

# Huntley Meadows

## Site Succession

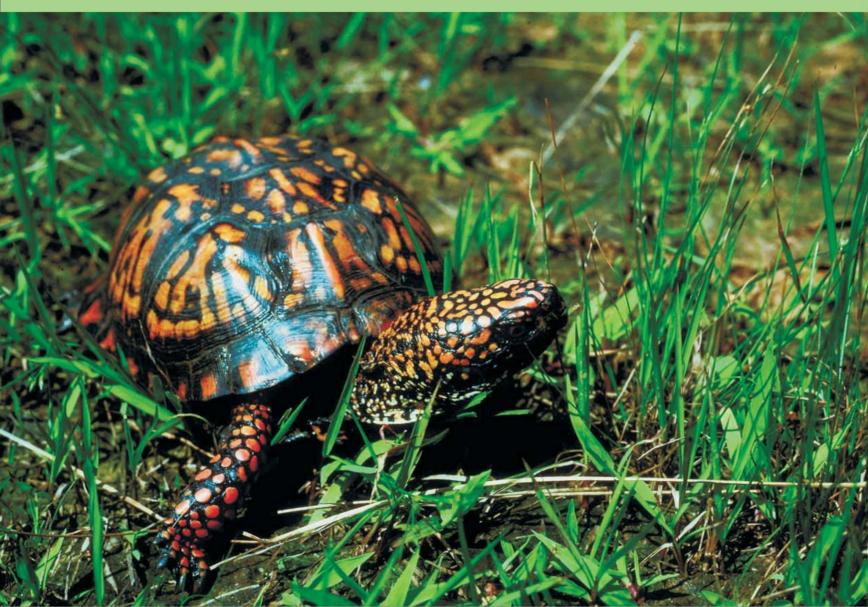
**1959** Site used as an Antenna Field by the U.S. Navy

**1960**  
Central wetland area is mowed and dry

**1974**  
Vegetation begins to reestablish after mowing stops

**1975**  
Huntley Meadows is acquired by the Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA)

**1978**  
Beavers dam up Barnyard Run creating a wetland area



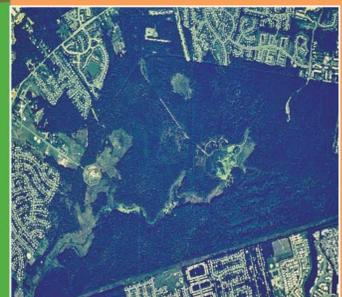
**1981**  
FCPA constructs the boardwalk

**1982**  
High water quality  
No invasive vegetation  
Site abundant with lizard tail, buttonbush, swamp rose, stonefly and crawfish  
Beavers maintain water levels

**1984**  
Residential development begins on the north side of the park

**1984-1986**  
Pied Billed Grebe, River Otter, American Bittern, King Rail, Yellow Crowned Night Heron are at highest breeding populations

**1986**  
First major siltation event occurs due to storm runoff from northern land



**1986-1991**  
Silt intrusion continues along with development to the north

**2000**  
Aggressive vegetative species such as rice cutgrass and cattails lower plant diversity

**2005**  
Drought occurs and beavers relocate to find new food source  
Impact of siltation visible in dry wetland

# 2006

Drought ends and some beavers return to central wetland area

PEAK