

Salona

A potential community
resource for
experiential learning

“Don’t judge each day by the harvest you reap,
but by the seeds that you plant.”

(Robert Louis Stevenson)

Outdoor Learning Benefits

Studies show that schools that use outdoor classrooms and other forms of experiential education **produce significant student gains in social studies, science, language arts and math.**

2005 study by the California Department of Education found that students who participated in outdoor science programs **improved their science testing scores by 27 percent.**

Children in outdoor education settings show **improvement in self-esteem, problem solving and motivation to learn.**

- Source: U.S.Fish and Wildlife Service – *Teaching and Learning in Nature* (<http://www.fws.gov/northeast/cpwn/pdf/educatornature.pdf>)

Children develop knowledge and skills as they undertake exciting, real-life projects. By studying science, math and related subjects through outdoor experiences, students can connect to their local environment and become stewards of their community's natural resources.



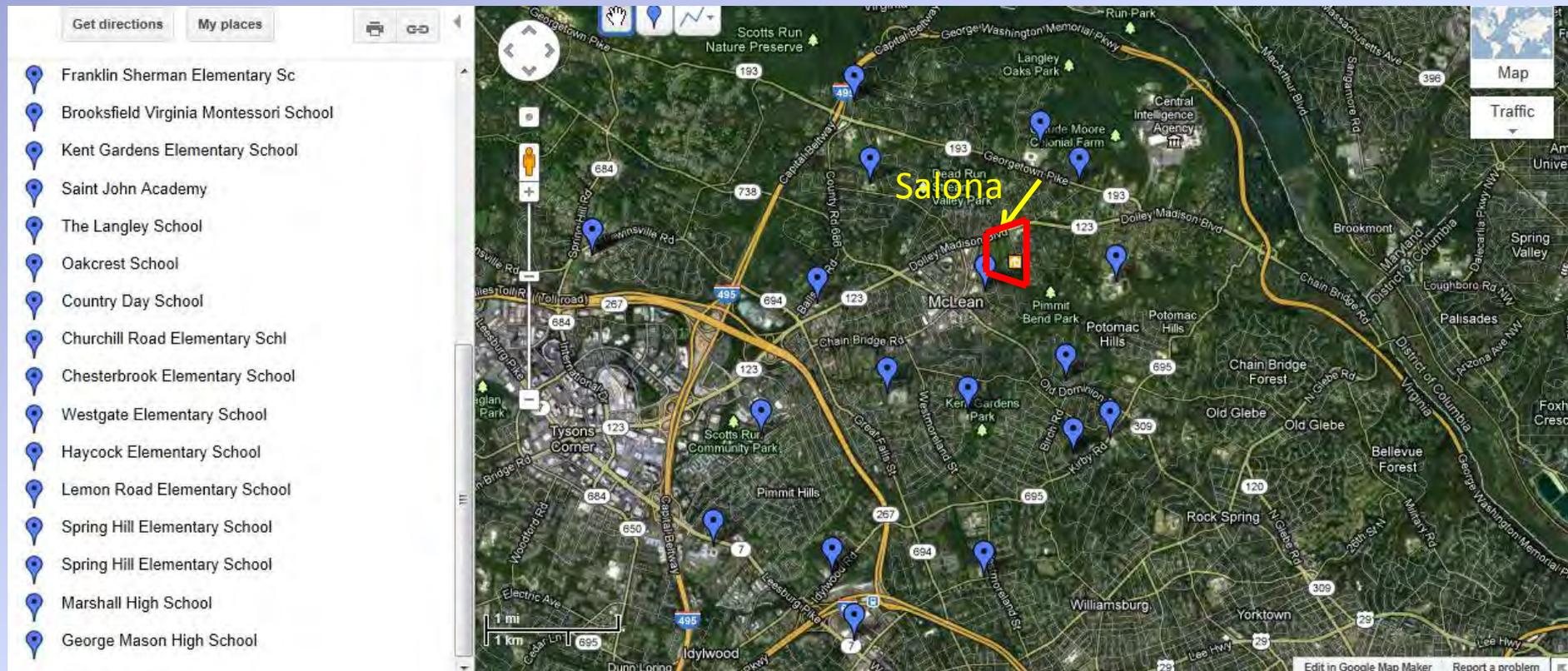
Nature Improves Test Scores

Children who learn science through hands-on experiences score 16 points higher – *one grade level* – than kids who rarely do hands-on science.

National Assessment of Educational Progress NAEP 2012



Some of the Many Schools Near Salona



Salona offers unique education opportunities

- Natural Sciences:
 - Meadow succession and habitat studies
 - Wetlands and related habitat studies
 - Hedgerow and related habitat
- History:
 - Lee land grant 1700s
 - War of 1812 – Refuge of James Madison
 - Civil War – Part of Camp Griffin (Army of the Potomac) and headquarters for Gen. “Baldy” Smith
- Archaeological Investigation
 - Civil War camp sites and artifacts
 - 19th and 20th century farm/agricultural site

Salona Meadow Study Opportunities

The three agricultural fields at Salona have developed into the largest contiguous patch of meadow remaining in this part of Fairfax County, providing unique study opportunities.



These fields and the hedgerows that border them contain at least 100 native and non-native plant species, including trees, shrubs, grasses, and forbs.

Source: Salona Cultural Landscape Report

Wetlands, hedgerows and related habitat studies

Salona History Education Opportunities



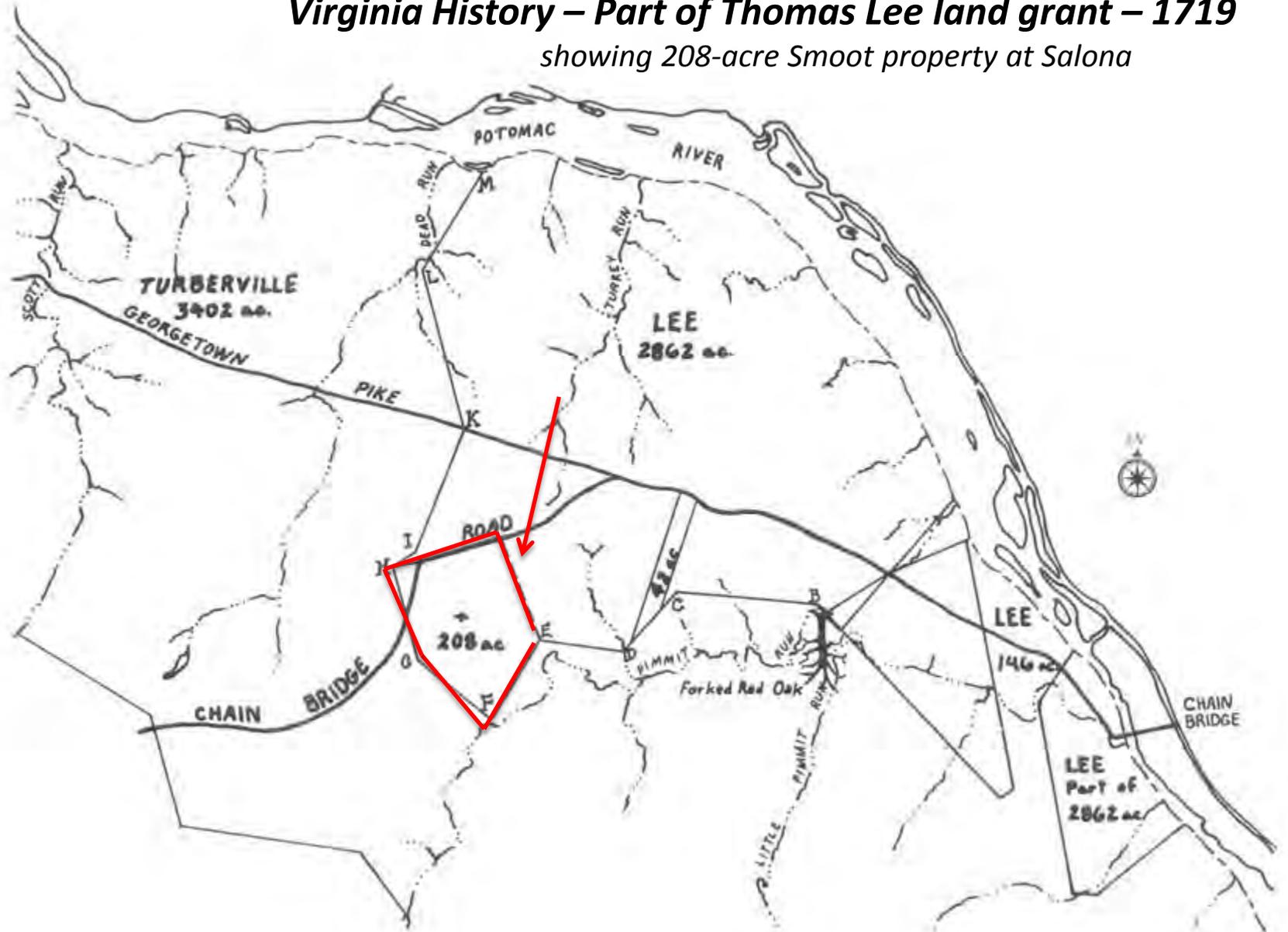
Corbett's Sketch of the Seat of War in Alexandria and Fairfax Cos, 1861



Portrait of Thomas Lee, no date.



Virginia History – Part of Thomas Lee land grant – 1719
showing 208-acre Smoot property at Salona

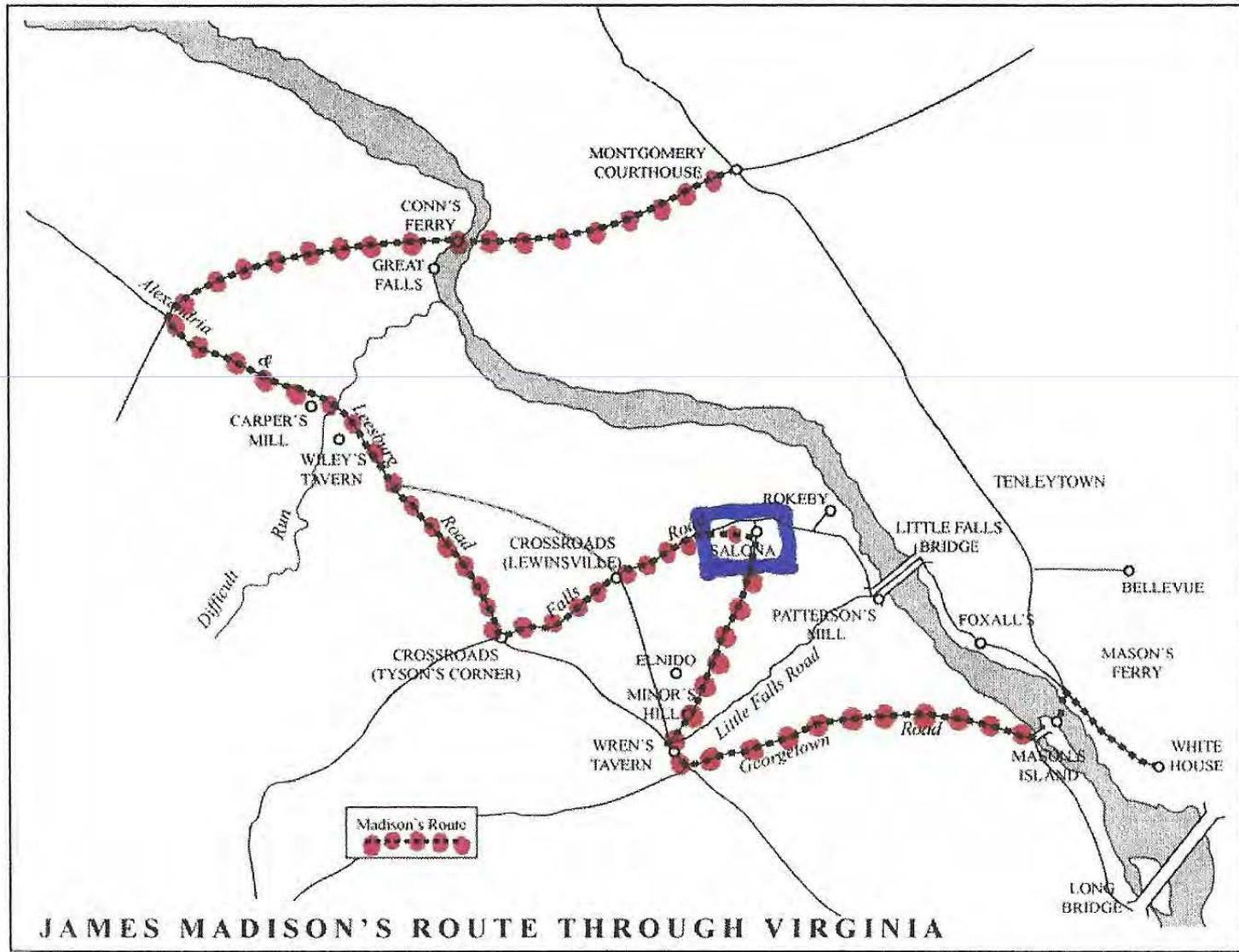


Thomas Lee's 1719 grant, adjoining Turberville

Salona and the War of 1812

Thought to be the refuge of James Madison from the British burning of Washington – August 24, 1814





JAMES MADISON'S ROUTE THROUGH VIRGINIA

Map by Charles Herrick

Civil War

Camp Griffin – Part of the
Union Army of the Potomac



Headquarters of Gen.
William (“Baldy”) Smith



General Irvin McDowell's map, annotated to show Smoot's place and adjacent buildings and vegetation, from "A map of Fairfax County, and parts of Loudoun and Prince William Counties, Va., and the District of Columbia," 1864.



MAP DRAWN BY
CAPTAIN ELISHA
BARNEY OF THE 6TH
VERMONT SHOWING
THE 2ND, 3RD, 4TH, 5TH
AND 6TH VERMONT
REGIMENTS
QUARTERED AT CAMP
GRIFFIN, WINTER
1861-1862

*from "A Very Fine
Appearance" The
Vermont Civil War
Photographs of
George Houghton*

19th & 20th Century Farm History

Archaeological Exploration Opportunities

Given its history, Salona is likely to contain numerous areas of archaeological interest that would provide opportunities for student and community participation in archaeological investigations.



Bank Barn
Foundation



A few of the
Civil War artifacts
previously
recovered at
Salona



School Programs

Ideas presented to the Salona Park Task Force ranged from science and math programs offering students hands-on study of the woodlands, the wildlife, the hydrology and the ecological systems existing on the property, to archeological studies.



Teaching and Research Gardens as a Community Resource

4-5 acre
garden area
containing 30-
40 beds



Source: Potomac School Presentation to Salona Task Force

Experiential Learning through Gardening Activities:

- Gardening offers active and engaging connections to academics, from science and math to nutrition and literacy.
- Students remember information better when they design experiments, use more than one style of learning, and can share their newfound knowledge with others.
- Gardening captures kids' interest, teaches them nurturing skills, gives them a sense of pride in their accomplishments, introduces them to healthful foods, and provides a way to improve and give back to the community.
- Research indicates that children who spend time outdoors in natural, green spaces have reduced symptoms of attention-deficit disorder and ADHD.

Source: National Gardening Association

<http://www.nationalgardenmonth.org/index.php?page=educators> 7/22/2012

Early Childhood Education Resource

“Preschool children are naturally curious about the world around them. These young learners frequently ask parents and teachers to explain why things happen. They are eager to see, listen to, touch, smell and taste things they encounter within their daily lives. ... Through phenomena including shadows, patterns of weather, and plant growth, students are introduced to the concept of change. The significance of natural resources and conservation is also introduced in the preschool standards. “

Source: Virginia Department of Education , [Virginia’s Foundation Blocks for Early Learning: Comprehensive Standards for Four-Year-Olds](#)



Partnering opportunities with local universities and schools

Presentations by George Mason University (GMU), The Potomac School and representatives of the Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS), among others, highlighted many different program opportunities that would complement the curricula of the area schools over a wide range of grades and provide experiential learning opportunities.



Educating the Educators



Lewis Gintner Botanical Garden in Richmond provides a variety of workshops that allow educators of all grade levels to gain the skills, knowledge and experiences necessary to enhance curriculum through nature-based learning. While participating in activities throughout the Garden, educators learn effective teaching techniques for inquiry-based learning and gain new ideas for hands-on connections to standards-of-learning.

Senior and Intergenerational Learning Opportunities

Presentations from seniors highlighted the need for outdoor recreation and education facilities in the area. With the proximity to Lewinsville Senior Center, it was noted that Salona would provide a place for seniors to enjoy a variety of outdoor activities.



Teaching and research gardens would be a valuable asset for complementing aging-in-place programs in our area.

Special Needs Resource

There are many successful programs throughout the country that incorporate gardening activities as an integral part of a therapy regimen for persons with special needs. In particular, programs treating children with autism spectrum disorders have been shown to provide various benefits such as improving communication skills and overcoming tactile defensiveness and food aversions, among others.

There are also many programs providing horticultural therapy to disabled veterans, both through VA hospitals and through other organizations.



Challenges

Successful programs require partnerships with schools and other community organizations for establishment and support.



Sustaining successful programs requires ongoing financial support as most programs do not develop sufficient revenues from program fees to fully support operations.

Although some programs for older children and adults could be provided without on-site structures for indoor activities and bathroom facilities, any programs for younger children and for seniors would require the addition of a building that included restrooms and adequate seating for groups participating in the programs.

