

Appendix D

Additional Reference Material

Appendix D contains the following reference documents
that relate to the Park Authority's
Guide to Trail Management

- FCPA Policy 101.3-
Greenways, Including Stream Valleys
- FCPA Policy 103.2-
Trails

Policy 101.3 Greenways, Including Stream Valleys

The Fairfax County Park Authority shall provide leadership for establishment and management of an integrated network of Greenways within the County to conserve open space, to protect sensitive environmental and cultural resources including wildlife habitat, riparian corridors, water quality, archaeological and historic sites and aesthetic values, to control flooding and erosion, and to provide continuity of non-motorized access between places where citizens and visitors live, work and play.

As defined in the Countywide Policy Plan, Greenways are "linear open space corridors which include and connect, parks and recreation sites, areas of significant and sensitive ecological and heritage (cultural) resource value, wildlife habitats, riparian corridors and Countywide trails with each other and with residential communities, employment and commercial areas and transit destinations. Designated Greenways may be comprised of one or several components which will provide the desired resource protection and/or continuity of non-motorized access to destinations throughout the County. They may be established along natural corridors such as Environmental Quality Corridors, along scenic roadways, urban sidewalks and plazas, or other natural or landscaped courses for pedestrian, bicycle or equestrian passage. In addition to publicly accessible parklands and trails, Greenways may also incorporate private open space managed for the protection of significant natural and heritage (cultural) resources under voluntary agreements with property owners."

The Park Authority shall coordinate the establishment of the Countywide network of Greenways in accordance with the following guidelines:

1. Identify, plan and develop Greenways in cooperation with other county, regional, state and federal agencies with jurisdiction within Fairfax County, pertinent citizen advisory groups and civic organizations, local businesses, and landowners. Institute and facilitate a "Greenways Partnership" to enhance recognition of, and communication between, cooperators.
2. Ensure the preservation, protection and appropriate management of significant and sensitive environmental, ecological and cultural resources within Greenways through conformance with policies, standards and criteria identified in the Park Authority's Natural Resources, Cultural Resources and Greenways Programs as set forth in the Park Comprehensive Plan and supporting documents.
3. In accordance with adopted Greenway Plans, acquire designated parcels necessary to complete the Greenways, especially those segments of Environmental Quality Corridors (EQCs) needed to complete the publicly accessible Stream Valley Parks.
4. Where land acquisition may not be feasible or desirable, work with landowners to protect identified resources, and provide public access where appropriate, through voluntary means such as conservation and trail easements and/or cooperative agreements,

5. identify roadside segments of the Countywide Trails Plan which comprise Greenway trail routes outside of public park lands and which are necessary to provide continuity of access throughout and between designated Greenways. Ensure that these segments are incorporated into Fairfax County and Commonwealth of Virginia transportation plans and developed and maintained through appropriate agencies outside the Park Authority.

The Greenways Program is grounded in the Stream Valley Park Plan, first adopted by the Fairfax County Park Authority in May 1973, and subsequently adopted by the Board of Supervisors as the basis for the Environmental Quality Corridor system. The Stream Valley Park Plan has played a major role in shaping development patterns in Fairfax County. The conditions that led to the creation of the Stream Valley Park system in 1973 were strikingly similar to those 25 years later that led to the Greenways Program, and there is a strong continuity in planning rationale. As stated in the Introduction of that historic document:

"Fairfax County lies on the fall line of the Piedmont Plateau and the Coastal Plain. The most prominent physiographic features are the valleys...[which] have structured the growth of the County since historic times and channeled commerce and development along the ridges leaving the valleys, for the most part, in their natural state.

"It is a valid planning concept today to use natural topographic features to structure growth, but advanced technology in earth moving equipment and the pressures of development are producing an increasing disregard for natural barriers, and development is encroaching upon the valleys to an alarming degree with disastrous consequences, as evidenced in the Cameron Run and Holmes Run-Tripps Run Watersheds."

The rapid growth of the 1960s prompted John Mastenbrook, representing the Fairfax County Federation of Citizen Associations, and Ella Mae Doyle, Park Authority Chairman, to formally request the Board of Supervisors to authorize a stream valley study. Subsequently, Barbara Hildreth, representing the County Trails Committee, influenced the incorporation of the trails element into the Stream Valley Plan, and the Environmental Quality Advisory Committee reviewed the study committee's findings. (John Mastenbrook was appointed to the Park Authority Board in 1967 and served until 1990).

The U.S. Capper-Cromton Act provided funding for conserving stream valleys in the urbanizing Metropolitan Area to protect the land and water resources of the Potomac watershed. The stream valley study committee found that, while Maryland and the District of Columbia had taken full advantage of the Act, "Fairfax County's program was started late, and only a small part of the allocation to the County was obtained before funding under the Act was cut off. As a result, Fairfax County lags far behind Maryland and the District in stream valley acquisition."

The study committee did note that under the County's first park bond referendum (1959), a substantial portion of the funds was allocated to stream valley acquisition and in the second five-year Capital Improvement Program (1966), 13 percent of the funding for land acquisition was allocated to stream valley lands. The Committee found that, although funding for this program anticipated matching funding for land acquisition from federal and state- sources, "a heavy reliance is placed upon dedication of land by developers." A County planning staff study of land dedication under the alternate density (cluster development) ordinance found that "the acreage coming to the County amounts to only 10 percent." The study committee concluded:

"It is apparent that the current program for stream valley acquisition by the Park Authority is not one of planned acquisition but rather acquisition through dedication at the option of the developers, and that the acreage acquired through dedication under the existing ordinances will fall woefully short of providing an adequate stream valley park system."

As a result of these findings, the Park Authority's Stream Valley Plan subcommittee was formed to provide new direction for the acquisition of a stream valley park system. The committee adopted the following guidelines:

- "1. The conservation of land and water resources, flood control, provision of outdoor recreation, and the structuring of growth all constitute a public purpose which would be served by placing the major stream valleys of Fairfax County in a stream valley park system.
- "2. The stream valley consists of the stream, flood plain, and first valley slope on either side of the flood plain running with the stream from source to point of confluence with a larger body of water. (Note: The Greenways concept expands upon the stream valley definition to include proximate significant natural, cultural and recreational resources.)
- "3. The role of the valleys in Fairfax County should be to provide region serving open space as a separator of concentrations of development.
- "4. Preservation or public taking lines should be based upon physiographic features relating to the public purposes of item 1, and not upon arbitrary lines or boundaries.
- "5. A basic stream valley park system for Fairfax County should be confined to the main stream valley of the major streams within the County, and the inclusion in the system of lateral tributaries should be discretionary.
- "6. The continuity of public access within the stream valley park system should be regarded as imperative.
- "7. A classification system applicable to stretches of valley should be developed which describes the valley in terms of physiographic features and appropriate recreational uses to serve as a planning guide. (Note: As defined in the 1996 Park Comprehensive Plan, Greenways are an element of the Natural Resources Program, linking larger Biodiversity Conservation Areas within the County. The primary classification instrument is the extent, diversity and environmental sensitivity of these resources. The Greenways Program also incorporates elements of the Countywide Trail System.)
- "8. Public lands in the stream valleys should be regarded as a combined park and conservation holding."

The Park Authority Stream Valley Park Committee further clarified its vision as follows:

"We propose that the basic stream valley system be largely in public ownership and be comprised of the main stream of the major intra-county streams. It is proposed that the many lateral valleys which join the main streams and which in the aggregate exceed in acreage the main stream valleys, be retained largely in private ownership. The two types of ownership will be in many ways complimentary. The basic public main valley system would provide a countywide network with a continuity of public access which would offer a varied recreational experience as well as scenic control. The laterals, many of them equal of the main valley in natural beauty, offer the developers ample opportunity for a valley-oriented residential development in a natural setting . . . Public road or trail easements along the laterals to the main stream would offer a transitional access from the urban environment to the 'deep woods' of the main valley with its public recreational opportunities."

At their regular meeting on October 15, 1974, the Fairfax County Park authority adopted a policy of acquisition of the following listed Stream Valleys for planning purposes. The majority of the identified stream valleys currently provide the basis for Park Authority staff requests for land dedication through the County's Development Review Process (see Area Plans and the County Comprehensive Plan Map for specific locations). Those marked by an asterisk indicate priorities for Greenway planning and development:

The Difficult Run Stream Valley*, including:

- Captain Hickory Run from the vicinity of Oxfordshire Road
- Colvin Run from Wiehle Avenue
- Wolftrap Creek from Route 123
- Difficult Run from Fox Mill Road
- Little Difficult Run from a point east of West Ox Road
- South Fork from a point closest to Vale Road

The Sugarland Run Stream Valley*, including:

- Folly Lick Branch from Herndon Town Limit
- Sugarland Run from the Herndon Town Limit
- Offuts Branch to Sugarland Road

Cub Run Stream Valley*, including:

- Big Rocky Run from near Doeforth Drive
- Frog Branch from Stringfellow Road
- Cub Run from Route 50
- Flatlick Branch from Route 50
- Flatlick Branch from Route 50
- Cain Branch from Route 50
- Elklick Run from Loudoun County

Popes Head Creek Stream Valley (Reclassified as Private Open Space in the 1992 Area III Plan), including:

- Popes Head Creek from Route 654
- Piney Branch from Hope Park Road
- Cattle Creek from popes Head Road

Pohick Creek Stream Valley*, including
Pohick Creek from near Zion Drive
Rabbit Branch from near Whitefield Streets
Sideburn Branch from Zion Drive
Cherry Run from Lee Chapel Road
Middle Run from Dam Site
South Run from near Pohick Road north of Burke Lake
Opossum Branch from north of Pohick Road

Accotink Creek Stream Valley*, including:
Accotink Creek from the City of Fairfax
Long Branch from near the City of Fairfax

Little Hunting Creek Stream Valley
Little Hunting Creek from Route 1
North Branch from Paul Springs Branch
Paul Springs Branch from White Oaks Park

Cameron Run Stream Valley*, including:
Turkeycock from Mason District Park
Backlick from Wilberdale Park
Holmes Run from Jefferson District Park
Indian Run from Route 236

Dogue Creek Stream Valley, including:
Dogue Creek from near Tara Village Park

Pimmit Run Stream Valley*, including:
Little Pimmit Run from Franklin Park Road
Pimmit Run from Route 7

Scotts Run Stream Valley, including:
Scotts Run from Route 495 south of Route 123

Nichols Run (excluded by the Park Authority on September 2, 1975), including:
Nichols Run from Martin Redman Drive
Jefferson Branch from Fairfax Drive

Horsepen Run Stream Valley, including:
Frying pan Branch from Monroe Street
Horsepen Run from Ashburton Avenue
Johnny Moore Creek Stream Valley (Reclassified as Private Open Space in 1992
Area III Plan), including:
Johnny Moore Creek from Twin Lakes Golf Course

The Potomac River Shoreline*

Policy 103.2 Trails

The Authority shall plan for the location, design and construction of an integrated trail (non-motorized transportation) system within the park lands and for the connections of the park trail systems to the Countywide trail system so as to provide a continuity of access. Trails also may be provided as recreational facilities independently of other trails and trail systems. The Authority shall assist other public entities, homeowner associations and other land owners in the planning and development of the Countywide trail system.

Revised and adopted October 28, 1998