

Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority (NOVA Parks)

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority (NOVA Parks) was founded in 1959 under the Virginia Park Authorities Act. Currently there are six jurisdictional members: the counties of Arlington, Fairfax and Loudoun and the cities of Alexandria, Fairfax and Falls Church. NOVA Parks enhances the communities of Northern Virginia and enriches the lives of their citizens through the conservation of regional natural and cultural resources. It provides diverse regional recreational and educational opportunities, and fosters an understanding of the relationships between people and their environment. Regional parks supplement local facilities, and are distinguished from county and local parks in that they are designed to appeal to and serve the broad-based population of the entire Northern Virginia region, or may be of a size or scope that a single jurisdiction could not undertake alone. The Washington and Old Dominion (W&OD) Railroad Regional Park, which extends from Alexandria through Arlington, Falls Church, Fairfax and Loudoun, is just one example of many NOVA Parks facilities that have region-wide characteristics.

NOVA Parks now owns, leases, and holds easements on 12,884 acres of land, of which 8,557 acres are in Fairfax County. The Regional Park system serves a population of 1.9 million people. Parklands within the system include: Aldie Mill, Battle of Upperville/Goose Creek Bridge, Carlyle House, Mount Defiance, Mount Zion and Tinner Hill Historic Parks, Meadowlark Botanical Gardens, the W&OD Trail, Blue Ridge, Bull Run, Bull Run Marina, Fountainhead, Sandy Run, Springdale, Pohick Bay, Gilbert's Corner, Potomac Overlook, Upton Hill, Algonkian, Red Rock, Occoquan, Hemlock Overlook, Cameron Run, Gateway, Ball's Bluff Battlefield, Temple Hall Farm, White's Ford, and Brambleton Regional Parks, the Upper Potomac properties, the Rust Sanctuary and Webb Sanctuary.

In its conservation role, NOVA Parks is involved in implementing portions of the Environmental Quality Corridors concept, which defines an open space land system designated for long-term protection in the County. In this role, NOVA Parks places emphasis on acquisition of the shoreline properties along the Potomac, Bull Run and Occoquan Rivers, while the Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA) concentrates on acquiring land along the County's interior stream valleys.

LINK TO THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Fairfax County's Comprehensive Plan has established a number of objectives and policies in order to:

- ✓ Plan, acquire, develop and maintain regional parks in conjunction with other public providers to provide a balance of quality recreation opportunities with the protection and preservation of natural and cultural resources.
- ✓ Endorse the efforts of the multi-jurisdictional Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority to carry out a long-range open space plan for Northern Virginia, through a cooperative system of regional parks, to supplement and enhance local park systems in Northern Virginia.

Source: 2017 Edition of the Fairfax County Comprehensive Plan, Policy Plan Element, Parks and Recreation Section, as amended through 3-4-2014.

PROGRAM INITIATIVES

Since FY 2014, NOVA Parks has received \$24,760,144 in support from its regional membership jurisdictions, plus an additional \$25,070,071 in grants, donations and miscellaneous revenue, representing an actual program level of \$49,830,215. Accomplishments during recent years include: the construction of the Jean R. Packard Center at Occoquan Regional Park and replacement of the seawall; acquisition of a shoreline inholding at Pohick Bay Regional Park; acquisition of 150 acres for Springdale Regional Park and 147 acres to expand Brambleton Regional Park; acquisition of Mount Defiance Historic Park, Rust Sanctuary, Webb Sanctuary, Tinner Hill, Goose Creek Bridge and additional land at Gilbert's Corner and Ball's Bluff; development of Tinner Hill Historic Site; Meadowlark Botanical Gardens trail connection to the W&OD Trail and park entrance renovations; improvements to rowing facilities at Sandy Run and Bull Run Marina; upgrades to the campgrounds and water park at Bull Run Regional Park; the addition of camping cabins at Pohick Bay Regional Park and improvements to the Bull Run Festival of Lights; renovation and expansion of the mountain bike trails and building improvements at Fountainhead Regional Park; trail improvements on the Washington & Old Dominion Railroad Regional Park; construction of a new shelter at Hemlock Overlook Regional Park; a new trail underpass at Pickett Road linking Accotink Trail with the City of Fairfax trail system; and on-going renovations and upgrades to existing roads, parking and restroom facilities.

A portion of the capital improvement program includes the repair and renovation of existing and aging facilities, such as roof replacements, road repairs, replacement of mechanical systems and similar work to preserve and repair existing facilities. Additional elements of the CIP include land acquisition, Americans with Disabilities Act and energy improvements, expansion of existing facilities and new features to meet the needs of the region.

Funds from Fairfax County to support NOVA Parks' capital improvement program have historically been supported by General Obligation Bonds. Fairfax County voters approved a bond program in the fall of 2016, which will fund Fairfax County's share of NOVA Parks' capital request for park acquisition and development for four years. NOVA Parks' Capital Fund revenues consist primarily of capital appropriations received from the six member jurisdictions. Fairfax County's contribution for FY 2020 is \$3.0 million. Funds for FY 2021 and beyond have not been formally allocated to specific projects and the following schedule lists only projects planned for FY 2020.

CURRENT PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS

1. **ADA Improvements** (Region-wide): \$400,000 for accessibility improvements throughout the park system.
2. **Algonkian Regional Park** (Loudoun County): \$148,000 for golf course, and cottage improvements.
3. **Brambleton Regional Park** (Loudoun County): \$308,000 for Beaverdam Reservoir facilities design, permitting, and development.
4. **Bull Run Regional Park** (Fairfax County): \$585,000 for campground renovations, park road widening, and seasonal event facility improvements.
5. **Cameron Run Regional Park** (City of Alexandria): \$60,000 for waterpark renovations.
6. **Headquarters** (Fairfax County): \$80,000 for automated systems and building renovations.
7. **Hemlock Overlook Regional Park** (Fairfax County): \$65,000 for restroom and shower facility renovations.
8. **Land Acquisition** (Region-wide): \$400,000 for land and easement purchases.
9. **Meadowlark Botanical Gardens** (Fairfax County): \$100,000 for garden development and seasonal event facility improvements.

10. **Pohick Bay Regional Park** (Fairfax County): \$143,000 for miscellaneous golf course, waterpark and campground improvements.
11. **Project Support and Miscellaneous Improvements** (Region-wide): \$959,000 for new facilities, renovations, and energy enhancements. This category includes project management, development and capital maintenance not specifically assigned to a particular public use facility or park location.
12. **Roads and Parking** (Region-wide): \$300,000 for improving and renovating roadways and parking areas throughout the park system.
13. **Temple Hall Farm Regional Park** (Loudoun County): \$20,000 for seasonal event facility improvements.
14. **Upton Hill Regional Park** (Fairfax and Arlington Counties): \$60,000 for waterpark renovations.
15. **Vehicles and Equipment** (Region-wide): \$900,000 for vehicles and capital equipment at all parks, central maintenance and headquarters.
16. **W&OD Railroad Regional Park** (Fairfax, Arlington, Loudoun Counties, Cities of Fairfax and Falls Church): \$4,648,000 for construction of separate trails for pedestrians and bicyclists through Falls Church, and other trail enhancements.

PROJECT COST SUMMARIES
NORTHERN VIRGINIA REGIONAL PARK AUTHORITY
(\$000's)

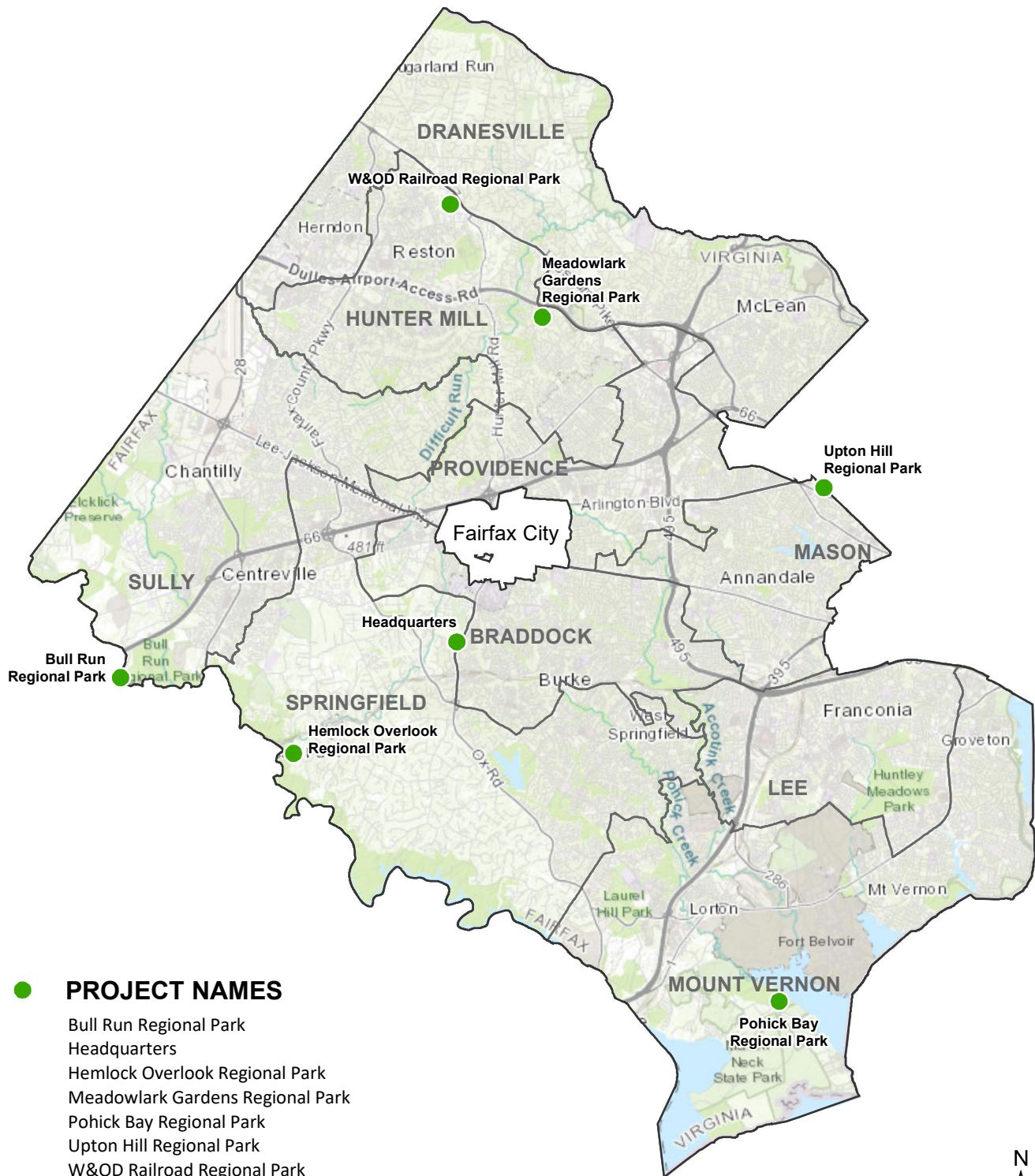
Project Title Project Number	Source of Funds	Budgeted or Expended Through FY 2019						Total FY2020- FY2024	Total FY2025- FY2029
			FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024		
1 ADA Improvements (Region-wide)	B	C	\$400					\$400	\$400
2 Algonkian Regional Park (Loudoun County)	B	C	\$148					\$148	\$148
3 Brambleton Regional Park (Loudoun County)	B	C	\$308					\$308	\$308
4 Bull Run Regional Park (Fairfax County)	B	C	\$585					\$585	\$585
5 Cameron Run Reg. Park (City of Alexandria)	B	C	\$60					\$60	\$60
6 Headquarters (Fairfax County)	B	C	\$80					\$80	\$80
7 Hemlock Overlook Reg. Park (Fairfax County)	B	C	\$65					\$65	\$65
8 Land Acquisition (Region-wide)	B	C	\$400					\$400	\$400
9 Meadowlark Bot. Gardens (Fairfax County)	B	C	\$100					\$100	\$100
10 Pohick Bay Reg. Park (Fairfax County)	B	C	\$143					\$143	\$143
11 Project Support & Misc Imprv (Region-wide)	B	C	\$959					\$959	\$959
12 Roads and Parking (Region-wide)	B	C	\$300					\$300	\$300
13 Temple Hall Farm Reg Park (Loudoun Co.)	B	C	\$20					\$20	\$20
14 Upton Hill Reg. Park (Fairfax and Arlington)	B	C	\$60					\$60	\$60
15 Vehicles and Equipment (Region-wide)	B	C	\$900					\$900	\$900
16 W&OD Railroad Regional Park (Region-wide)	B	C	\$4,648					\$4,648	\$4,648
TOTAL PROJECT COST			\$8,776	\$5,430	\$5,627	\$5,878	\$5,854	\$31,565	\$31,565
TOTAL FAIRFAX COUNTY CONTRIBUTION			\$3,000	\$3,040	\$3,095	\$3,151	\$3,246	\$15,532	\$15,532

Notes: Numbers in bold italics represent funded amounts. A "C" in the 'Budgeted or Expended' column denotes a continuing project.

Key: Source of Funds
B Bonds
G General Fund
S State
F Federal
X Other
U Undetermined

NORTHERN VIRGINIA REGIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

PROJECT LOCATIONS



Distance in Miles

A horizontal number line with tick marks at 0, 1, 2, 3, and 4. The line is labeled "Distance in Miles" above the 0 mark.