

# Salona Park

## A Natural Resource

April 24, 2012

Fairfax Master Naturalists

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# Virginia Master Naturalist



Volunteer educators, citizen scientists, and stewards helping Virginians conserve and manage natural resources and public lands

# Virginia Master Naturalist Sponsors

Sponsored by 5 agencies:

**Virginia  
Cooperative Extension**

A partnership of Virginia Tech and Virginia State University [www.ext.vt.edu](http://www.ext.vt.edu)

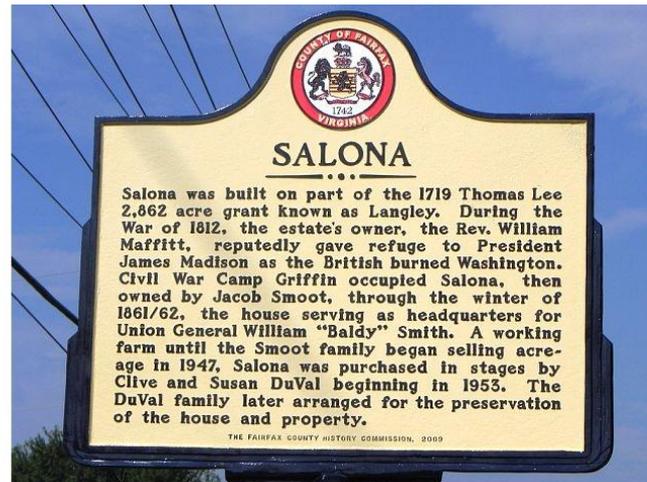


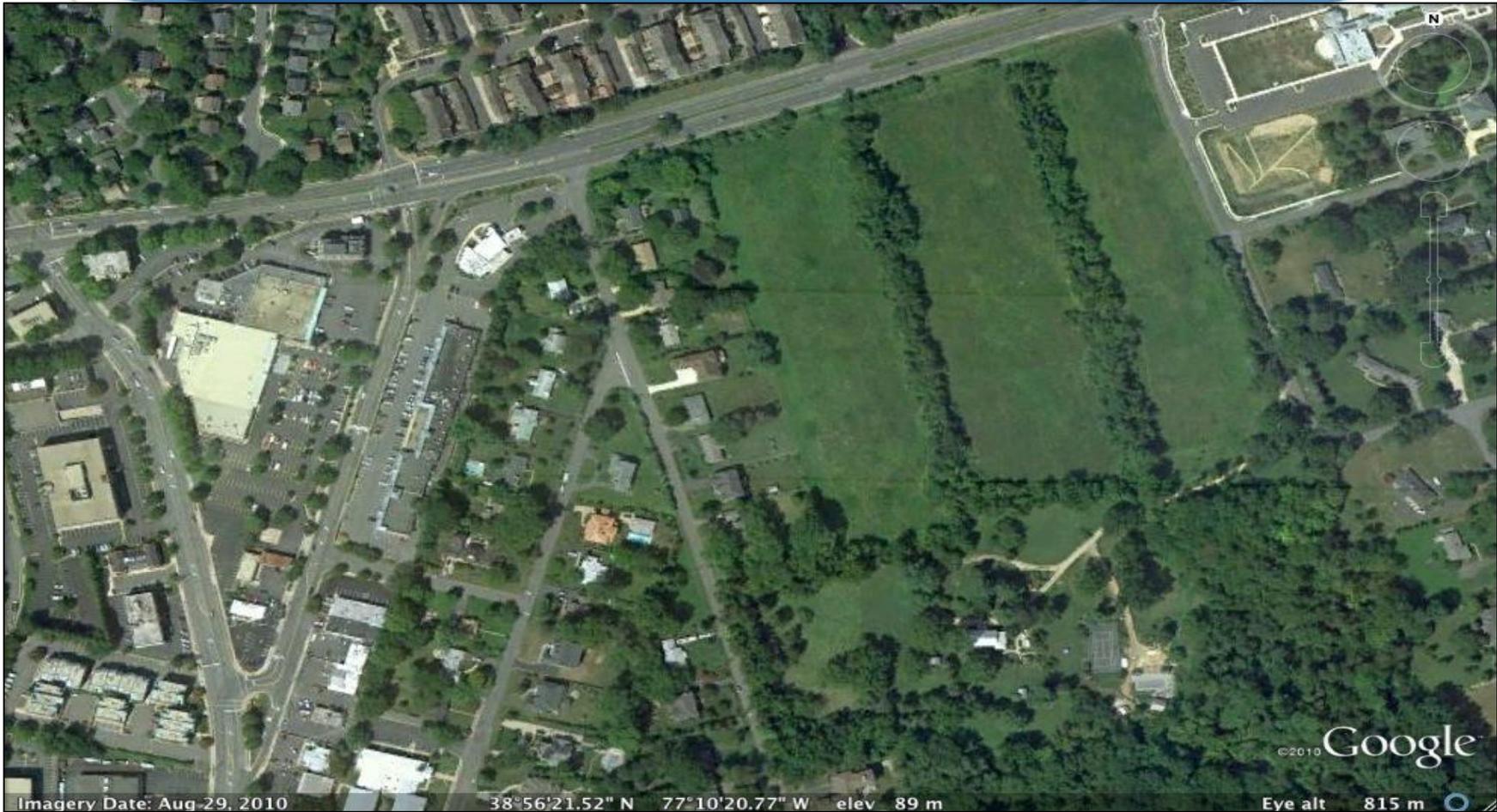
Also supported by:



- ✔ Fairfax Master Naturalists are uniquely qualified to assist the Park Authority in addressing these goals.
- ✔ In 2011 alone our chapter has provided 4,231 hours of volunteer service to the community.
- ✔ Over 1700 hours contributed to the Fairfax County Park Authority

- National history
- Virginia history
- Fairfax County history
- Cultural **and** natural history





Imagery Date: Aug-29, 2010

38°56'21.52" N 77°10'20.77" W elev 89 m

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Eye alt 815 m

- There are no nature centers in the planning district.
- Natural habitats and the wildlife they support are disappearing due to development and fragmentation.
- Natural areas and stream corridors are in highly degraded conditions overall.
- The Park Authority does not have an adequate inventory of natural resources on parkland.
- Non-native invasive plants are threatening natural resources by reducing the diversity of native species and impacting wildlife habitat.

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- Wildlife Mapping provides invaluable data to State and County biological databases
- Surveys are conducted at least 4 times a year



- ◆ Stream monitoring provides critical information on stream health by recording the presence and abundance of aquatic insects as well as a habitat assessment.
- ◆ Over 20 sites countywide are actively being monitored, substantially all on Park Authority land





- ◆ Trained volunteers monitor parkland for novel exotic plant species.
- ◆ If evidence is found a determination can be made as to treatment and a new infestation can be prevented



Salona provides a unique opportunity in Fairfax County to study natural and human history together.

- ◆ Students of all ages
- ◆ Scouts and other youth program members
- ◆ Adults





- ◆ Journey North season monitoring
- ◆ Growing Native acorn collection
- ◆ Monarch Watch
- ◆ Invasive management leadership
- ◆ Ambassador at Home habitat education
- ◆ Guided hikes for observation and identification



◆ K-12 science SOL study opportunities:

- ◆ Observation and study of monarchs, milkweed, ladybugs, native wildlife and plants, life cycles of plants and insects, symbiotic relationships, food webs, weather, measurement (could be combined with social studies SOL requirements re: Virginia history)

◆ Guide Girl Scouts through It's Your Planet-Love It!

◆ Journeys and Boy Scouts through Environmental Science Merit Badge



## ◆ Demonstration gardens

- ◆ Native Plants
- ◆ Wildlife habitats
- ◆ Rain gardens/stormwater management
- ◆ Historical uses for plants (ethnobotany)

## ◆ Interpretive hikes

- ◆ Wildflowers, wildlife, butterflies, birds
- ◆ Trails accessible by surrounding neighborhoods





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[www.virginiamasternaturalist.org/fairfax.html](http://www.virginiamasternaturalist.org/fairfax.html)





We are able and willing to support Park Authority efforts to preserve and enhance natural resources at Salona for the benefit of the community and for future generations.