

**NOVA Parks Board Meeting Agenda**  
**5400 Ox Road, Fairfax Station, VA 22039**  
**July 17, 2025**

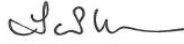
- 7:30 P.M.      Board Meeting
- Call to Order
  - Amendments to Agenda
  - Treasurer's Report/Status of Funds
- 7:40              Report on first close for FY'2024 – Lauren Weaver
- 8:00              Proposal for end-of-the-year funding allocation – Paul Gilbert
- 8:15              Admin Items
- a) Retirement Plan Resolution
  - b) Comprehensive Insurance Coverage Renewal
  - c) Approve May 15, 2025 Board Minutes
  - d) Approve June 23, 2025 Board Minutes
  - e) Approve July 14, 2025 Board Minutes
  - f) Approve July 15, 2025 Board Minutes
- 8:20              Closed Session to discuss real estate acquisition, legal & personnel matters
- Adjourn

**NOVA Parks**  
**5400 Ox Road**  
**Fairfax Station, Virginia 22039**

July 9, 2025

To: James Bonfils , Treasurer

From: Lauren Weaver, Director of Finance



Subject: Status of Funds

Note: Fund balances as of 6/30/25

**NORTHERN VIRGINIA REGIONAL PARK AUTHORITY**

NVRPA Checking (Truist Bank)	2,333,159.23
Credit Card Receivable Account (Truist Bank)	1,983,363.70
Carlyle House Garden Guild Savings (Burke and Herbert)	1,836.13
Carlyle House Docents Savings (Burke & Herbert)	689.71
FSA - SunTrust - Flexible Spending Account (Truist Bank)	23,329.41
Imprest Fund - Special Event Center at Bull Run (Truist Bank)	12,713.67
Imprest Fund - Meadowlark Light Show (Truist Bank)	4,209.82
Local Government Investment Pool - NVRPA - Capital Fund	14,146,723.38
Charles Schwab- Capital Fund	2,422,846.81
Local Government Investment Pool - Deirdre J. Turnage Endowment Fund	135,799.83
Local Government Investment Pool - Daman Account	235,423.04
Local Government Investment Pool - Designated Set Aside - General Fund	550,448.61
Local Government Investment Pool - Designated Set Aside & Strategic Opportunity - Enterprise Fund	<u>7,608,314.14</u>
Designated Set Aside Sub-Total ( <b>RESERVES</b> )	8,158,762.75
LGIP Month of June Effective Yield 4.482%	
<b>TOTAL NVRPA CASH</b>	<u><u>29,458,857.48</u></u>

**LOAN PROCEEDS**

VRA Resources from Construction Loan for Upton Hill -Par	-
VRA Resources from Construction Loan for Upton Hill -Net Premium	259,320.93
VRA Resources from Construction Loan for Occoquan -Par	-
VRA Resources from Construction Loan for Occoquan -Net Premium	<u>824,138.24</u>
	<u><u>1,083,459.17</u></u>

**RESERVE**

Local Government Investment Pool - Stribling Debt Service Reserve Fund	146,576.04
	<u><u>146,576.04</u></u>

**RESTRICTED FUND**

Local Government Investment Pool - Restricted Account	150,730.14
Charles Schwab- Restricted Fund	1,995,852.21
(W&OD Friends portion of this balance = \$51,523.79)	
(Wetlands Mitigation Fund portion of this balance = \$74,010.34)	
<b>TOTAL RESTRICTED FUND CASH</b>	<u><u>2,146,582.35</u></u>

**CARLYLE HOUSE FRIENDS**

Local Government Investment Pool - Carlyle House Friends	403,428.50
<b>TOTAL CARLYLE FRIENDS CASH</b>	<u><u>403,428.50</u></u>

Since the last Status of Funds report submitted to you on May 7, 2025 the following major deposits were collected:

<b>Checks</b>			
5/12/25	Horizons at Hemlock Overlook	Revenue sharing partnership	18,750.00
5/16/25	Level 3 Communications	W&OD Rent	10,302.00
5/22/25	Summit Infrastructure	W&OD Rent	53,071.00
6/24/25	Horizons at Hemlock Overlook	Revenue sharing partnership	10,000.00
6/24/25	Horizons at Hemlock Overlook	Revenue sharing partnership	18,750.00
7/1/25	AT&T	W&OD Rent	108,048.84
<b>ACH's Received</b>			
6/30/25	Leadership Institute	Catering	\$64,828.00
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$ 283,749.84</b>

DATE: July 3, 2025  
FROM: Paul Gilbert  
TO: NOVA Parks Board  
RE: End of the Year Allocation

At our July meeting, the Board votes on percentages to invest the previous fiscal year's net revenue. We are fortunate to have a history of strong financial performance. These investments are expressed as percentages, since it takes several closes to determine the final net position of the organization. Lauren Weaver will present the first close, but there are usually four closes to get to the final number. When that final number is determined, we apply the percentages that the Board approves.

The following percentages are recommendations to the Board.

**70% - Capital Budget.** These resources can help us accomplish some of our ambitious capital projects. Every year, we also have a long list of what we call 'capital-maintenance.' These projects repair and improve existing facilities, doing things like replacing roofs, windows, and siding of older buildings, and replacing equipment. With a park system that is over 60 years old, such regular upgrades are essential to serve the public well.

**20% - Performance Bonuses.** This is the one area that is set by Board Policy. Every full-time employee has goals that go beyond just doing a good job and help us achieve our strategic and facility goals. If an employee achieves their goals, they are eligible for shares of this bonus pool. This system puts a significant focus on goals and acts like profit sharing or an employee-owned business. Even part-time employees who have worked for us for six months and are employed when bonuses are distributed in late October are eligible to participate.

**10% - Retirement Plan.** Our plan is well managed. However, with considerable market volatility over the last year, additional contributions help to reduce long-term costs for the organization. Every end-of-the-year contribution reduces the amount of payroll contribution that is needed on an ongoing basis.

**Recommendation:**

**I move that we allocate the net revenue from FY'2024 in the following way: 70% to the Capital Fund, 20% to the performance bonus pool, and 10% to the retirement plan.**

Admin item A

# Memo

Date: July 3, 2025

To: NOVA Parks Board of Directors

From: Danielle Endler, PHR  
Human Resources Administrator

Subject: Amendment to Retirement Plan

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The Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority Retirement Plan provides a contribution to health insurance premiums for those retirees enrolled in one of the group health insurance plans offered by NOVA Parks. This benefit includes a premium cap to help control the insurance contribution costs. This cap is increased annually by 4%. The retirement plan document currently states that this annual increase takes place on July 1 of each year. The amendment to the retirement plan will change the timing to “January 1 of each year, or such other date as the Authority determines is appropriate” to align with current practices.

**FIFTH AMENDMENT TO**  
**NORTHERN VIRGINIA REGIONAL PARK AUTHORITY**  
**RETIREMENT PLAN**  
**(AS AMENDED AND RESTATED EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2015)**

THIS FIFTH AMENDMENT is made by the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority (the "Authority") to the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority Retirement Plan, as amended and restated as of July 1, 2015 (the "Plan").

WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, the Authority maintains the Plan for the exclusive benefit of certain employees of the Authority; and

WHEREAS, the Authority deems it advisable and in the best interests of the Authority to amend the Plan to clarify how premium caps are determined.

NOW THEREFORE, effective as of January 1, 2025, the Plan is hereby amended as follows:

**1. Article VII, Section I.3.c.ii.(C) is amended and restated to read in its entirety as follows:**

(C) Cap on Monthly Base Premium – The maximum premiums on which contributions from the Plan may be computed are: individual coverage-\$782.30; and two party/family coverage-\$1,564.59. For coverage effective January 1 of each year, or such other date as the Authority determines is appropriate, caps shall be increased by four percent (4%) over the previous amounts, with the first increase to be computed with respect to coverage effective on January 1, 2026. From time to time, the Authority may, but shall not be required to, make further adjustments in the caps, to maintain health premium contributions current with increasing health costs.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Admin Item B

**7/17/2025**

### **Administrative Item - Comprehensive Insurance Coverage Renewal**

Staff recommends approval of a sole source contract with Virginia Risk Sharing Association (VRSA) in the amount of \$393,844.27 for NOVA Parks' - Comprehensive Insurance Coverage - Policy Period -FY26 that includes: Local Government Liability, General Liability - No Fault, Auto Liability, Excess Liability, Cyber Liability, Liquor Liability, Property, Boiler and Machinery, Crime, and Workers' Compensation.

## **NOVA PARKS**

Board Meeting, May 15, 2025

7:30 p.m.

Potomac Overlook Regional Park

2845 N. Marcey Road

Arlington, VA 22207

### **MINUTES**

#### **DRAFT**

#### **ATTENDANCE:**

##### **Board Members:**

##### **In Attendance:**

Paul Baldino, Vice Chairman

Mark Chandler

Dave Gustafson

Stella Koch

Michael Nardolilli

James Bonfils

Patricia Harrison

##### **Absent:**

Sean Kumar, Chairman

Douglas Stewart

Paul Ferguson

Scott Price

Cate Magennis Wyatt

##### **Staff:**

Paul Gilbert, Executive Director

Chris Pauley, Director of Operations

Lauren Weaver, Director of Finance

Brian Nolan, Director of Planning and Development

Kelly Gilfillen, Director of Marketing and Communications

Blythe Russian, Park Operations Superintendent

Kevin Casalenuovo, Park Operations Superintendent

Danielle Endler, HR Administrator

Mike DePue, Planning Administrator

John Bell, Senior Planner

Patrick Wells, Budget Administrator

Anh Phan, Community Engagement Manager

Leslie Preble, Planning and Development Administrative Assistant

##### **Guests:**

Susan Cunningham, Arlington County Board liaison to NOVA Parks

Yolanda Howze, BakerTilly via Zoom



## **OPEN SESSION**

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Baldino (Vice Chairman) called the meeting to order at 7:34

Mr. Nardolilli introduced Susan Cunningham, Arlington County Board Liaison to NOVA Parks

Susan Cunningham talked about her background and her engagement with NOVA Parks over the years.

Ms. Cunningham left the meeting after this brief discussion.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Baldino made a motion to approve the March 20<sup>th</sup> Board meeting minutes

Mr. Nardolilli seconded the motion

**Unanimously approved**

### **Treasurer's Report/Status of Funds**

Mr. Bonfils reviewed the status of funds

### **Executive Director recruitment timeline and interview committee With Yolanda Howze via Zoom**

Ms. Howze reviewed the timeline and process for interviewing and recruiting an Executive Director. She explained they will make a semi-finalist report by mid-June and she will meet with the hiring committee in the week of June 23<sup>rd</sup> to further explain the next steps in more detail.

Ms. Howze left the meeting at the end of this discussion

Mr. Baldino and Mr. Gilbert led the discussion on who was available for the upcoming interviews.

### **FY2026 Operating Budget Approval Patrick Wells**

Mr. Wells said that there were no significant changes from the budget presented at the previous Board meeting. Minor updates are as follows:

The final retirement contribution rate of 21.22% is slightly lower than the 22.3% rate included in the Proposed Budget. It is recommended to keep the 22.3% rate in the budget.

The Proposed Budget includes \$65,000 in Compensation Funding Initiatives in the event the minimum wage was increased in the State of Virginia.

Contingency in the FY 2026 Proposed Budget remains at \$275,000, an increase of \$125,000 from the FY 2025 Budget.

Mr. Chandler made a motion to adopt the FY 2026 Operating Budget in the amount of \$41,143,743, with an Enterprise Fund of \$35,149,351 and General Fund of \$5,994,392.

Mr. Nardolilli seconded

**Unanimously approved**

Mr. Nardolilli made a motion that the Board adopt the FY 26 Budget as presented for the Restricted License Fee Fund and the Carlyle House Friends Budget

Ms. Koch seconded

**Unanimously approved**

### **Goals and Retirement Party for the current Executive Director**

Mr. Gilbert explained that due to his approaching retirement, he would not be setting updated annual goals but would continue to work on the strategic plan goals and help with the transition with the new Executive Director.

### **Update – W&OD Visitor Center**

Mr. Gilbert updated the Board on the plan to build a Visitor Center for the W&OD trail in Vienna next to the Town Green. He explained that Vienna may purchase the property and lease it back to NOVA Parks. He then discussed possible funding options to build the Center. The next step will be joint planning with the town of Vienna for the Visitor Center and dual trails.

Ms. Koch made a motion to approve the recommendation to design the W&OD Visitor Center to cost between \$2.5 and \$4.5 million, using the Strategic Opportunity Reserve plus annual proceeds from the Capital Endowment.

Mr. Bonfils seconded

**Unanimously approved**

### **Admin Items**

VDOT Drainage Easement at Bull Run

Modification to the goal to create a trash-free park

Transfer of funds from the Bull Run Cell Tower Contract to the Capital Endowment

Mr. Nardolilli made a motion to approve all three admin items

Mr. Chandler seconded

**Unanimously approved**

Mr. Nardolilli made a motion to move into closed session

Ms. Koch seconded

**Unanimously approved**

### **CLOSED SESSION (as allowed by § 2.2-3711)**

*Legal matters, in accordance with Code of Virginia, Section 2.2-3711-(A)(7)*

*Legal matters were discussed. No action was taken.*

*Real estate matter, in accordance with Code of Virginia, Section 2.2-3711-(A)(3)*

*Real estate matters were discussed. No action was taken.*

Mr. Nardolilli made a motion to move out of closed session and reconvene in open session.

Mr. Bonfils seconded the motion

**Unanimously approved.**

Reconvene in open session at 9:15 p.m.

## **OPEN SESSION:**

The Chairman read the following certification:

I certify that, to the best of my knowledge, only public business matters lawfully exempted from the open meeting requirements prescribed by the Virginia Freedom of Information Act and only such matters identified in the motion to convene closed session were heard, discussed or considered by this Board during closed session.

The certification was **unanimously approved** by roll call vote.

## **ACTIONS FROM CLOSED SESSION:**

No actions from closed session.

## **ADJOURNMENT:**

Mr. Chandler made a motion to adjourn the meeting

Mr. Gustafson seconded

**Unanimously approved**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:16

**NOVA Parks**  
5400 Ox Road  
Fairfax Station, Virginia 22039

**Board Meeting, June 23, 2025**

**6:00 p.m.**

**The meeting took place online via Teams**

The meeting was live streamed on YouTube at:

<https://www.youtube.com/@NOVAParks>

**MINUTES**

**ATTENDANCE:**

**Members Present:**

Sean Kumar, Chairman  
Paul Baldino, Vice Chairman  
James Bonfils  
Mark Chandler  
Paul Ferguson  
David Gustafson  
Patricia Harrison

**Members Absent:**

Stella Koch  
Cate Magennis Wyatt  
Michael Nardolilli  
Scott Price  
Douglas Stewart

**Staff Present:**

Danielle Endler, HR Administrator

**Guests:**

Yolanda Howze, Baker Tilly

**OPEN SESSION:**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

**OPENING STATEMENT:**

Chairman Sean Kumar read the following:

This all-virtual meeting of the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority is being held in accordance with the NOVA Parks Policy on Virtual Public Meetings which was adopted at the March 20, 2025 Board meeting. The meeting minutes will reflect that this meeting was held by electronic communication means and the type of electronic communication means used.

Notice of this meeting has been posted. Video of this meeting is being livestreamed on YouTube for public access.

At 6:03 p.m., motion by Mr. Bonfils, seconded by Mr. Baldino, to move into closed session to discuss personnel matters. UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

*Livestream on YouTube stopped.*

**CLOSED SESSION:**

Personnel matters, in accordance with Code of Virginia, Section 2.2-3711-(A)(1).  
Personnel matters were discussed.

At 7:36 p.m., motion by Mr. Bonfils, seconded by Mr. Gustafson, to move out of closed session and reconvene in open session. UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

*Livestream on YouTube started.*

**OPEN SESSION:**

The Chairman read the following certification:

I certify that, to the best of my knowledge, only public business matters lawfully exempted from the open meeting requirements prescribed by the Virginia Freedom of Information Act and only such matters identified in the motion to convene closed session were heard, discussed or considered by this Board during closed session.

The certification was UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED by roll call vote.

The Chairman reminded all individuals present on the call of the confidentiality of the information discussed during closed session and that nothing discussed during closed session should be discussed with any Board member or NOVA Parks staff that did not participate in the meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

A motion was made by Mr. Ferguson, seconded by Mr. Baldino, to adjourn the meeting. UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED. The meeting was adjourned at 7:37 p.m.





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Monthly Report | June 2025





## ABOUT NOVA PARKS

In the late 1950's, the Northern Virginia Planning District Commission and a group of citizens from several local jurisdictions came together to protect Northern Virginia's rich heritage of woods, meadows, lakes and streams from the threat of suburban sprawl. These citizens, working with their local governments--Fairfax County, Arlington County and the City of Falls Church--organized under the Virginia Park Authorities Act in 1959 as the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority (NVRPA). They came together to plan, acquire develop and operate a system of regional parks for all Northern Virginians to enjoy.

Today, NOVA Parks (as the organization came to be known in 2014) represents three counties and three cities -- Arlington County, Fairfax County, Loudoun County, the City of Alexandria, the City of Falls Church and the City of Fairfax. NOVA Parks staff, volunteer board members appointed from each jurisdiction and many friends of the regional parks working together have preserved over 12,000 acres of rolling and wooded Virginia countryside for you and created a priceless legacy for future generations.

Through your regional parks, NOVA Parks provides almost two million citizens with some of the finest recreational facilities in the country. By pooling their funds, these local governments find that each dollar they contribute to NOVA Parks is multiplied by contributions from other member jurisdictions and sometimes augmented even more by state and federal grants and private donations. Being a member of NOVA Parks is a good economic investment.

From a wavepool to nature trails, from golfing to boating, there's a regional park that is just right for you. Come for the day, a weekend or a week. The NOVA Parks are yours to enjoy!



# MONTHLY UPDATES FROM:

Paul Gilbert, Executive Director  
Kelly Gilfillen, Marketing and Communications Director  
Anh Phan, Community Engagement Manager  
Chris Pauley, Operations Director  
Blythe Russian, Park Operations Superintendent  
Kevin Casalenuovo, Park Operations Superintendent  
Dennis Charlton, Food and Beverage Manager

<b>Aldie Mill, Mt. Zion, and Gilbert's Corner</b>	Corwyn Garman, Site Manager
<b>Algonkian</b>	Reid Nebergall, Park Manager
<b>Ball's Bluff</b>	Ben Bilko, Park Manager
<b>Blue Ridge</b>	Ryan Corder, Park Manager
<b>Brambleton</b>	Dustin Betthauser, Park Manager
<b>Bull Run</b>	Eric Ferguson, Park Manager
<b>Bull Run Shooting Center</b>	Laurelyn Rawson, Park Manager
<b>Cameron Run</b>	Howie Abasto, Park Manager
<b>Cattail Property</b>	Ben Bilko, Park Manager
<b>Carlyle House</b>	Rebecca Super, Historic Site Manager
<b>Fountainhead</b>	Kate Irwin, Park Manager
<b>Meadowlark Atrium</b>	Wayne Hager, Atrium Facilities Manager
<b>Meadowlark Botanical Gardens</b>	Jeff Hill, Botanical Gardens Manager
<b>Occoquan</b>	Matthew Taylor, Park Manager
<b>The River View at Occoquan</b>	Hannah Fry, Hospitality & Event Sales Manager
<b>Pohick Bay Park</b>	Brad Jackson, Park Manager
<b>Pohick Bay Golf Course</b>	Jon Mendez, Assistant Park Manager
<b>Potomac Overlook</b>	Rachel Doody, Park Manager
<b>Red Rock</b>	Ben Bilko, Park Manager
<b>Reservoir Park at Beaverdam</b>	Dustin Betthauser, Park Manager
<b>Rust Manor</b>	Alexandra Gordon, Facility and Event Sales Manager
<b>Sandy Run</b>	Kate Irwin, Park Manager
<b>Temple Hall</b>	Ben Bilko, Park Manager
<b>Upton Hill</b>	Evan McGurrin, Park Manager
<b>Winkler Botanical Preserve</b>	Rachel Doody, Park Manager
<b>W&amp;OD Trail</b>	Ryan Corder, Park Manager



## An Update from the Executive Director

### Paul Gilbert, Executive Director

- I met with the Friends of Balls Bluff and they recognized me for my years as Executive Director.
- Douglas Stewart and I presented to the Sierra Club.
- Mark Chandler and I participated in a listening session to help with the City of Fairfax's Park & Recreation Strategic Plan.
- I presented at a joint meeting of the Town of Vienna and Fairfax County officials.



## Kelly Gilfillen, Marketing and Communications Director

- Worked with the IT team and park staff to implement multi-factor authentication on Marketing tools, such as Sprout Social and Meta platforms.
- Conducted multiple rounds of interviews and continued selection process for Digital Marketing Specialist position.
- Marketing Team provided branding update to Executive Director and Operations Director.
- Continued executing annual Waterpark Marketing & Communication Plan and visited multiple waterparks to ensure that opening weekend needs had been met.
- Conducted multiple Marketing Overview Trainings to introduce new staff to the Marketing & Communications Team's approach to producing plans and providing support.
- Continued to fulfill all website, social media, reputation management, and email communications needs while Digital Marketing Specialist position is vacant.



## Anh Phan, Community Engagement Manager

- Attended Friends of W&OD Trail Board and NOVA Parks Board meetings.
- Attended Asian Pacific American Heritage Month Commonwealth Coffee on Capitol Hill.
- Assisted the Daughters of the American Revolution Ketocin Chapter with their blood drive event at Rust Sanctuary.
- Participated in the Upton Hill Regional Park Black Birders Week Bird Walk with Matt Felperin.
- Met with the NAACP Fairfax Branch ahead of Juneteenth event.

# An Update from the Operations Team

## Chris Pauley, Operations Director

- Continue to assist with NOVA Parks team and Dominion Energy on right-a-way management efforts.
- Working with Algonkian and Reservoir Park staff on summer rowing program requests.
- Reviewing marina operations and assumption of risk forms.
- Finalized Capital Equipment and Vehicle requests for FY26 budget.
- Participated in Vanguard training (Aquatics) where I shared ideas around effective leadership with our top seasonal management teams.
- Visited waterparks over the Memorial Day weekend.
- Participating in the review of interior renovation plans for the Rust Manor House to be completed over the winter.



## Blythe Russian, Park Operations Superintendent

- Memorial Day Weekend represents the beginning of waterpark season. Although the weather was cool, all 5 waterparks opened to their loyal crowds.
- Conducted waterpark preseason walk throughs to ensure we are ready for operations.
- Met with point-of-sale provider to prepare for our June in-person meeting.
- Received 15 proposals for online ticket sales for light show operations.
- Worked with park staff to develop Capital Equipment purchase lists.
- Set up interviews for Waterpark Crew Leader at Cameron Run.
- Provided updated information for the fall round of program grants.

## Kevin Casalenuovo, Park Operations Superintendent

- Conducted preseason inspections at all 5 waterparks.
- Working with staff on refining crew schedules and expectations at Algonkian and Reservoir Park.
- Attended a meeting with the Town of Leesburg to discuss a historical highway marker to be located near Harrison Street to further telling the story of the Orion Anderson tragedy.
- Attended a meeting with Purcellville officials on an MOU for a new water fountain at the end of the trail in Purcellville.
- Attended weekly meetings with our golf marketing consultant and well as our monthly golf committee meeting to ensure we continue to excel at our golf operations.
- Staff and I are in the process of goal setting for the next fiscal year.
- Visited Algonkian, Aldie Mill, Reservoir Park, and Bull Run over the holiday weekend.



## Dennis Charlton, Food and Beverage Manager

- Food and Beverage enjoyed a busy month providing services for 59 events at various NOVA Parks locations.
- Continued support at The Atrium for booked events and client tastings.
- The warmer weather has encouraged guests to visit Brickmakers Café to enjoy the patio and scenic views of the water.

## Aldie Mill, Mt. Zion and Gilbert's Corner – Corwyn Garman, Site Manager

- Aldie Mill Historic Park had a busy May with school and group tours:
  - 170 adults and 37 children participated in free weekend tours
  - Provided a Simple Machines program for 43 students from Loudoun County Day School
  - Provided tours for 20 students from several different homeschool groups
  - Conducted a group tour for 32 retired Army Rangers
- Aldie Mill Historic Park hired two new part time site interpreters to assist with weekend tours and programs.
- Hosted our first educational program of 2025 featuring public historian Nancy Spannaus discussing the Federalist legacy of the mill's founder, Charles Fenton Mercer.
- New septic system at Mt. Defiance Historic Park has been installed and is operational. Site work to bury lines and grade the landscape is ongoing.
- Mt. Zion hosted its first Fourth Sunday Tour of 2025 on May 25 with 25 visitors.
- Volunteer-led tours contributed 10 volunteer hours.
- The Goose Creek Bridge Study Report is underway with a survey of the structure being conducted with a report on proposed treatments to follow.



## Algonkian – Reid Nebergall, Park Manager

- Successfully hosted the annual MADD 5K Walk, fostering strong community engagement.
- Launched the summer park season with a fully booked Memorial Day weekend across all picnic shelters.
- Completed tee-box construction on holes #1 and #9; the new installations will soon be open for play.
- The Swing into Spring promotion resulted in over 500 redemptions and multiple new Heron's Choice Memberships.
- The Woodlands team is participating in event management software training with Rust staff to support agency-wide implementation.
- A surge in short-term inquiries for FY25 has increased projected event numbers for the fiscal year.
- Volcano Island Waterpark had a successful opening weekend, although cooler temperatures resulted in modest attendance.



### **Ball's Bluff – Ben Bilko, Park Manager**

- 1 workday has been held by the Friends of Ball's Bluff (FOBB) to work on trail maintenance.
- 2 workdays held to remove invasive plant.
- Tours have been well attended on the weekends.

### **Blue Ridge – Ryan Corder, Park Manager**

- Completed a site improvement project at Blue Ridge Regional Park.

### **Brambleton – Dustin Betthauser, Park Manager**

- The spring golf season is off to a great start with close to 6,000 rounds played.
- Renovations to the golf course were completed in May, featuring enhancements to the green-side bunkers on hole #2. Additional improvements included the removal of the waste bunker on the #4 fairway and the creation of a new forward tee box on #5. Furthermore, the renovated restrooms were well-received by guests.
- The three golf courses successfully concluded the Swing into Spring Promotion, aimed at increasing app users and Heron's Choice monthly subscriptions. Hundreds of offers were redeemed through the app, with each course achieving its goal of growing users and members.
- The golf committee is now shifting focus to revamp the New to Golf campaign. This initiative aims to attract, educate, and retain new golfers while cross promoting all three courses.



### **Bull Run – Eric Ferguson, Park Manager**

- Waterpark staff conducted a lifeguard certification class, led pool orientation, and successfully opened the waterpark for the 2025 season.
- Staff participated in the Aquatics Committee meeting to support ongoing operational planning and collaboration.
- Park projects are underway, including paving, roof replacement, ceiling repairs and painting at the pool, and maintenance shop repairs. A new walk-in freezer was ordered for the waterpark, along with two storage sheds for event support. The waterpark also received a fresh whitecoat.
- The Special Events Center hosted the VDOT Rodeo, a significant external event.
- Use of shelters, camping, and picnicking areas has increased with the warmer weather.
- Campground programming is underway, enhancing the visitor experience through seasonal activities.



## Bull Run Shooting Center – Laurelyn Rawson, Park Manager

- The Site Supervisor has been spending time with our new maintenance worker getting him up to speed on equipment and SOPs.
- We hosted over 100 shooters in our third National Sporting Clays Association (NSCA) Sporting Clays Tournament for the year.
- We have hosted numerous groups events in the month of May, including, bachelor parties, office groups, family outings and a fundraiser. Many of these groups are repeat customers or came as a part of other groups and are now bringing their offices.
- We have a new sporting clays target setter starting this month. We are excited to see what challenges he can set up for our shooters!
- We are in the process of training our summer staff. Range Safety Officer candidates have to take a three-hour class and then spend a minimum of two shifts shadowing a senior staff member before they are able to work on their own.

## Cameron Run – Howie Abasto, Park Manager

- Park staff have been busy with orientation and lifeguard training to prepare for the opening weekend.
- Although temperatures were low, the waterpark opened to an eager crowd.
- Great Waves hosted its first catered event June 1 for 250 guests.
- Currently recruiting and hiring a Waterpark Crew Leader.
- Facility hosted VanGuard Training at the waterpark for the leadership team.



## Cattail Property – Ben Bilko, Park Manager

- We hosted 15 seniors from Loudoun County High School for their end of year senior Capstone project. NOVA Parks received about 850 volunteer hours from the students that were spread out among the parks. A majority of the time was spent at Cattail painting/staining sheds, barns, fences, cleaning pool, mowing grass, landscaping, removing invasive plants, and removing 4 trees from around the houses.



## Carlyle House – Rebecca Super, Historic Site Manager

- Our new Educator, Mary Cooper, started on May 23rd. We're excited to have her join us.
- The garden shed has received a fresh new coat of paint.
- We have offered training to our volunteers for all three of our walking tours.
- May 29th kicks off our Yoga & Mocktail Happy Hour series.



## Fountainhead – Kate Irwin, Park Manager

- Roving Naturalist held a Warbler Walk and two paddle tours.
- We hosted a stand-up paddle board race, the first event in the Mayor's Occoquan Race Series, organized by Occoquan Mayor Ernie Porta.
- Park Specialist attended DWR Angler Education workshop at Reservoir Park and was trained in hosting kids fishing programs. Park Manager and Park Specialist attended Marina Committee kickoff meeting.
- We hosted the EX2 Fountainhead Half Marathon and 10k trail running event with 343 runners participating, and which also served as the collegiate trail championships for the Collegiate Running Association.

## Meadowlark Atrium – Wayne Hager, Atrium Facilities Manager

- In May 2025, The Atrium hosted 19 private events: 15 weddings/wedding receptions, 1 fundraiser, 1 Sangeet (pre-wedding South Asian celebration), 1 annual corporate social event (featuring a unique Atrium first: the display of the owner's teenage son's Indy Race Car), and 1 annual meeting & luncheon.
- All events were catered by Great Blue Heron Catering, with high satisfaction ratings.
- The Atrium also conducted: 36 Site Tours, and 9 pre-event walk-through meetings.





## Meadowlark Botanical Gardens – Jeff Hill, Botanical Gardens Manager

- Mother's Day was very popular, with Meadowlark serving nearly 3,000 guests and breaking our previous record for highest revenue in a single day.
- Prearranged Guided Garden Tours remained busy throughout the month.
- The Korean Bell was serviced with cleaning and polishing; the adjacent pond is also being cleaned and maintained.
- Meadowlark hosted several events, including two separate Wellness Retreats in the Garden, two Music in the Gardens sessions, Sunrise in the Gardens, as well as recurring events such as Pup Days and Preschool Nature Nuts—all very well attended.
- Garden Manager and Horticulture Specialist participated in interviews for the Horticulturist position; we are pleased to welcome Benjamin Anderson back to the Horticulture department.
- The Horticulture department was busy planting for the spring season, including all seasonal beds, The Atrium, and a new meadow, totaling over 20,000 plants installed within a 2–3-week period.
- The Winter Walk of Lights building is nearing completion.

## Occoquan – Matthew Taylor, Park Manager

- Hosted two 5K events at the Brickyard 5K course and Pavilion, with total participation exceeding 300.
- Hosted the annual Deutsche Marque Concours d'Elegance car show at the Pavilion.
- Hosted two Girl Scout Bridging Ceremonies at the Turning Point Suffragist Memorial.
- Park Specialist and I attended the inaugural Marina Committee meeting at Reservoir Park. This new committee includes managers and specialists from Fountainhead, Pohick Bay, Occoquan, and Reservoir Park.



## The River View at Occoquan – Hannah Fry, Hospitality & Event Sales Manager

- We had a strong start to the Spring season, successfully hosting two corporate meetings, ten weddings, three proms, and a menu tasting event.
- In May, we conducted over 30 scheduled tours in addition to several impromptu walk-in tours, reflecting continued interest and strong foot traffic.
- We currently have four future event dates on hold and four event contracts pending, indicating a healthy pipeline of prospective bookings.



## Pohick Bay Park – Brad Jackson, Park Manager

- Orientation and customer service training sessions were held with one of our largest seasonal staff groups to date, marking a strong start to the season.
- A Marina Committee has been established and held its inaugural meeting at Reservoir Park to initiate marina standardization efforts.
- The full-time aquatic team convened at Pohick Bay for their annual preseason meeting to align on seasonal objectives and operations.
- Park Specialist Asia Stroud attended the Department of Wildlife Resources Angler Training at Reservoir Park, enhancing her knowledge of fishing equipment to support future staff-led educational programs.
- Staff have begun developing their FY26 performance goals, ensuring alignment with long-term operational and service objectives.
- Troop 1539 contributed to environmental stewardship efforts by conducting a shoreline cleanup, removing trash and debris from park areas.
- Assistant Managers Nathan Dorr and Jon Mendez represented the park at the Mason Neck State Park Eagle Festival, fostering community engagement and promoting awareness of Pohick Bay Regional Park and Golf Course.

## Pohick Bay Golf Course – Jon Mendez, Assistant Park Manager

- Cart Barn renovation project was completed in May.
- Grounds crew completed renovation projects on the hole #10 green and the tee box on holes #2 and #5.
- Pohick Bay Management team conducted customer service training for Park and Pool.



## Potomac Overlook – Rachel Doody, Park Manager

- May was packed with school field trips almost every weekday for public and private schools to bring out their elementary students to learn about the history of Potomac Overlook, meet native wildlife up close including some of the turtles and snakes that reside in the nature center, and to take a hike on some of the trails in the park to learn more about the native trees and shrubs of the area.
- Nature Center Birthday Parties and Girl Scout troop programs continue to fill the weekend including programs such as Rock the Park, Letterboxing, and EcoLearner.
- In collaboration with other Arlington County Parks and Upton Hill Regional Park, Potomac Overlook welcomed seven local seniors for the Senior Experience program where they get to work alongside park staff and volunteers to learn more about the possibility of a career path in the parks.
- Hosted a meeting with the heads of the Arlington Master Naturalists and NOVA Parks staff, and the May Board meeting.
- Renovations to the picnic shelter bathrooms and the roof have been completed.
- Public programs that the Roving Naturalists offered in May included Owl Prowls at Potomac, Algonkian, and Rust. Wandering Warblers at Algonkian, Potomac, Fountainhead, Meadowlark, and Pohick Bay. Critter Corner programs were offered at Reservoir Park, Bull Run and the Pohick Bay campground.
- Other public programs the Roving Naturalists lead included Follow the Tracks at Potomac Overlook, the Big Sit at Algonkian, a meteor watch party at Gilbert's Corner, Serpent Safari at Fountainhead, and a Bird-a-thon in cooperation with the Northern Virginia Bird Alliance at Algonkian, Balls Bluff, Gilbert's Corner, and Pohick Bay.
- Both Roving Naturalists were also each a huge help leading school field trip programs at Winkler and Potomac Overlook throughout the month.



## Red Rock – Ben Bilko, Park Manager

- Mowing schedule in full swing now.
- Planted 4 trees in the mulched area in the parking lot.

## Reservoir Park at Beaverdam – Dustin Betthausen, Park Manager

- Management is finalizing the hiring and training of new team members.
- Kayak and paddleboard rentals continue to thrive, with over 700 rentals in May, translating to more than 1,000 guests. Rentals are now available daily, having expanded from weekend-only operations as of May 19.
- Park managers from Reservoir Park, Pohick Bay, Fountainhead, and Occoquan collaborated to establish the Marina Committee's framework. The committee, comprising park specialists and managers, convened for its inaugural meeting at Reservoir Park. The committee will meet up to five times annually to develop goals, enhance operations, and ensure consistency across all NOVA Parks marinas.
- Reservoir Park's Site Supervisor, Mac Treveiler, collaborated with the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR) to provide Angler Instructor Training for park staff. This training enables staff to lead fishing programs as certified instructors. Additionally, DWR donated fishing gear and tackle to support the park's programs. Staff from Reservoir Park, Pohick Bay and Fountainhead attended the training.

## Rust Manor – Alexandra Gordon, Facility and Event Sales Manager

- Rust Manor is excited to announce that we were published as one of the featured weddings in the June issue of Northern Virginia Magazine. We loved the quote from our client that stated, "having vendors that knew each other made the entire planning process significantly less stressful." This is a huge reason we host a vendor appreciation dinner at the end of the year! Our relationships with preferred vendors have truly changed the trajectory of the success at Rust and our events. We are very grateful for these working relationships!
- May was another busy month, but June will be slightly less chaotic with a drop off of walkthrough meetings.
- We're thrilled to once again co-host the Annual Art Show, now in its third year! What started as a high school passion project has grown into a vibrant, community-based celebration of local art and music—led by an inspiring group of young adults who've been with us since the beginning. Not only are they curating an incredible experience for artists and musicians, but they're also leading a community outreach program involving 12 high school volunteers. These dedicated students are putting in 80 hours each on meaningful projects—from improving the grounds to assisting with wedding setups.
- Hosted a Blood Drive in partnership with the Daughters of the American Revolution and American Red Cross. 35 pints of blood collected! Read more: [Red Cross Blood Drive at Rust Manor](#)





## **Sandy Run – Kate Irwin, Park Manager**

- Hosted the Virginia State Rowing Championship regatta with 51 teams participating on Day 1, and 36 teams participating on Day 2.
- Hosted the Washington Metropolitan Interscholastic Rowing Association Championship Regatta with 729 rowers competing.
- The high school season is coming to an end, and adult rowing is picking up.

## **Temple Hall – Ben Bilko, Park Manager**

- The Farm continues to be busy with school tour groups and party rentals.
- Temple Hall planted a garden and have offered programing in the garden.
- We planted 7 apple trees for future programing.
- Staff is very bus with grass and getting ready to plant pumpkins.



## **Upton Hill – Evan McGurrin, Park Manager**

- Climb UPton hosted 869 climbers in the month of May, a 34% increase from last year.
- Ocean Dunes opened its doors for the 2025 season over a chilly Memorial Day Weekend.
- I attended a meeting between NOVA Parks and Arlington Master Naturalist (ARMN) Park Stewards hosted at Potomac Overlook to discuss our future collaboration and continued partnership.
- I co-taught two Lifeguard courses.



## Winkler Botanical Preserve – Rachel Doody, Park Manager

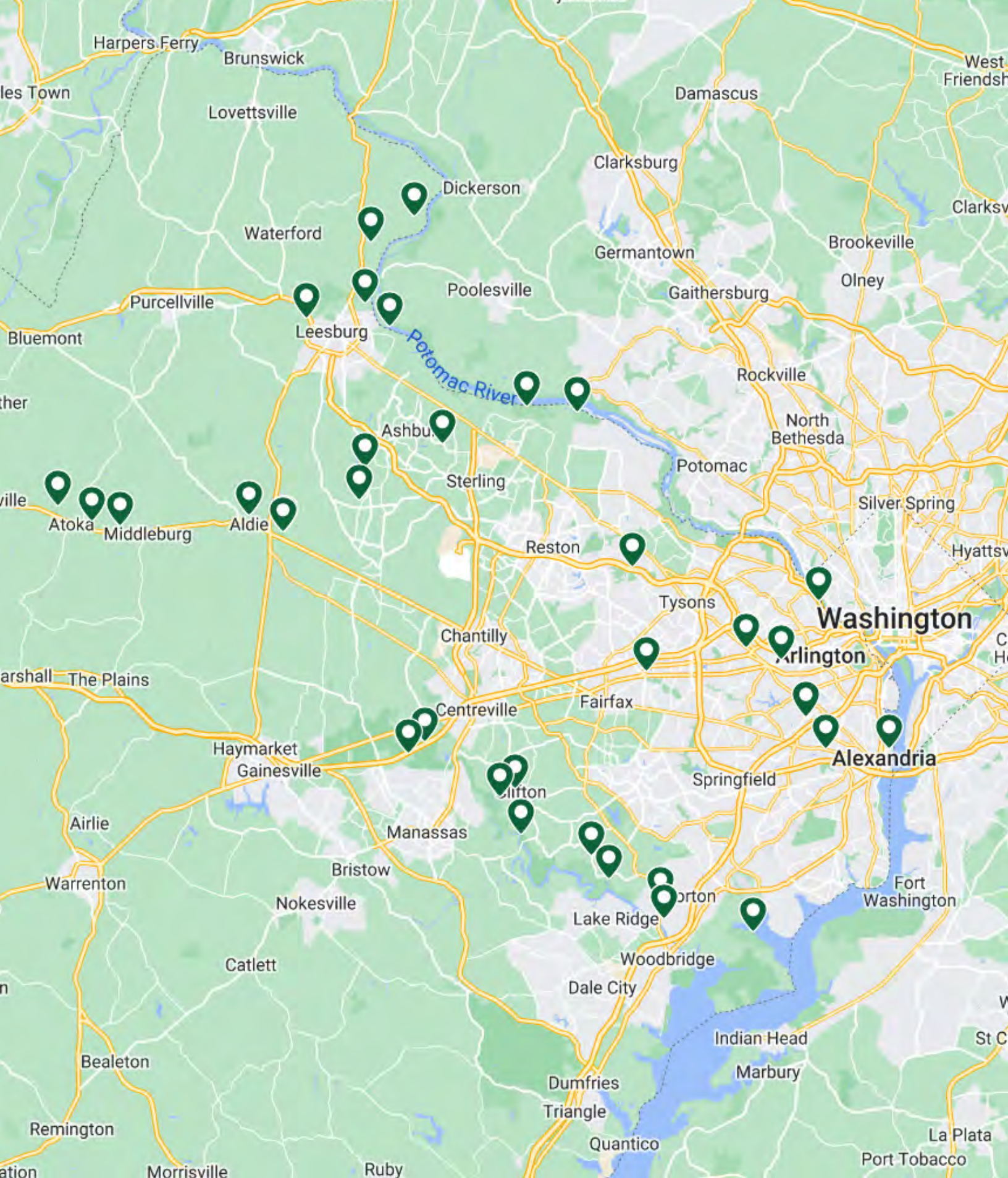
- Staff was very busy in May with school field trips throughout the weekdays for students from local Alexandria City Elementary Schools to participate in activities and hikes that focused on animal adaptations, the Watershed, and the local ecosystem.
- Scout programs for both boys and girls were also very popular throughout May including programs for Cub Scouts, a Scouting America Collections merit badge awarded to three scouts, and another troop of girl scouts learned how to Letterbox and carve stamps.
- Another very popular Forest Bathing public program was hosted at the Preserve on Memorial Day.
- Troop 350 volunteered an afternoon of work helping with cleaning and repairing Winkler structures with a 12-person crew totaling 24 hours of work saving Winkler staff many more hours of work.



## W&OD Trail – Ryan Corder, Park Manager

- Staff and the Friends of the W&OD worked with Sustainability Matters to remove invasives at the Vienna wildflower meadow.
- Participated in the town of Purcellville's safety day to promote trail safety.
- Worked with the Friends of the W&OD to do tabling events on Bike-to-Work Day.
- Participated in the annual Memorial Day Parade in Falls Church.









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Memorable Experiences!**

**Monthly Report | July 2025**





## ABOUT NOVA PARKS

In the late 1950's, the Northern Virginia Planning District Commission and a group of citizens from several local jurisdictions came together to protect Northern Virginia's rich heritage of woods, meadows, lakes and streams from the threat of suburban sprawl. These citizens, working with their local governments--Fairfax County, Arlington County and the City of Falls Church--organized under the Virginia Park Authorities Act in 1959 as the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority (NVRPA). They came together to plan, acquire develop and operate a system of regional parks for all Northern Virginians to enjoy.

Today, NOVA Parks (as the organization came to be known in 2014) represents three counties and three cities -- Arlington County, Fairfax County, Loudoun County, the City of Alexandria, the City of Falls Church and the City of Fairfax. NOVA Parks staff, volunteer board members appointed from each jurisdiction and many friends of the regional parks working together have preserved over 12,000 acres of rolling and wooded Virginia countryside for you and created a priceless legacy for future generations.

Through your regional parks, NOVA Parks provides almost two million citizens with some of the finest recreational facilities in the country. By pooling their funds, these local governments find that each dollar they contribute to NOVA Parks is multiplied by contributions from other member jurisdictions and sometimes augmented even more by state and federal grants and private donations. Being a member of NOVA Parks is a good economic investment.

From a wavepool to nature trails, from golfing to boating, there's a regional park that is just right for you. Come for the day, a weekend or a week. The NOVA Parks are yours to enjoy!

# MONTHLY UPDATES FROM:

Paul Gilbert, Executive Director  
Kelly Gilfillen, Marketing and Communications Director  
Anh Phan, Community Engagement Manager  
Chris Pauley, Operations Director  
Blythe Russian, Park Operations Superintendent  
Kevin Casalenuovo, Park Operations Superintendent  
Dennis Charlton, Food and Beverage Manager

<b>Aldie Mill, Mt. Zion, and Gilbert's Corner</b>	Corwyn Garman, Site Manager
<b>Algonkian</b>	Reid Nebergall, Park Manager
<b>Ball's Bluff</b>	Ben Bilko, Park Manager
<b>Blue Ridge</b>	Ryan Corder, Park Manager
<b>Brambleton</b>	Dustin Betthauser, Park Manager
<b>Bull Run</b>	Eric Ferguson, Park Manager
<b>Bull Run Shooting Center</b>	Laurelyn Rawson, Park Manager
<b>Cameron Run</b>	Howie Abasto, Park Manager
<b>Cattail Property</b>	Ben Bilko, Park Manager
<b>Carlyle House</b>	Rebecca Super, Historic Site Manager
<b>Fountainhead</b>	Kate Irwin, Park Manager
<b>Meadowlark Atrium</b>	Wayne Hager, Atrium Facilities Manager
<b>Meadowlark Botanical Gardens</b>	Jeff Hill, Botanical Gardens Manager
<b>Occoquan</b>	Matthew Taylor, Park Manager
<b>The River View at Occoquan</b>	Hannah Fry, Hospitality & Event Sales Manager
<b>Pohick Bay Park</b>	Brad Jackson, Park Manager
<b>Pohick Bay Golf Course</b>	Jon Mendez, Assistant Park Manager
<b>Potomac Overlook</b>	Rachel Doody, Park Manager
<b>Red Rock</b>	Ben Bilko, Park Manager
<b>Reservoir Park at Beaverdam</b>	Dustin Betthauser, Park Manager
<b>Rust Manor</b>	Alexandra Gordon, Facility and Event Sales Manager
<b>Sandy Run</b>	Kate Irwin, Park Manager
<b>Temple Hall</b>	Ben Bilko, Park Manager
<b>Upton Hill</b>	Evan McGurrin, Park Manager
<b>Winkler Botanical Preserve</b>	Rachel Doody, Park Manager
<b>W&amp;OD Trail</b>	Ryan Corder, Park Manager





## An Update from the Executive Director

### Paul Gilbert, Executive Director

- We had a very successful Juneteenth event at Bull Run in partnership with the Fairfax NAACP. Paul Baldino spoke on behalf of the Board. Six local elected officials and around 100 participants were there.
- At the request of the City Manager, I presented to the Alexandria City Council on some highlights of NOVA Park's operations in Alexandria.
- We continue to have regular planning meetings with the Town of Vienna about Dual Trails and the Visitor Center.
- Supervisor Jimmy Bierman, Michael Nardolilli, Paul Baldino, and Jim Bonfils all participated in a sign unveiling at Seneca Park.
- An article I wrote on interpretive efforts focused on Belonging was published in Park & Recreation Magazine.



## Kelly Gilfillen, Marketing and Communications Director

- Promoted, attended, photographed and pitched the Seneca Regional Park sign unveiling event to local media. FFXnow published an article promoting the July 5 event.
- Graphic Designer Cat Harris collaborated with Operations Leadership and Central Maintenance teams to produce a Climb UPTon-themed float to be included in the City of Falls Church Memorial Day Parade and City of Fairfax Independence Day Parade.
- Developed and executed campaign to boost waterpark revenue via loyal customer incentives.
- Developed and began executing annual communication plan to promote event venues, focused on eco-friendly option, cultural celebrations, and cross-promotion opportunities with vendor partners.



## Anh Phan, Community Engagement Manager

- Distributed waterpark tickets to the winners at Alexandria's Community Spelling Bee.
- Attended Friends of W&OD Trail Board meeting.
- Attended Juneteenth events at Tinner Hill Park and Carlyle House.
- Coordinated Bull Run Juneteenth event with NAACP Fairfax Branch, Alfred Street Baptist Church and local elected officials.
- Attended Arlington Forestry and Natural Resources Commission meeting.

# An Update from the Operations Team

## Chris Pauley, Operations Director

- Assisted in the interview process to select a vendor for our online ticketing platform used for special events.
- Working with the Finance team on several enhancements within our point-of-sale system.
- Participated in capital project planning for upcoming improvements at Meadowlark Gardens.
- Reviewed options for HVAC system improvements for Mt. Zion Church with a contractor.
- Participated in the Juneteenth celebration at Bull Run.

## Blythe Russian, Park Operations Superintendent

- Conducted Teams meetings with 5 online ticketing companies who provided demonstrations and answered questions about their products for ticketing for our light shows.
- Completed second and third level reviews of annual goals for full-time employees for FY26.
- Visited our 3 golf course pro shops and completed walk throughs, focusing on customer journey and marketing opportunities.
- Provided input for the Camping Marketing Communications Plan.
- Began work on determining light show displays for Ice & Lights.
- Excited to promote 2 current employees - Aaron Knowles was promoted to Catering Chef at The Atrium and Megan Bates was promoted to Food, Beverage, & Retail Manager at Cameron Run.

## Kevin Casalenuovo, Park Operations Superintendent

- Attended multiple meetings with Dominion Energy to discuss a new Memorandum of Understanding.
- Spoke with aquatics leadership staff during their “Vanguard” training.
- Provided assistance and attended a Juneteenth event held at the Bull Run Cemetery.
- Participated in a meeting with Fairfax County Supervisor Alcorn, Sustainability Matters and local developers to explore potential partnership opportunities for managing invasive species and establishing meadows along the W&OD Trail in Reston.
- Held a productive meeting with “First Tee” staff to assess our current partnership.
- Assisted with interviews for Full-Time Food, Beverage, and Retail Manager position.
- Conducted comprehensive walkthrough inspections at all three golf courses, identifying areas for immediate improvement and strategizing for future planning.
- Collaborated in the field with Park Managers to develop a comprehensive capital projects list.
- Attended various committee meetings, including those focused on golf and events.
- Participated in communication plan meetings with the marketing team regarding event venues.
- Conducted interviews with online ticketing companies to evaluate options for our light shows.



## Dennis Charlton, Food and Beverage Manager

- Catering had a busy month with 53 contracted events.
- Worked with concessions staff at the waterparks on efficiencies and food preparation standards.
- The development of a mocktail menu tailored for wedding events began.



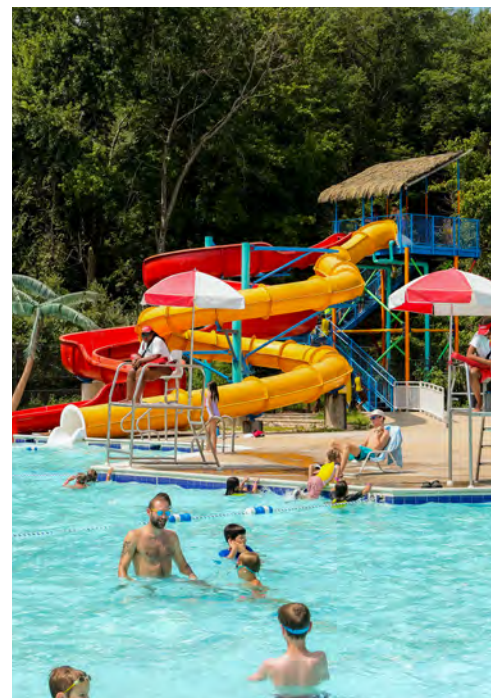
## Aldie Mill, Mt. Zion and Gilbert's Corner – Corwyn Garman, Site Manager

- 102 adults and 3 children participated in free weekend tours.
- Volunteers contributed 20 hours assisting with weekend tours.
- Hosted a lecture with archeologist Jay Harrison with 35 guests in attendance.
- Hosted an afternoon tea feature historian Eric Buckland with 40 guests in attendance.
- Hosted the annual meeting of Mt. Zion Cemetery Inc., the Thomas Family Reunion, and the Stuart-Mosby Historical Society at the church.
- Free tours of Mt. Zion Historic Park were offered on Sunday, June 22.



## Algonkian – Reid Nebergall, Park Manager

- The Virginia State Golf Association (VSGA) hosted a tournament on June 19 with 72 golfers.
- The course hosted its Annual Summer Scramble Tournament, on Saturday, June 28, with a full field of over 72 players.
- The Woodlands staff hosted 26 venue tours and booked 4 new events in the month of June.
- Met with staff from Rust Manor House to train on new event software SOPs.
- Renovations were completed to the park office and cottage check-in area to create a more pleasant and efficient guest experience.
- Cottage improvements continue with new driveway lights, improvements to drainage culverts, and new flooring in Cottage 1.
- Volcano Island scored an Exceeds on its first unannounced audit from Ellis & Associates.



### Ball's Bluff – Ben Bilko, Park Manager

- Workday was held by the Friends of Ball's Bluff (FOBB) to work on trails and road maintenance.
- FOBB hosted their annual membership meeting.
- Workday was held to remove invasive plants.
- Weekend battlefield tours have been well attended.

### Brambleton – Dustin Betthauser, Park Manager

- Customers are raving about the course conditions and improvements made over the past year, with one recent review praising the course's great condition, offseason improvements, and new bathrooms, noting the excellent value for the low cost.
- The course hosted several small group outings and three large tournaments (50+ people), with two tournaments featuring Brickmaker's Catering food and beverage packages.
- We hosted two graduation parties at the pavilion in June and have another event booked for July.
- Management conducted a walkthrough with Operations leadership and Troon Golf, identifying areas for improvement and potential capital projects, which have been submitted as part of our capital budget requests.
- Golf instruction remains strong, with the first of three summer junior golf camps held, along with numerous group and individual lessons, introducing new golfers to the game and the NOVA Parks golf brand.



### Bull Run – Eric Ferguson, Park Manager

- The park and catering hosted multiple Barn Pavilion events.
- The annual Juneteenth celebration was a success.
- Shelter rentals, camping, and the waterpark have all been busy on the weekends, weather permitting.
- Staff participated in the light shows ticketing RFP process.
- Annual waterpark pass sales are going well.
- New walk-in freezer has been installed.





### **Bull Run Shooting Center – Laurelyn Rawson, Park Manager**

- Corporate, bachelor, family and group events remained strong for the month of June.
- We hosted over 100 shooters in our fourth NSCA Sporting Clays Tournament for the year.
- Popularity in the National Sporting Clays Association has been growing in the last couple of years. We're happy to introduce new competitors to the game!

### **Cameron Run – Howie Abasto, Park Manager**

- Aquatic staff have completed 2 Ellis & Associate audits with a score of Meets. All lifeguard visual audits exceeded standards.
- We are excited to welcome Crew Leader, Greg Via.
- Great Waves welcomed several news crews who did live remotes during the heat wave.
- Group visitation at the waterpark has been very busy.
- Guests love the wings and personal pizzas at Surfside Pizza and Dippin' Dots continues to be a fan favorite!



### **Cattail Property – Ben Bilko, Park Manager**

- Summer mowing and property maintenance remain the focus of our operations until the park opens to the public.



### **Carlyle House – Rebecca Super, Historic Site Manager**

- Carlyle House celebrated Juneteenth with our Tell Me Your Name Tours. We had a sold-out day and a lot of very positive feedback from visitors.
- Work is starting this week to shore up the vaults under the terrace for the planned exploration of the terrace.
- Trivia and Historic Sites began this month with two nights of quizzing and prizes. Trivia will continue for the rest of the summer.
- Wallpaper repairs took place in the parlor and lower passage.

### **Fountainhead – Kate Irwin, Park Manager**

- Worked with members of the community to install a memorial bench on the mountain bike trail.
- The roving naturalist held a sunset/moonrise paddle on the reservoir.
- Exterior renovations were completed on the marina building
- Park Specialist held an orientation and training session for the most recent seasonal hires.

### **Meadowlark Atrium – Wayne Hager, Atrium Facilities Manager**

- In the month of June 2025, The Atrium hosted 14 private events. We had 10 Wedding/Wedding Receptions, 1 Celebration of Life, 1 Graduation Party, 1 Quinceanera and 1 Garden Club Meeting.
- We were happy to host the in-person Events Committee Meeting/Event Temple Meeting.



## Meadowlark Botanical Gardens – Jeff Hill, Botanical Gardens Manager

- The Gardens recorded the highest monthly volunteer participation in the month of May.
- Garden Admission remains strong even as temperatures rise. Memberships sales also continue to grow.
- The new Winter Walk of Lights facility is close to completion. I participated in walk through of facility with the Capital Team.
- The Horticulture team planted 15 trees in the Visitor Center Parking lot.
- The Virginia Chamber Orchestra concert series remains well attended resulting in consistent sales at the Food Truck.
- The Visitor Services Specialist hosted a First Aid/CPR course to certify on-site staff.
- Meadowlark Staff participated in reviewing all proposals for the new ticketing software systems for the lightshow(s).
- The Korean Bell Garden is getting irrigation installed throughout the space, allowing for convenient access to water. The pond was also cleaned.
- Daily programs continue to be well attended. Additionally, Camp Grow has kicked off for the season.
- Due to the increase in interest, Meadowlark has expanded our Pup Days to every Wednesday.

## Occoquan – Matthew Taylor, Park Manager

- Hosted two large events at the Corporate Pavilion with several hundred guests attending each.
- Hosted the annual Occoquan River Challenge, hosted by the Town of Occoquan's mayor, which features kayak and stand-up paddleboard races along the Occoquan River.
- Hosted the National Capital Area Cub Scouts for their annual week-long day camp.
- Completed renovations to the softball field. During the project, we excavated the infield, prepped and leveled the area, installed and spread topsoil, and installed new sod. New bases will be installed, and a new pitcher's mound will be constructed in the coming weeks. The field is expected to reopen in July.



## The River View at Occoquan – Hannah Fry, Hospitality & Event Sales Manager

- Hosted 12 weddings in June with one of the weddings having over 430 guests!
- 6 existing contracts were signed for future events; 4 pending contracts and 7 new holds were placed in June.
- About 30 scheduled tours were conducted in June with numerous walk-in tours as well.
- We've begun our preliminary planning for our Open House at the end of August, picking our theme and reaching out to local vendor partners to participate!



## Piscataway – Ben Bilko, Park Manager

- Farmer who leases ground at the park is planting summer crops.

## Pohick Bay Park – Brad Jackson, Park Manager

- Aquatics supervisory staff attended the annual Vanguard training this year at Cameron Run expanding on their skills, following the completion of Vanguard. All aquatics staff attended the annual Kickoff event for the season.
- Park Staff conducted a summer orientation for all Rangers to review key information and training points to manage the operations throughout the season.
- Select storage lots exterior perimeter fencing was replaced.
- The campgrounds have benefitted from the mild summer weather for most of June as we continued to experience full-occupancy weekends filling our 150 family camping sites.



## Pohick Bay Golf Course – Jon Mendez, Assistant Park Manager

- The month of June saw a significant focus from the team on contracted capital projects around the pro shop and cart barn.
- The management team hosted the NOVA Golf Committee monthly meeting which included meeting with the operation team and our Troon consultant to conduct a walkthrough of the facility.
- Hosted a Virginia State Golf Association (VSGA) Tournament in the month of June.
- A local brewery co-hosted our Beverage Cart Takeover Day.

## Potomac Overlook – Rachel Doody, Park Manager

- Potomac Overlook wrapped up the spring with one final school field trip where the students learned more about native wildlife and ways that they can help to protect it. Also, the last of the spring Girl Scout letterboxing programs was hosted.
- Summer camp staff training kicked off the summer season with a new record number of camp counselors who are former campers and Leaders in Training.
- The first week of summer camp included a session of Puddle Jumpers: Water and Junior Naturalist: Earth and the second week of camp featured a session of Puddle Jumpers: Creepy Crawlies, Pirates of the Potomac, and a half day Junior Naturalist camp.
- Roving Naturalists offered a variety of programs in June including an Owl Prowl at Goose Creek, Critter Corner programs at Pirates Cove and Volcano Island waterparks, and campground programs at both Bull Run and Pohick Bay.
- Roving Naturalists also helped with the last of the School Field Trip programs at Winkler Botanical Preserve and at Camp Overlook, Camp Grow, and Camp Winkler with animal talks and paddle tours.
- Registrations for sunrise and sunset paddle tours have picked back up with the warmer weather and also included a special Strawberry Moon paddle tour lead by Matt Felperin at both Pohick Bay and Fountainhead Regional Parks.





## Red Rock – Ben Bilko, Park Manager

- Park traffic has slowed down since hot temps have arrived.

## Reservoir Park at Beaverdam – Dustin Betthauser, Park Manager

- Staff participated in a Level 1 customer service orientation, followed by a team-building cookout.
- Pavilion rentals were successful in June with 42 bookings, and boat rentals at Reservoir Park totaled 788 units through late June.
- A boat rental sales tracking document was developed to identify trends, inform staffing needs, and to analyze the impact of weather on rental operations.
- Collaboration with Superintendents and Marina committee members resulted in a planned agenda for the mid-season check-in meeting.
- Participation in Virginia DWR's Free Fishing Weekend marketing campaign supported conservation efforts and targeted the 16+ demographic.



## Rust Manor – Alexandra Gordon, Facility and Event Sales Manager

- We had 12 weddings on our calendar for June as well as the 3rd annual Love Your Mother art show.
- The July event schedule is light and gives us time to work on some other projects before heading into another busy end of summer/fall season.
- We co-hosted a June tasting at The Woodlands, which completes our tastings for 2025 couples!
- The Events committee meeting this month will touch base on the events software trainings across all four venues. Looking forward to seeing all the hard work be implemented across the board.
- This is the first season for our pollinator garden near the manor - not to mention the mums that were planted last year on the portico flower beds came back and are starting to bloom as well. The grounds have been loving all the extra rain we've had these past couple of weeks, which also means having to pivot and execute multiple ceremony rain plans. A lot of happy wedding clients - expressing their gratitude towards both the venue and catering staff.
- The plans for our first-floor renovations are coming along nicely. Hope to have more of an update before summer's end.

## Sandy Run – Kate Irwin, Park Manager

- Hosted family rowing days for Justice and Oakton High Schools.
- James Madison High School held a week-long learn to row for middle schoolers and new team rowers.
- Summer sculling camps and lessons are being conducted by Resilient Rowing, Occoquan Boat Club, Sandy Run Scullers, and Unity Rowing.
- Hosted the Occoquan Memorial Sprints regatta with 40 rowing clubs participating. Regatta generates funds for scholarships to support local high school rowers.

## Springdale – Ben Bilko, Park Manager

- Bushhogging was done to the perimeter, riverfront, pond, and roadways.
- Hay is being made with grass in the meadows.

## Temple Hall – Ben Bilko, Park Manager

- The Farm continues to be busy with party rentals on the weekends.
- Temple Hall garden is thriving and we are now harvesting some vegetables.
- Staff has planted about 35,000 pumpkins.
- Legacy Farm's garden is in peak condition with many flowers blooming. They held a very successful open house that was well attended.



## Upton Hill – Evan McGurrin, Park Manager

- Climb UPTon hosted 872 climbers this month. While weather impacted operations, we saw a 21% increase in Party Climbs.
- Ocean Dunes was featured on two TV news broadcast features about beating the heat. We've seen a sharp pick-up in admissions as of opening daily on June 19.
- Hosted 70+ SACC Summer Camp Counselors for Ocean Dunes pre-season safety briefing.
- Conducted Mock-VOSH inspection walkthrough with Risk Manager.



## Winkler Botanical Preserve – Rachel Doody, Park Manager

- Hosted over 200 students for an end of the year class field trip where they learned about native wildlife and the ecosystem.
- Summer camps kicked-off with our camp for 5–6-year-olds, the Wiggle Worms. The theme for the week of camp is the 5 senses with each day's activities focused on one sense and the differences and similarities between some of the local wildlife and themselves. We look forward to summer adventures at Camp Winkler!



## W&OD Trail – Ryan Corder, Park Manager

- Meeting with Sustainability Matters to look at locations for future wildflower meadows.
- Completed analysis of all trail crossings for needed repairs.
- Met with maintenance staff to determine capital project list.
- Worked with City of Leesburg on Juneteenth march to Raflo Park.
- Continue to meet with contractors on asphalt projects.





