural Resource Management and Protection staff assisted with the workshop.</p>	<p>Fairfax County Office of Public-Private Partnerships</p>
WATER RESOURCES			
<p>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>Natural Resource Management and Protection (NRMP) staff attended the quarterly Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4) permit update meeting held by the Department of Public Works and Environmental Services (DPWES) on October 5. The entire NRMP section attended a meeting on October 29 with DPWES Stormwater and Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District staff to discuss coordination for stream monitoring, clean up and educational efforts related to MS4 reporting requirements.</p>	<p>Department of Public Works and Environmental Services</p>

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

<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>A contract was awarded in October 2009 to restoration contractor Aqua Niche to complete approximately four acres of restoration planting along tributaries of Barnyard Run in the northern portion of Huntley Meadows Park. Planting should be completed by December 2009 to meet the deadline for the Water Quality Improvement Fund grant associated with the Huntley Meadows wetlands restoration project.</p>	<p>Park Authority</p>
<p>County Stream Stabilization and Restoration Projects</p>	<p>Department of Public Works and Environmental Services (DPWES) Stormwater has identified numerous stream segments on parkland that would ideal candidates for stabilization and restoration. Through the Watershed Planning process, several stream reaches have been selected for projects.</p>	<p>DPWES is planning restoration projects in Schneiders Branch, Flatlick Branch and Big Rocky Run in the Cub Run Watershed; Bradley Branch in the Scott's Run watershed and Dead Run. Construction for Dead Run began in October and should be completed by March 2010. Construction for Bradley Branch should begin by January 2010, and improvements for Big Rocky Run should be completed by July 2010.</p>	<p>DPWES Stormwater</p>
<p align="center">RESOURCE MANAGEMENT</p>			

Park Authority Stewardship Update Natural Resource Management and Protection December 2009

<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>During September and October 2009 the Invasive Management Area (IMA) Program has had 41 workdays, where 242 volunteers supported the Park Authority's efforts of tree preservation and habitat restoration which culminated into 736 volunteer hours. IMA has supported Volunteer Fairfax Volunteer Fest Day for the 4th year in a row; this year 13 sites participated, bringing in 113 volunteers whose stewardship efforts amounted to 325 hours. Eight IMA sites have been planted with a total of 318 native plants during various fall workdays. Several organizations and congregations are returning to continue work they started in years past; Immanuel Christian School returned for their fourth year educating several students and their families to issues caused by non-native invasive species. More Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and school students are earning scout and community service hours at IMA sites throughout Fairfax County -- education is the key to change, these students are proving that.</p>	<p>Park Authority</p>
<p>Deer Management</p>	<p>The deer management plan for Fairfax County is in its twelfth year of implementation, and the first year with the new County Wildlife Biologist. Sharpshooting, a managed shotgun hunt and group archery hunts are planned for various park sites.</p>	<p>The first deer sharpshoot of the season was held at Green Spring Gardens on October 28. Additional sharpshoots are planned at various parks through January 2010. Staff are preparing for group archery hunts in Colvin Run Stream Valley and Colvin Run Mill Parks as well as Laurel Hill Park for November through January. A managed shotgun hunt will be held at Riverbend on December 16.</p> <p>In May 2009 staff released 1,000 weevils that have been approved for biocontrol of mile-a-minute, a non-native, invasive plant pest widely spread on parkland. Hidden Pond Nature Center staff coordinated with Natural Resource Management and Protection to closely monitor the mile-a-minute and weevils at the two release sites. Over 80% of the mile-a-minute was removed at the center of the release site, with weevil activity noted up to 150 feet away. No weevil damage was noted on any other species within these areas.</p>	<p>County Wildlife Biologist</p>
<p>Pilot Project - Mile-a-Minute Weevil</p>	<p>Virginia Department of Forestry and Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries partnered with the Fairfax County Park Authority to test a biocontrol agent for invasive species control. This agent has a federal release permit and is used in neighboring states of Maryland, West Virginia and Delaware and Pennsylvania.</p>	<p>In May 2009 staff released 1,000 weevils that have been approved for biocontrol of mile-a-minute, a non-native, invasive plant pest widely spread on parkland. Hidden Pond Nature Center staff coordinated with Natural Resource Management and Protection to closely monitor the mile-a-minute and weevils at the two release sites. Over 80% of the mile-a-minute was removed at the center of the release site, with weevil activity noted up to 150 feet away. No weevil damage was noted on any other species within these areas.</p>	<p>Park Authority</p>