



FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY



M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Chairman and Members
Park Authority Board

VIA: Kirk W. Kincannon, Executive Director

FROM: Cindy Walsh, Director
Resource Management Division

DATE: June 22, 2018

Agenda

Committee of the Whole
Wednesday, June 27, 2018 – 5:45 p.m.
Boardroom – Herrity Building
Chairman: William G. Bouie
Vice Chair: Ken Quincy

1. Natural Resource Management Plan FY18 Accomplishments – FY 19 Plans (with presentation) – Information*

*Enclosures



If accommodations and/or alternative formats are needed, please call (703) 324-8563. TTY (703) 803-3354

Board Agenda Item
July 11, 2018

INFORMATION (with presentation)

Natural Resource Management Plan – FY 2018 Accomplishments and FY 2019 Implementation Plan

On January 29, 2014, the Park Authority Board adopted the agencywide Natural Resource Management Plan (NRMP). The plan coordinates agencywide efforts to achieve the resource preservation mission of the Fairfax County Park Authority and implement agency Policy 201 – Natural Resources. Staff implemented the fourth full year of the new NRMP.

This presentation will highlight the NRMP, the FY 2019 implementation plan and FY 2018 accomplishments. In FY 2018 work was accomplished on all four management themes, and 22 of the 26 recommended actions. Areas of emphasis for FY 2018 include completing planned activities while maintaining existing service levels.

ENCLOSED DOCUMENTS:

Attachment 1: Natural Resource Management Plan - FY 2018 Accomplishments FY 2019 Implementation Plan

STAFF:

Kirk Kincannon, Executive Director
Sara Baldwin, Deputy Director/COO
Aimee Vosper, Deputy Director/CBO
Cindy Walsh, Director, Resource Management Division
David Bowden, Director, Planning and Development Division
Todd Brown, Director, Park Operations Division
Barbara Nugent, Director, Park Services Division
John Stokely, Manager, Natural Resource Management Branch

**Natural Resource Management Plan
FY 2018 Accomplishments
FY 2019 Implementation Plan**

FY 2018 Implementation Plan

- The Park Authority completed its fourth full year of its newly adopted agencywide Natural Resource Management Plan (NRMP), adopted January 29, 2014.
- Completed activities in all four of management themes that include: Inventory and Planning, Protecting Natural Capital, Managing Wild Populations and Restoring Ecosystems, and Fostering Stewardship and Expanding Natural Capital.
- Accomplished work on 22 of the 26 NRMP recommended actions.

NRMP Program

FY 2018 Accomplishments

- Continued to populate the geodatabase model.
- Continued to implement ecological restorations and natural capital investment projects at Old Colchester Park and Preserve (OCP), Poplar Ford Park, John C. and Margaret K. White Horticultural Park, Fitzhugh Park, and Elklick Preserve.
- Started the Natural Resources Management Plan update for Huntley Meadows Park.
- Started the process for a new invasive vegetation management contract.
- Developed a probable vernal pool GIS data layer.

FY 2019 Plans

- Continue to populate the geodatabase model.
- Continue to implement the natural capital/ecological restoration projects at approved parks.
- Finalize a new invasive vegetation management contract.
- Develop an agencywide list of potential mitigation sites.
- Complete the Natural Resources Management Plan for Huntley Meadows Park.
- Conduct a five-year review and update of the agencywide Natural Resource Management Plan.
- Start development of the West Area Natural Resource Management Plan.
- Start implementation of Natural Area Preserve at Huntley Meadows Park.

Inventory and Planning

FY 2018 Accomplishments

- Surveyed approximately 1,931 acres using the Non-native Invasive Assessment Prioritization (NNIAP) protocol. All suitable acreage has been surveyed to produce a complete inventory and started resurvey effort of park lands.*
- Assessed 24 parks for deer browse impacts and 19 parks for deer density to inform white-tailed deer management efforts.
- Prepared 132 non-native invasive vegetation treatment plans at 95 parks.
- Classified and mapped 1,777 acres of natural vegetation communities at nine parks.*
- Designated 12 Resource Protection Zones (RPZ), or equivalent, at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park and Turner Farm Park.
- Continued systematic surveying for selected rare, threatened, and endangered species.
- Started update of the Huntley Meadows Natural Resources Management Plan

FY 2019 Plans

- Continue resurvey of park lands using the new NNIAP protocol method to monitor trends and inform agency decision making dataset of non-native invasive vegetation species. Park lands will be resurveyed approximately every five years to ensure that treatments are effective, and goals and objectives are achieved.
- Continue to assess parks for white-tailed deer browse impacts. Parks will be revisited every five years to ensure that treatments are effective, and goals and objectives are achieved. Population density surveys will continue to be implemented to inform adaptive management, as needed.
- Continue to inventory, classify, and map natural vegetation communities.
- Continue to improve the use of web-based GIS to natural resource programs and services where deemed effective.
- Continue to build capacity for rare, threatened, and endangered species survey and monitoring.
- Develop and test field confirmation protocol for probable vernal pool GIS data layer.
- Complete Natural Resources Management Plan for Huntley Meadows Park.
- Begin West Area Natural Resources Management Plan.
- Conduct a five-year review and update of the agencywide Natural Resource Management Plan.

Protecting Natural Capital

FY 2018 Accomplishments

- Reviewed 185 development plans to avoid adverse impacts to natural resources.*

* Denotes an estimated number due to report submitted prior to end of reporting

- Served on 69 park project teams to ensure that the agencywide NRMP is being implemented on Park Authority projects.*
- Provided technical assistance for seven encroachments on park lands.*
- Provided technical assistance for 79 easement actions on park lands.*
- Provided technical assistance for 34 Department of Public Works and Environmental Services (DPWES) projects on park lands.*
- Conducted site assessments for 27 potential land acquisitions.*
- Reviewed 40 permit requests for restricted activities in natural areas.*

FY 2019 Plans

- Continue to review development plans for adverse impacts to park lands, as needed.
- Continue to serve on park project teams for FY19.
- Continue to provide technical assistance for encroachments, easement actions, trail projects, and DPWES projects on an as needed basis.
- Continue to provide land acquisition site assessments on an as needed basis.
- Continue to review permits for restricted natural area activities on an as needed basis.
- Develop an agencywide list and GIS data layer for potential mitigation sites.

Managing Wild Populations and Restoring Ecosystems

FY 2018 Accomplishments

- Treated 1,048 acres for non-native invasive vegetation.*
- Completed 62 invasive species treatment plans at 32 parks.*
- Removed 860 white-tailed deer from 94 parks.
- Treated 92 Canada goose nests at parks and golf courses using best management practices.
- Implemented 57 acres of prescribed fire at three parks.
- Continued implementation of three ecosystem restorations under the HOLH program: OCPP natural resource management plan implementation, Poplar Ford Park ecological restoration, and Fitzhugh Park natural resource management plan implementation.
- Started implementation of two ecosystem restorations under the Helping Our Land Heal (HOLH) program: Ellick Preserve and John C. and Margaret K. White Horticultural Park.

FY 2019 Plans

- Continue to treat non-native invasive vegetation.
- Continue to remove white-tailed deer from parks by partnering with the FCPD.
- Continue to treat Canada goose nests to maintain acceptable populations.
- Continue to implement prescribed fire at existing sites on a routine basis and add additional, test sites, as appropriate.

* Denotes an estimated number due to report submitted prior to end of reporting

- Continue to implement HOLH Program projects at the following parks: OCPP, Poplar Ford Park, Fitzhugh Park, Elklick Preserve, and John C. and Margaret K. White Horticultural Park.

Fostering Stewardship and Expanding Natural Capital

FY 2018 Accomplishments

- Addressed an estimated 905 citizen inquiries regarding natural resources on park lands.*
- 2,500 volunteers donated 7,700 hours removing non-native invasive vegetation at 55 sites. The total volunteer hours since the Invasive Management (IMA) program inception is 65,116.*
 - The donated volunteer time equates to an estimated \$185,878 in FY 2018 and \$1,571,900 since program inception.*
- 509 FCPD volunteers donated 38,381 hours removing white-tailed deer at 94 parks. The total volunteer hours since the FCPD archery program inception is estimated at 199,662
 - The donated FCPD volunteer time equates to an estimated \$926,517 in FY 2018 and \$4,819,840 since program inception.
- Fostered partnerships with state, regional, private, non-profit, and county organizations to include:
 - Fairfax County Environmental Quality Advisory Council;
 - Virginia Departments of Forestry, Game and Inland Fisheries, and Conservation and Recreation;
 - Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District;
 - Earth Sangha;
 - Fairfax Releaf;
 - Fairfax County Police Department;
 - Fairfax County Departments of Public Works and Environmental Services, Health, Planning and Zoning, and Fire and Rescue;
 - Fairfax County Park Foundation;
 - Friends Groups;
 - Northern Virginia Audubon Society;
 - Fort Belvoir and Fort AP Hill;
 - Quantico Marine Corps Base;
 - Occoquan Bay National Wildlife Refuge;
 - National Capital Region Partnership for Invasive Species Management.
- Served on the Invasive Species Advisory Committee for the update of the Virginia Invasive Species Management Plan.
- National Capital Region Partnership for Invasive Species Management signatory.

FY 2019 Plans

- Continue addressing citizen inquiries on an as needed basis.
- Continue the IMA program operations at, at least, 55 sites and encouraging volunteer-based stewardship.

* Denotes an estimated number due to report submitted prior to end of reporting

- Continue partnering the FCPD to remove white-tailed deer on suitable park lands.
- Continue to foster partnerships with state, regional, private, non-profit, and county organizations.
- Continue to assess small-scale, citizen science projects for potential agencywide expansion.

Fairfax County Park Authority
Natural Resource Management Plan



Adopted January 29, 2014
<http://www.fairfaxva.gov/parks>



Natural Resource Management Plan – FY 2018 Accomplishments and FY 2019 Implementation Plan

Committee of the Whole
June 27, 2018

***FY2018 Activities
Accomplished***

Continued to populate
geodatabase model

Continued to implement
natural capital
investment/ecological
restoration projects

Natural Resources
Management Plan update
for Huntley Meadows

Started invasive vegetation
management contract
renewal

Developed probable vernal
pool GIS data layer

Inventory and Planning

1,931 acres surveyed for invasive species

24 parks assessed for deer browse impacts and estimate deer densities at 19 parks

132 invasive treatment plans prepared and 62 completed

“Knowing what we have”



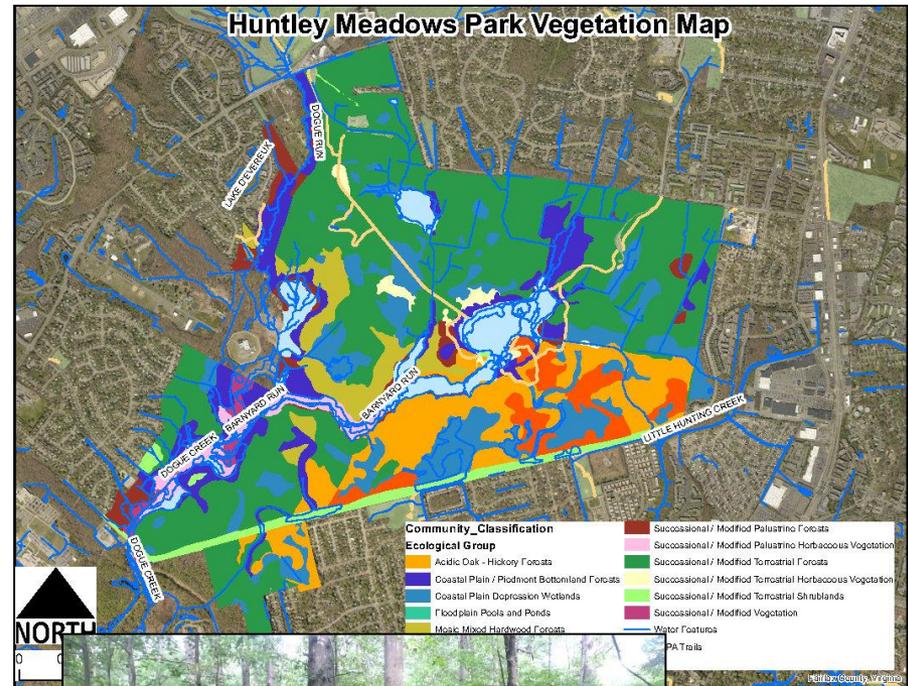
Inventory and Planning

1,777 acres of natural vegetation communities classified and mapped

12 Resource Protection Zones designated

Continued surveying for selected rare, threatened, and endangered species

Huntley Meadows NRMP



“Knowing what we have”



“Do no harm”

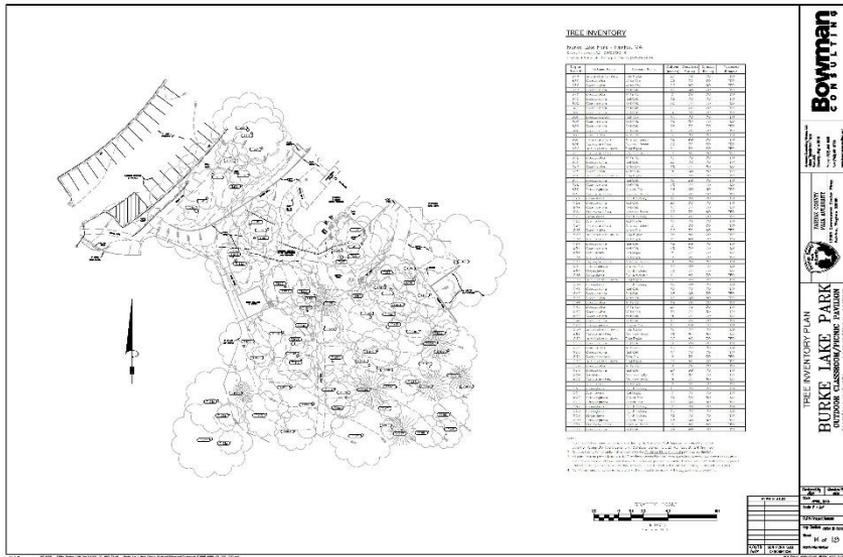
Protecting Natural Capital

185 development plans reviewed

69 park project teams served

7 encroachments where technical assistance was provided

79 easement actions where technical assistance was provided



“Do no harm”

Protecting Natural Capital

34 DPWES projects where technical assistance was provided

27 land acquisition reviews conducted

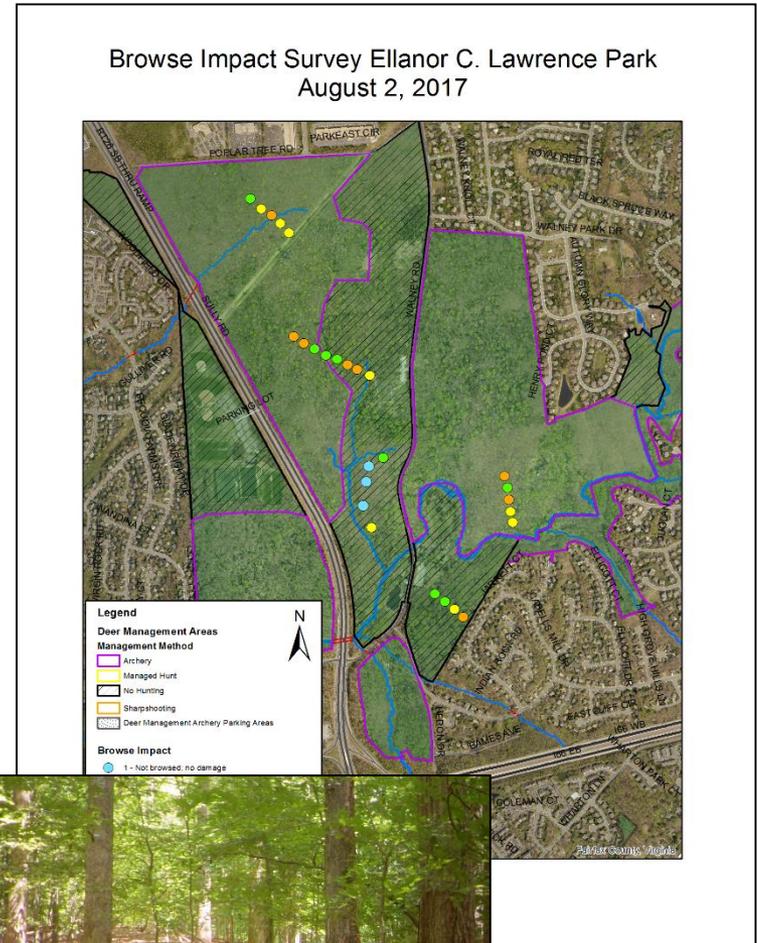
40 permit requests reviewed for restricted natural area activities

Managing Wild Populations and Restoring Ecosystems

1,048 acres treated for invasive, non-native vegetation

860 white-tailed deer harvested from 94 parks

92 Canada goose nests oiled at lake front parks, golf courses, and other parks



“Helping our land heal”

Managing Wild Populations and Restoring Ecosystems

57 acres of prescribed fire implemented

5 ecosystem restoration projects in progress:

Old Colchester Park

Poplar Ford Park

Fitzhugh Park

White Garden Park

Elklick Preserve



“Helping our land heal”



Fostering Stewardship and Expanding Natural Capital

7,700 volunteer hours removing non-native, invasive vegetation

38,381 FCPD volunteer hours harvesting white-tailed deer

35 volunteers trained for citizen science protocols

“Spreading the word”

National
Capital
Region

PRISM

Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management

A GLOBALLY RARE,

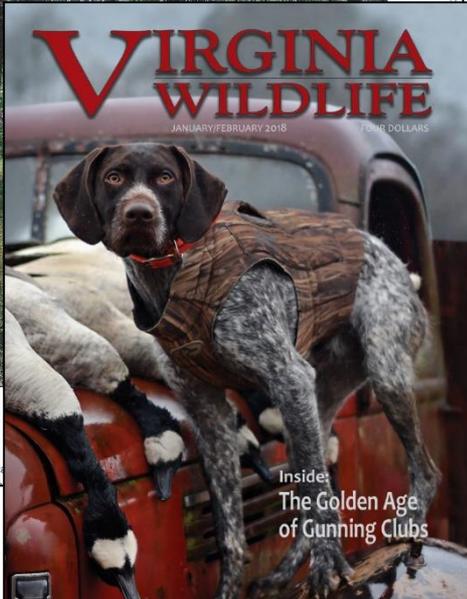
VIRGINIA JEWEL

THE WONDER OF ELKLICK WOODLANDS NATURAL AREA PRESERVE



By Glenda C. Booth
Photos by Gary Fleming

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Fostering Stewardship and Expanding Natural Capital

905 (estimated) customer inquiries addressed

20 partnerships fostered with federal, state, regional, private, non-profit, and county organizations

National Capital Region
PRISM signatory

“Spreading the word”

FY2019 Planned Activities

Continue to populate geodatabase model

Continue to implement natural capital investment/ecological restoration projects

Complete Natural Resources Management Plan for Huntley Meadows and start West Area

Finalize invasive vegetation management contract renewal

Develop agency-wide list of potential mitigation sites

Implement Huntley Meadows Natural Area Preserve

Conduct 5-year NRMP review

Acknowledgements



- Park Authority Board
- Environmental Quality Advisory Council
- Fairfax County Police Department
- Virginia Departments of Forestry, Game and Inland Fisheries, and Conservation and Recreation
- Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District
- Earth Sangha
- Fairfax Releaf
- Fairfax County Departments of Public Works and Environmental Services, Health, Planning and Zoning, and Fire and Rescue
- Fairfax County Park Foundation
- Friends Groups
- Volunteers and Citizen Stewards
- Northern Virginia Audubon Society
- Fairfax County Tree Commission
- Forts Belvoir and AP Hill
- Quantico Marine Corps Base
- Lindsay Edwards