



FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY POLICY MANUAL

Policy 202	Title: Wildlife Conflict Resolution
Date Approved: 6/26/2013	Last reviewed: 3/26/2008
Objective: Ensure the long-term protection, preservation and sustainability of natural, cultural and park resources in accordance with adopted park standards and adherence with natural and heritage resource management guidelines and Countywide Policy Plan obligations.	

Purpose: Wildlife Conflict Resolution promotes peaceful coexistence between humans and wildlife species but establishes the framework for resolving conflicts as they arise.

Policy Statement: In its role as the primary steward of Fairfax County's natural resources, it shall be the policy of the Fairfax County Park Authority to effectively resolve conflicts between wildlife and people, so as to promote peaceful coexistence between citizens and these resources.

1. For management purposes, wildlife activity that results in conflicts will be evaluated by the Park Authority for the existence of, or potential for:
 - impact to private property;
 - impact to public infrastructure including park resources, facilities and services;
 - or
 - impact on public health and safety.

The significance of these impacts will determine the type of management action taken, but all actions will follow established impact mitigation procedures.

2. The Park Authority will base wildlife management actions on:
 - applicable laws and regulations,
 - adopted natural resource conservation objectives,
 - approved park plans,
 - accepted ecological principles,
 - proven wildlife management techniques, and
 - appropriate animal welfare concerns.
3. The Park Authority will practice an attitude of acceptance of, and tolerance for, wildlife activity as a part of the county's natural environment, and will foster this attitude among the public through education.

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4. If necessary, the Park Authority will take reasonable measures on parkland, following established procedures, to mitigate impacts to private property of wildlife activity originating on parkland, but will assume no legal liability for these impacts.
 5. When warranted, the Authority will take reasonable measures on parkland, following established procedures, to mitigate impacts to public infrastructure.
 6. For each specific type of wildlife activity, the Authority will develop impact mitigation procedures that utilize progressive, stepwise intervention, typically advancing from:
 - Exclusion, including, but not limited to, fences, screens, caps, baffles, and repellents; to
 - Harassment, including, but not limited to, destruction of nests, and homes, and visual and auditory hazing; to
 - Population management, including, but not limited to, birth control, relocation, and humane destruction.
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