

Fairfax County Park Authority

LOB #345:

HISTORIC STRUCTURES CARE AND MAINTENANCE

Purpose

This LOB is responsible for the stewardship (care and maintenance) of architectural resources on Park Authority property. Many of these buildings are listed in the National Register of Historic Places or are eligible or listed in the Fairfax County Inventory of Historic Sites. This LOB protects and maintains the historic structures which are part of the County's heritage and supports the enjoyment, understanding, and appreciation of these architectural resources by residents and visitors.

Description

This LOB preserves and maintains historic structures that have been entrusted to the County. The properties are used for passive interpretation, preservation or to incorporate them into other Resource Management uses. This LOB is the steward of eight historic sites that are listed in the National Register of Historic Places: Colvin Run Mill, Frying Pan Meeting House, Green Spring Manor House, Huntley Mansion, Sully Historic Site and Floris National Register Historic District at Frying Pan Farm Park are addressed in this LOB. Dranesville Tavern, Great Falls Grange and Forestville Schoolhouse and the DC Workhouse and Reformatory National Register Historic District at Lorton are National Register properties that should be maintained according to the Secretary of the Interior's Standards. There are over 20 other buildings and structures on parkland that are potentially eligible for inclusion in the National Register or are listed in the Fairfax County Inventory of Historic Sites. These historic buildings, structures and districts have associated cultural landscapes and archaeological sites that are maintained by the Park Authority.

The Resident Curator program has been proposed as a solution to address the preservation and maintenance of some of Fairfax County's underutilized historic buildings. The program, created under state enabling legislation, allows publicly owned historic buildings to be incorporated into a resident curator program. As part of this program, citizens would maintain the properties according to the Secretary of the Interior's standards in exchange for being able to live in them. This program would transfer the expense of care and maintenance of buildings in the program that are important to County history to the curators. This innovative approach represents one way to cover maintenance. The curators would have the responsibility to open the property to the public one or more times per year as per the stipulations of their agreement. Cultural Resource staff will provide technical oversight to this program. As part of the standard of care, there are Park Operations staff who help maintain these facilities through either contract work or maintenance staff, depending on the repair.

Benefits

This LOB preserves and protects historic architectural resources for the long-term benefit of the citizens of Fairfax County. The goal is to preserve local heritage for the future interpretation of these resources, whether through programming or through more passive methods. These historic buildings, structures and landscapes provide a window into the everyday life of people who lived in the past. They make history more tangible for the public and serve to educate generations of school children. The Park Authority educates the public on the importance of historic buildings and preserving the County's cultural heritage for the benefit of current and future generations. Staff is leveraging public/private partnerships, through friends groups, volunteer groups and other means for the benefit of the public.

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Mandates

This LOB is partially mandated. In order to address the protection, preservation and maintenance of these properties, the Cultural Resource Management and Protection Branch follows the following policies and plans:

- Park Authority Policy for Historic Preservation (Policy 205)
<http://www.fairfaxCounty.gov/parks/parkpolicy/park-policy-manual.pdf>
- The Cultural Resource Management Plan
<http://www.fairfaxCounty.gov/parks/gmp/crmpfinal.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
- National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (as amended)
<http://www.achp.gov/NHPA.pdf>
- The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for Preserving, Rehabilitation, Restoring and Reconstructing Historic Buildings
<http://www.cr.nps.gov/hps/tps/standguide/index.htm>
- Guidelines for Conducting Cultural Resource Surveys in Virginia
http://www.dhr.virginia.gov/review/Survey_Manual_Web.pdf
- Department of Justice Guidance on the 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design
<http://www.ada.gov/regs2010/2010ADASTandards/Guidance2010ADASTandards.htm>
- Fairfax County Building Permits and Codes
<http://www.fairfaxCounty.gov/dpwes/buildingpermits/>
- Resident Curator Chapter 237
<https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?111+ful+CHAP0237+pdf>
- Resident Curator Program Ordinance
<https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?111+ful+CHAP0237+pdf>

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Trends and Challenges

The main trends include:

- Facilities require extensive work and maintenance of their historic integrity,
- Rising maintenance costs,
- Curatorship as a means to maintain facilities, and
- Reliance on Historic Site Volunteer Corps (established in 2014) rather than Park staff.

The major challenges that this LOB faces include:

- Historic structures are expensive to maintain,
- Staff expertise is needed,
- Knowledge of historic structures is needed,
- Older buildings have unknown issues, and
- Infant program, limited funding, and unknown long-term funding support and needs.

Resources

Category	FY 2014 Actual	FY 2015 Actual	FY 2016 Adopted
LOB #345: Historic Structures Care and Maintenance			
FUNDING			
<u>Expenditures:</u>			
Compensation	\$277,651	\$268,067	\$323,102
Operating Expenses	137,734	147,586	111,295
Total Expenditures	\$415,385	\$415,653	\$434,397
General Fund Expenditures	\$415,385	\$415,653	\$434,397
Total Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0
POSITIONS			
Authorized Positions/Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)			
<u>Positions:</u>			
Regular	4 / 4.5	4 / 4.5	4 / 4.5
Total Positions	4 / 4.5	4 / 4.5	4 / 4.5

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Metrics

Metric Indicator	FY 2013 Actual	FY 2014 Actual	FY 2015 Actual	FY 2016 Estimate	FY 2017 Estimate
Number of houses with a Resident Curator	0	0	0	2	2
Architectural Studies (Measured drawings, National Register assessments, Inventory of Historic Sites nominations, etc.)	3	3	3	3	3

Houses eligible for the Resident Curator Program must be publicly owned and eligible for inclusion in the Fairfax County Inventory of Historic Sites. The program provides an innovative method to fund, care and maintain historic properties under the Park Authority's stewardship. This program provides a long term solution and requires continued funding support from the Board of Supervisors.

Several Park Authority properties are likely eligible for inclusion in the Fairfax County Inventory of Historic Sites and/or the National Register of Historic Places, but have yet to be evaluated. There is a need to update these records to meet the Park Authority's stewardship responsibilities and for the Resident Curator Program. For those properties eligible for the National Register of Historic Places that may be modified, Historic American Buildings Survey or Historic American Engineering Record documentation may be desired or required. This would occur on an as needed basis.