



# 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:** Barbara Nugent, Director  
Resource Management Division

**DATE:** July 18, 2019

### *Agenda*

**Resource Management Committee  
(Committee of the Whole)  
Wednesday, July 24, 2019 – 5:30 p.m.  
Boardroom – Herrity Building  
Chairman: Maggie Godbold  
Vice Chair: Linwood Gorham**

1. Scope Approval – Old Colchester Park Wetland Restoration Implementation (with presentation) – Action\*

\*Enclosures



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

Board Agenda Item  
September 18, 2019

**ACTION (with Presentation)**

Scope Approval – Old Colchester Park Wetland Restoration Implementation (Mount Vernon District)

ISSUE:

Approval of the project scope to implement an ecosystem restoration project at Old Colchester Park.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Park Authority Executive Director recommends approval of the project scope to implement an ecosystem restoration project at Old Colchester Park to restore a globally rare wetland.

TIMING:

Board approval of the project scope is requested on September 18, 2019.

BACKGROUND:

The Helping Our Land Heal Program was developed based on the successful work from the Ellanor C. Lawrence Forest Management Pilot Project. The scope complies with the Old Colchester Park and Preserve Master Plan and the Old Colchester Park and Preserve Natural Resource Management Plan. It also works toward achieving the following Recommended Actions in the agency-wide Natural Resource Management Plan.

- Recommended Action 16 – Manage natural resources adaptively and holistically on a landscape scale with the ultimate goal of having naturally regenerating native plant systems and healthy native wildlife populations.
- Recommended Action 17 – Control overabundant and invasive species that negatively impact natural resources to include, but not limited to, white-tailed deer, non-native invasive species, resident Canada geese, feral animals, and forest pests.
- Recommended Action 18 – Ensure the health of existing forested areas. Where possible ensure native biodiversity and sustainable regeneration; elsewhere restore to the highest ecosystem function practicable.

Board Agenda Item  
September 18, 2019

- Recommended Action 19 – Enhance connectivity of parkland to provide natural corridors that allow for the movement of populations over time and preserve ecosystem function and biodiversity.

The goal of the project is to restore a globally rare wetland ecosystem on approximately 12 acres of Old Colchester Park. The project will restore a globally rare (G3,S2) Coastal Plain Depression Swamp (CEGL006110).

Planning, design, and permitting for the project was approved by the Board on March 14, 2018. All work was subsequently completed and is ready for implementation.

The project areas proposed for restoration are identified on the figures enclosed as Attachment 2. Any surplus project funds will be reinvested in the Old Colchester Park ecological restoration work or returned for reallocation to other projects.

The project will start the first quarter of fiscal year 2020 with an approximate five year duration.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Based on the scope cost estimate, funding in the amount of \$300,000 is necessary to conduct the project (Attachment 1). Funding is available in the amount of \$1,970,000 in the Vulcan Fund 800-C80300, Cost Center P515107012.

ENCLOSED DOCUMENTS:

Attachment 1: Scope Cost Estimate for Old Colchester Park Wetland Restoration Project

Attachment 2: Old Colchester Park Wetland Restoration Graphics

Attachment 3: Old Colchester Park Wetland Restoration Project Existing and Desired Conditions

STAFF:

Kirk W. Kincannon, Executive Director

Sara Baldwin, Deputy Director/COO

Aimee L. Vosper, Deputy Director/CBD

David Bowden, Director, Planning & Development Division

Barbara Nugent, Director, Resource Management Division

Todd Brown, Director, Park Operations Division

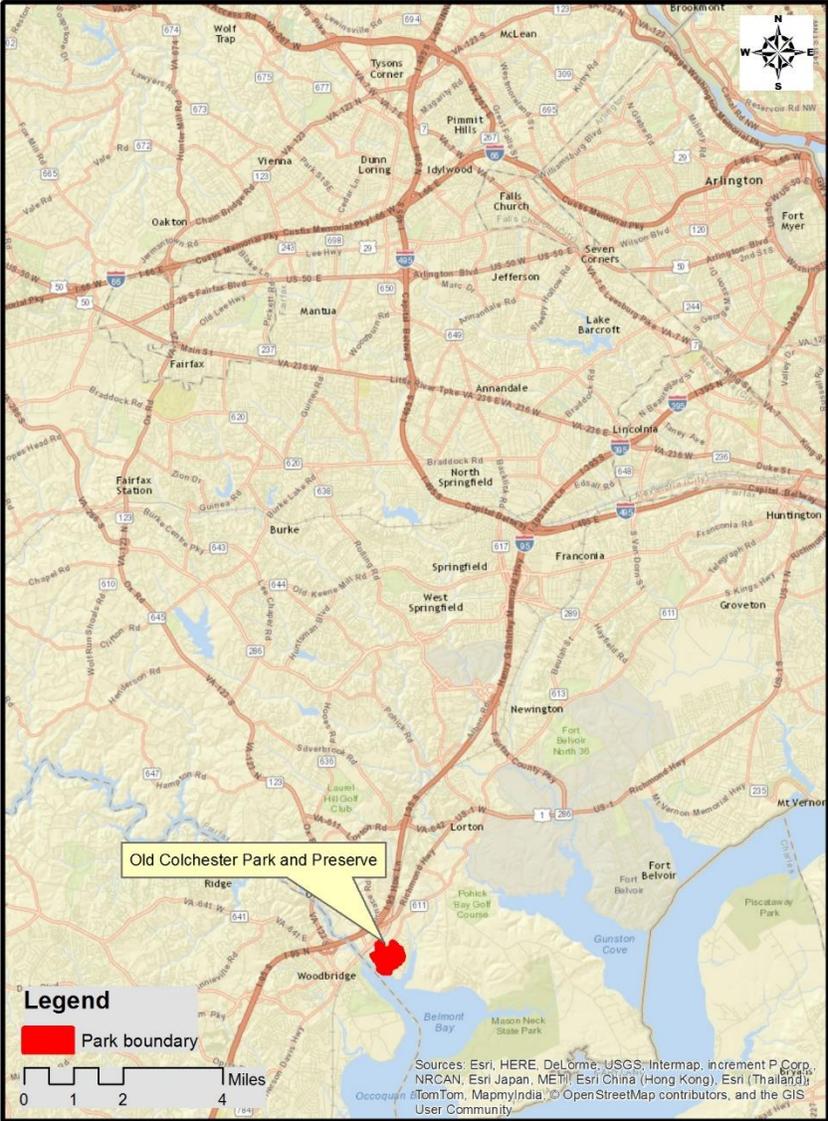
Cindy Walsh, Director, Park Services

Board Agenda Item  
September 18, 2019

**Old Colchester Park Wetland Restoration  
Project Scope Cost Estimate**

Project Administration	\$35,000
Implementation, Establishment, and Close-out	\$265,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$300,000</b>

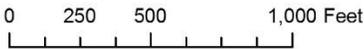
# Old Colchester Park and Preserve





Legend:

- Limits of Disturbance
- Wetland Boundaries



**Old Colchester Park  
Wetland Restoration Project  
Existing and Desired Conditions**

Existing Condition – Mesic Hardwood Forest



Desired Condition – Coastal Plain Depression Swamp (CEGL006110)



The logo of the Fairfax County Park Authority is a shield-shaped emblem. It features a light green background with a stylized landscape of trees and a blue body of water at the bottom. The text "Fairfax County Park Authority" is written in a serif font across the top of the shield.

Fairfax County  
Park  
Authority

# Ecosystem Restoration Old Colchester Park and Preserve

Resource Management Committee Meeting

July 24, 2019

# Background – Vulcan Funded

- Natural Resource Management Plan - ~\$70k -2011

## Implemented Projects

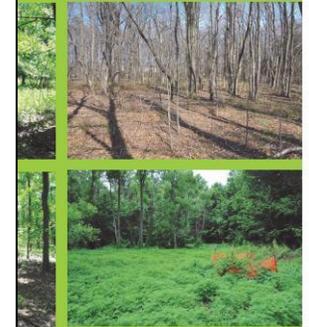
- Aquatic Restoration - ~\$163k
- Forest Restoration - ~\$195k
- Encroachment Prevention - ~\$35k
- Initial Wetland Restoration - ~\$40k



Old Colchester Park and Preserve



Natural Resource Management Plan



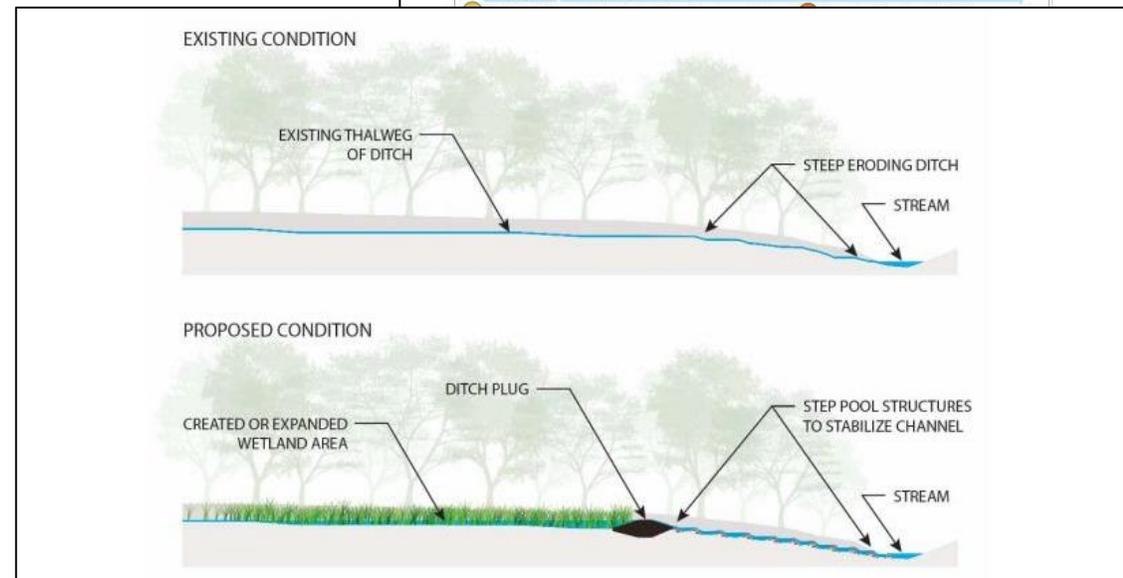
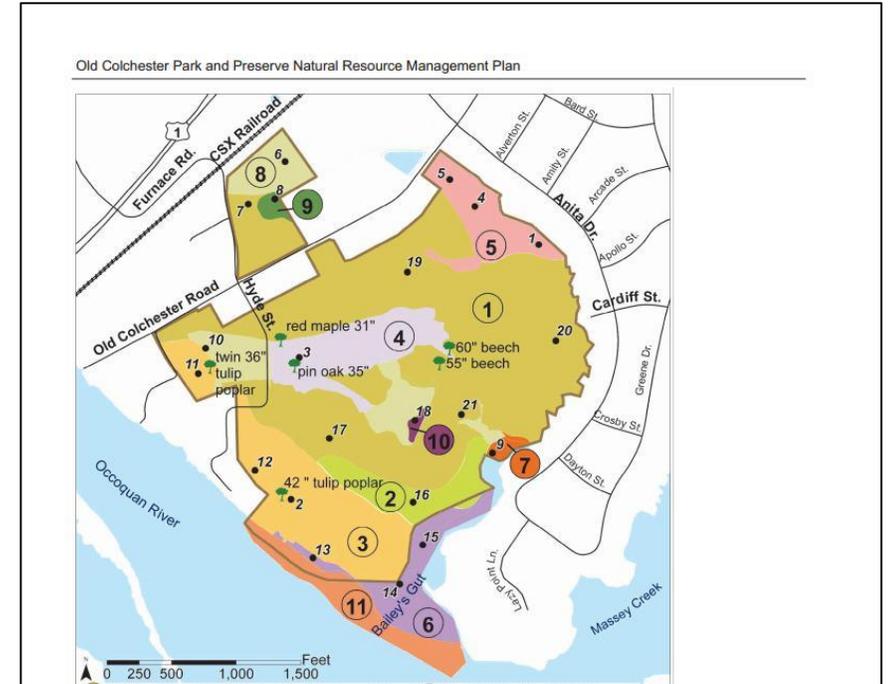
Authority  
 scape Architects, P.C.  
 ysis, Inc.  
 er 15, 2011



# Wetland Restoration

Project estimated at \$300,000 to:

- Restore globally rare wetland community
  - Coastal Plain Depression Swamp (CEGL006110)
- Reverse previous drainage ditching

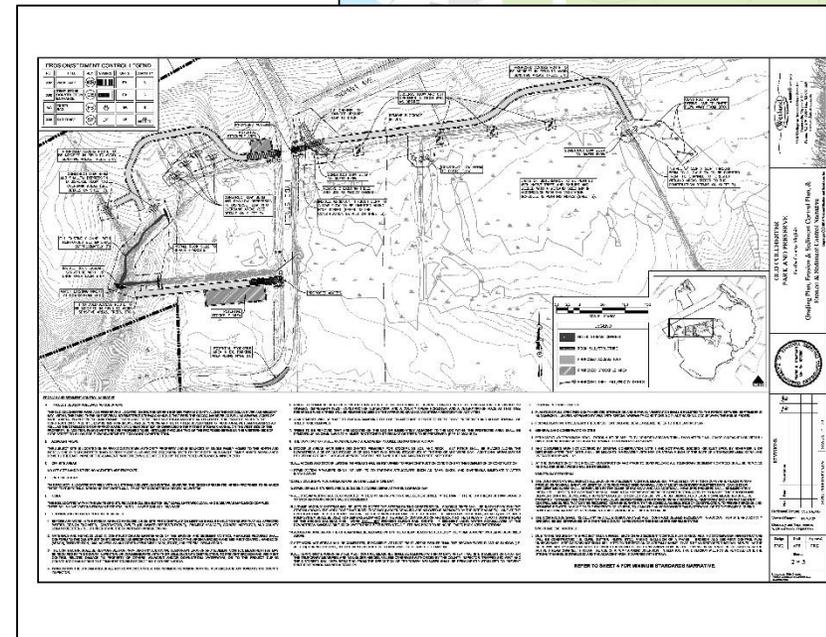
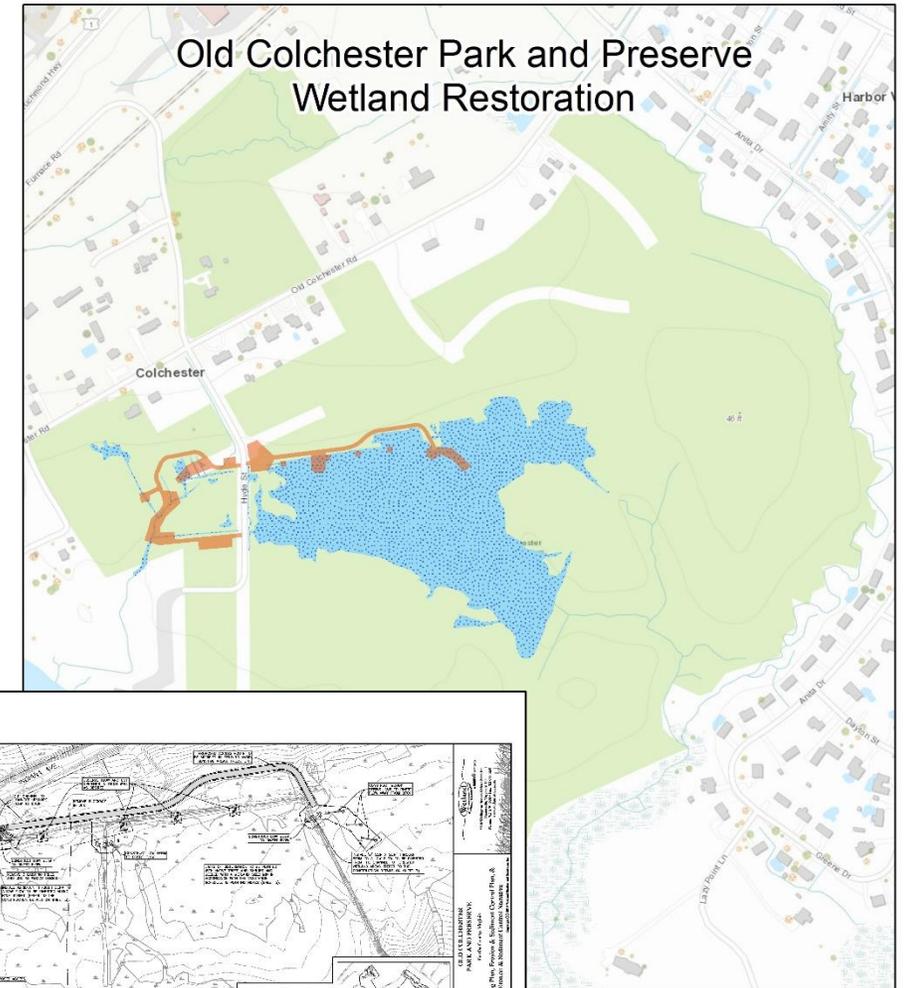


15, 2011



# Wetland Restoration

- Enhance health and expand area of rare vegetation community
- Stabilization of soils
- Retain more water in the wetlands



0 250 500 1,000 Feet

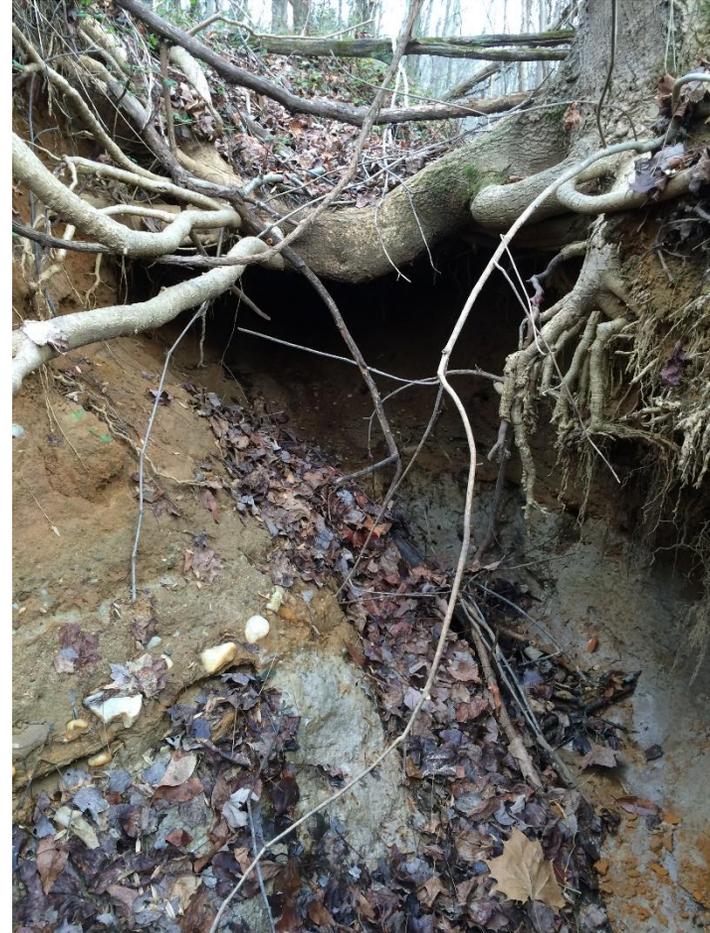


# Existing Conditions

## Mesic Upland



## Migrating Headcut



# Desired Conditions

## Coastal Plain Depression Swamp



# HOW WE TREAT THE LAND HAS LASTING IMPACTS



Questions ?