

# Fairfax County Park Authority

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LOB #344:

## **HISTORIC SITE MANAGEMENT AND STEWARDSHIP EDUCATION**

### **Purpose**

This LOB actively identifies, protects, preserves and interprets Fairfax County's Historic Sites and resources, providing an example for their preservation and management beyond current generations and leads and educates the community towards stewardship of those resources via the delivery of in-house and outreach education for all historic structures and site activities.

### **Description**

This LOB is comprised of two discrete programs: the preservation of various historic and cultural resource sites throughout Fairfax County, such as programmed buildings and/or landscapes, both in-ground and above ground; and teaching about those historic sites and related historic activities.

There are separate but related LOBs tied to similar agency operations, such as historic property rentals, archaeological sites, cultural resource management and archaeological and museum collections management.

This LOB references preservation, operations, and/or interpretive in-house and outreach teaching activities from several historic sites. Interpretive activities include those tailored and required for Virginia's Standard of Learning (SOL) for its students in Fairfax County Public Schools, while still within each site's mission. These historic sites include but are not limited to:

- Sully Historic Site – a Federal period (constructed 1794) original home and its surrounding outbuildings comprising original and representative structures, historic demonstration gardens, associated archaeological sites, and docent-led tours.
- Colvin Run Mill Historic Site – a turn-of-the-19<sup>th</sup> century operating mill and miller's house, a historic general store partially reconstructed from the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, a representative utility barn/blacksmith shop, associated archaeological sites, and docent-led tours.
- Historic Huntley – ca. 1825 original home and outbuildings, associated archaeological sites, and docent-led tours.
- Manor House at Green Spring Gardens - 1784 historic house, associated archaeological site and cemeteries, museum shop, art display, and tea programs.
- Frying Pan Farm Park - historic houses, buildings, working farm, meeting house, associated archaeological sites, dating from late 19<sup>th</sup> century to early 20<sup>th</sup> century.
- Ellanor C. Lawrence Park/Walney house - outbuildings and structures, and associated archaeological sites.
- Pre-Columbian historic interpretation at Riverbend Park, Huntley Meadows and Hidden Oaks Nature Center - The majority of these programs/events are fee-based, which helps sustain each element's operational budget and eases the overall effect on Fairfax County's general operating budget. In addition Sully, Colvin Run and Historic Huntley have paid docent-led tours.
- 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 listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Colvin Run Mill, the County's only operating water-powered grist mill, has been designated a National Engineering Landmark by the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME).
- Typically each site is open daily during various daylight hours, six to seven days/week, closed certain major holidays.

# Fairfax County Park Authority

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- Each site provides educational websites, paper publications, teaching tools, and guidance for the general public, all audiences.
- Each site provides volunteer opportunities for over 800 volunteers, engendering further historic stewardship results within the community.
- This LOB has established partnerships with six Friends groups and one Foundation, which also provide financial and volunteer support for County programs/events and interpretive tools.

County merit, limited-term exempt, contract, and volunteer staff at each site teach, interpret and conduct “best practices” historic resource stewardship, imbuing in each citizen the value of Fairfax County’s history and cultural origins and transformation for future generations. In various iterations, sites comprising this LOB have been operational within Fairfax County Park Authority for more than 50 years serving the public.

## Benefits

This LOB helps directly manage and teach stewardship for hundreds of inventoried historic structures and archaeological sites and over 2,000 park acres of Fairfax County’s historical landscapes. It provides best management practice tools to ensure the preservation and sustainability of these resources, so they will be enjoyed by current and many future generations of Fairfax County’s citizens.

## 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](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](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/>

# Fairfax County Park Authority

## Trends and Challenges

The main trends include increased offerings of fee based programs; increased demand for historic and cultural stewardship interpretive programs; and increasing repairs to buildings and sites.

The major challenges that this LOB faces include rising cost of repairs; meeting the increasing demand for use of the buildings; and increased demand for services and information.

## Resources

Category	FY 2014 Actual	FY 2015 Actual	FY 2016 Adopted
<b>LOB #344: Historic Site Management and Stewardship Education</b>			
<b>FUNDING</b>			
<u>Expenditures:</u>			
Compensation	\$1,267,677	\$1,317,027	\$1,484,062
Benefits	73,295	75,691	91,309
Operating Expenses	542,408	526,453	449,148
Work Performed for Others	0	0	(58,787)
Capital Equipment	9,790	0	0
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$1,893,170</b>	<b>\$1,919,171</b>	<b>\$1,965,732</b>
General Fund Expenditures	\$1,276,015	\$1,321,539	\$1,310,243
<u>Transfers Out:</u>			
Transfer Out to General Fund	\$27,125	\$27,125	\$28,700
<b>Total Transfers Out</b>	<b>\$27,125</b>	<b>\$27,125</b>	<b>\$28,700</b>
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$544,567</b>	<b>\$577,468</b>	<b>\$577,981</b>
<b>POSITIONS</b>			
Authorized Positions/Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)			
<u>Positions:</u>			
Regular	25 / 24.25	25 / 24.25	25 / 24
<b>Total Positions</b>	<b>25 / 24.25</b>	<b>25 / 24.25</b>	<b>25 / 24</b>

# Fairfax County Park Authority

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## Metrics

Metric Indicator	FY 2013 Actual	FY 2014 Actual	FY 2015 Actual	FY 2016 Estimate	FY 2017 Estimate
Number of participants in Stewardship Education programs at historic sites	4,007	4,801	4,727	5,105	5,513
Number of park visitors at historic sites	36,705	49,011	60,819	65,684	70,938
Number of participants in school programs at historic sites	8,673	7,563	7,625	7,701	7,778

Stewardship education programs have increased by 8 percent since FY 2013 and are expected to continue to reach that percentage until FY 2017. These numbers include classes, programs, camps and tours related to history and cultural resources.

Park attendance at historic sites has also grown. It is predicted that it will increase by 8 percent based on the growth observed in prior years and the growth in stewardship education programs, which are considered to be the main driver associated with this indicator. These numbers include walk-in visitors, program attendees, and special event patrons. Annual special events include Sully Car Show, Civil War Re-enactments, and Grinding Days at Colvin Run Mill.

School groups continue to be annual, repeat customers. However, a growth rate larger than one percent of total participants is not realistic with space and schedule limitations.