


Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority


Born out of a concern over the loss of natural areas as a result of fast paced development... That was 1959.

Other Factors:

- Recognition that having open natural areas is key to quality of life.
- Closer in jurisdictions, like Falls Church and Arlington, realized their citizens needed large public open space areas that could not be found within their boundaries.
- An understanding that the best way to protect water quality was to have natural areas upstream.



Founding NVRPA Chairman Ira Gabrielson




First Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service, and renowned ornithologist

Ira Gabrielson

"With the tremendous growth in population that has been apparent, especially in the coastal and Piedmont regions of this state in the past two decades, the time has come when we must plan for space if we are going to have something more than standing room only in the near and immediate future... Those natural areas that are preserved today will draw future interest in the well-being of the citizens of Virginia."

Address to the Virginia Citizens Planning Association, Richmond, Virginia, May 9, 1960

Today, the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority continues its noble mission



Member Jurisdictions


- Arlington County
- Fairfax County
- Loudoun County
- City of Alexandria
- City of Falls Church
- City of Fairfax

Mission Statement

The Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority enhances the communities of Northern Virginia and enriches the lives of their citizens through the onservation 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.


Over 10,000 Acres and 21 Parks

Parkland of the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority



Voters Value Natural Areas

- 96% of voters believe that Virginians owe it to future generations "to protect the land, water and wildlife for their use and enjoyment."
- 71% of Virginians favor purchase of land to be managed as natural areas or parks for public use.



81. 48% of Virginia voters submitted by the Trust For Public Land in 2001. 82. 20% Virginia Outdoor Survey, published by OCS.



Watershed Protection

- 13 miles of Potomac River shoreline (contributing to the Potomac National Heritage Scenic Trail)
- 25 miles of the Bull Run/Occoquan (making up most of the Occoquan Water Trail)



Cultural/Historic Preservation

The 2006 Virginia Outdoor Survey found that the number 2 recreational activity of Virginians was visiting historic sites



Carlyle House 1752



84% Increase in School Tours of Carlyle House Over the Last Year

On Track to make the goal of 2,000 school children in one year.



Aldie Mill 1807-1809



Temple Hall Farm 1810



Ball's Bluff Battlefield
1861

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Trails = #1 Recreational Activity

W&OD Trail stretches 45 miles and has over 2 million users per year.

The Bull Run/Occoquan Trail is 18 miles of beauty and nature. . .

Aquatics

Ranked in the top 5 outdoor activities in state and local surveys or outdoor/recreational activities.

All the buildings at Cameron Run Regional Park have been repainted this year in a wave-themed design.

Open Soon!
Riptide Café and
Surfside Ice Cream & Funnel Cakes

The play pool has been fitted with new cartridge filters that eliminate water loss due to backwashing.



Golf

The Highest Ranked Outdoor Sport in the 2006 Virginia Outdoor Survey



Public Gardens



Picnicking



Rowing




Skeet & Trap






Special Events










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Formal Environmental Education


Giving people a place to get close to nature








Leading by Example

Agency-wide energy conservation policy.



Performance goals for all parks to increase natural or historic interpretation, and do public outreach

Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority Today

- Over 10,000 acres of land
- 21 parks
- 110 full-time employees
- 500 summer and seasonal employees
- Hundreds of volunteers

