

# Fairfax County Park Authority

---

LOB #342:

## **COUNTYWIDE ARCHAEOLOGY / COLLECTIONS**

### **Purpose**

This LOB is responsible for the stewardship of archaeological resources in Fairfax County, both on parkland and Countywide, conducts and oversees the review of these projects, curates artifacts and collections, and provides leadership, in protecting and maintaining the County's heritage.

### **Description**

This LOB identifies, evaluates, interprets, preserves, and protects archaeological resources on parkland. These archaeological resources include Native American artifacts dating as old as ca. 13,000 years BC and historical sites dating from the 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Staff provides technical guidance and oversight to the Park Authority, other County agencies, developers and citizens with regard to archaeological resources. Staff conducts regulatory review for archaeological projects Countywide. It reviews archaeological reports; conducts archaeological studies on threatened sites; reviews federally mandated Section 106 reports for the County and develops memoranda of agreement; and coordinates with private, local, state and federal agencies regarding archaeological resources in the County. In addition, this LOB curates artifacts resulting from archaeological investigations in the County and serves as stewards of more than 3 million archaeological artifacts. These collections are maintained in compliance with federal and state professional standards and are housed at the James Lee Community Center, which serves as the repository for archaeological collections from parkland and Countywide. It also curates historic collections that are housed in our museums (Sully Historic Site, Colvin Run Mill, Green Spring Gardens and Frying Pan Farm Park); in exhibits; and in museum storage facilities holding more than 10,000 historic objects dating from the 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, including paintings, furniture, equipment, and decorative art objects. Finally, this LOB encourages the enjoyment, understanding, and appreciation of these non-renewable archaeological resources by citizens and visitors.

### **Benefits**

This LOB preserves and protects archaeological resources for the long-term benefit of the residents and visitors of Fairfax County. Archaeological materials and museum collections provide a window into the everyday life of people who lived in the past. These artifacts make history more tangible for the public and educates the public on the importance of archaeology and preservation of cultural materials for the benefit of current and future generations.

# Fairfax County Park Authority

---

## Mandates

This LOB is partially mandated. Staff follows mandates set forth by:

- Park Authority Policies for Archaeology (Policy 203 and 204) and Policy 206 for Museum and Archaeological Collections  
<http://www.fairfaxCounty.gov/parks/parkpolicy/park-policy-manual.pdf>
- The Cultural Resource Management Plan  
<http://www.fairfaxCounty.gov/parks/gmp/crmpfinal.pdf>
- The Comprehensive Plan allows for development plan review on projects where there are zoning changes.
- The Zoning Ordinance Amendment requires that archaeology be conducted in Historic Overlay Districts prior to the time of the submittal of plans.

Staff complies with mandates set forth in the:

- Virginia Antiquities Act (Code of Virginia §10.1-2300 et seq.)  
<http://leg1.state.va.us/cgi-bin/legp504.exe?000+cod+TOC1001000002300000000000>
- Guidelines for Conducting Cultural Resource Surveys in Virginia  
[http://www.dhr.virginia.gov/review/Survey\\_Manual\\_Web.pdf](http://www.dhr.virginia.gov/review/Survey_Manual_Web.pdf)

Staff complies with:

- Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archaeology and Historic Preservation  
[http://www.cr.nps.gov/local-law/arch\\_stnds\\_0.htm](http://www.cr.nps.gov/local-law/arch_stnds_0.htm)
- National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (as amended)  
<http://www.achp.gov/NHPA.pdf>
- The National Environmental Policy Act Amended)  
[http://www.cr.nps.gov/local-law/FHPL\\_NtlEnvirnPolcy.pdf](http://www.cr.nps.gov/local-law/FHPL_NtlEnvirnPolcy.pdf)
- The Clean Water Act ; and
- Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act  
[http://www.cr.nps.gov/local-law/FHPL\\_DOTAct.pdf](http://www.cr.nps.gov/local-law/FHPL_DOTAct.pdf)
- For Archaeological Collections 36 CFR Part 79  
American Alliance of Museums  
<http://www.aam-us.org/resources/ethics-standards-and-best-practices/standards>

# Fairfax County Park Authority

## Trends and Challenges

The main trends include the growing volume of artifacts and the increasing documentation required for these artifacts.

The major challenges that this LOB faces include, the appropriate and growing storage need for artifacts and documentation, the continual inventory of archaeological resources, and a growing need for cultural resource protection.

## Resources

Category	FY 2014 Actual	FY 2015 Actual	FY 2016 Adopted
<b>LOB #342: Countywide Archaeology / Collections</b>			
<b>FUNDING</b>			
<b>Expenditures:</b>			
Compensation	\$638,529	\$642,232	\$531,303
Benefits	9,356	9,592	15,634
Operating Expenses	58,500	58,147	40,952
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$706,385</b>	<b>\$709,971</b>	<b>\$587,889</b>
General Fund Expenditures	\$678,199	\$679,268	\$545,824
Total Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>POSITIONS</b>			
Authorized Positions/Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)			
<b>Positions:</b>			
Regular	10 / 9	10 / 9	9 / 8.75
<b>Total Positions</b>	<b>10 / 9</b>	<b>10 / 9</b>	<b>9 / 8.75</b>

# Fairfax County Park Authority

## Metrics

Metric Indicator	FY 2013 Actual	FY 2014 Actual	FY 2015 Actual	FY 2016 Estimate	FY 2017 Estimate
Plan Reviews Completed for Cultural Resources	956	978	1,000	1,012	1,016
Historic and Archaeological Collections Inventoried	0	0	Completed inventory for existing collections	25 collections annually	30 collections annually
Archaeological Collections Catalogued in Database	0	Approximately 120,000 records	Approximately 150,000 additional records	150,000 additional records	150,000 additional records
Archaeological Sites Investigated	3	4	5	6	6

Staff conducts reviews for projects on parkland and Countywide, including for geocaches, rezoning, easements, the zoning ordinance and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. As part of this process, staff reviews Scopes of Work to ensure that the work will be done to standards; staff conducts regulatory review and report review and provides recommendations and/or concurrence. As well, there is staff participation on teams for local, state and federal projects. These projects are done for the Park Authority, County, and on projects for compliance with federal and state legislation. The use of GIS mapping has made the process more efficient. There needs to be additional coordination with the Virginia Department of Historic Resources to ensure that our documentation is up-to-date. This task largely falls on one staff member. Upgrades would require additional staffing/funding.

A comprehensive inventory of historic museum collections was last done in FY 2007. To prepare for American Association of Museums reaccreditation, an inventory of archaeological and museum collections was implemented in FY 2015. This allows staff to determine what the County has and determine if anything is missing. The inventory must be redone regularly for historic collections and updated as new collections are received. Efficiency has been gained from the acquisition of ReDiscovery software. Future success will depend on continued funding/staffing.

A universal cataloguing database was created by a Limited term archaeologist/IT specialist and staff is transferring already-catalogued projects into the database. This is a challenge since the collections were catalogued using different software and cataloging systems. It requires staff with both an understanding of programs and catalog terms. More than half of old collections are uncatalogued; others are catalogued on paper only. The uncatalogued collections need to be catalogued and entered into the database. The development of the universal database and the use of other computer technology has resulted in a tremendous gain in efficiency. Speed with which this task can be accomplished is dependent on staffing and funding.

Cultural Resources is using limited term staff to conduct in house projects (under the direction of full-time staff). This model started with the projects at Colchester and Sully Woodlands. Staff has also implemented other small projects. There is a significant cost savings achieved by doing the projects in house. Staff can ensure quality and best practices. This is dependent on limited term staffing.