



FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY POLICY MANUAL

Policy 206	Title: Museum and Archaeological Collections
Date Approved: 3/9/2016	Last reviewed: 6/26/2013
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: In support of our cultural resource stewardship mission, the Fairfax County Park Authority shall collect, preserve, exhibit, interpret and, where appropriate, make available for research, museum objects, archaeologically-derived artifacts, and other material culture.

Policy Statement:

1. The Park Authority shall ensure that collections under its stewardship are protected, secure, unencumbered, cared for, accounted for, and documented, and shall plan for their future needs and growth.
2. Acquisition, loan, deaccessioning and disposal activities shall be conducted in a manner that respects the protection and preservation of cultural resources and discourages and prevents illicit trade in such materials. Collections-related activities shall promote the public's understanding and appreciation for our past over financial gain.
3. The Park Authority shall subscribe to the American Association of Museums (AAM) "Code of Ethics for Museums" as it applies to museum collections, the Museum Collections Policy, and all collections management procedures.
4. The Park Authority shall maintain detailed guidelines and procedures for the management and care of the museum collections and archaeological collections in respective conformity to the professional standards established by the AAM and Virginia Department of Historic Resources (VDHR) State Collections Management Standards, and shall revise those guidelines and procedures as needed to comply with current professional standards and guidelines. These are defined in Appendix 15: Guidelines for Living Collections Management: Museums and Archaeological Collections.

References:

1. VDHR Collections Management Standards
http://www.dhr.virginia.gov/pdf_files/Collections%20Mgmt%20Standards%2016june2011.pdf
2. Cultural Resource Management Plan
<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/gmp/crmpfinal.pdf>



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Supporting Documentation:

1. Appendix 15: Guidelines for Living Collections Management: Museum and Archaeological Collections (link to be determined)
2. Code of Ethics for Museums <http://aam-us.org/resources/ethics-standards-and-best-practices/code-of-ethics>