

NOVA Parks
Board Meeting, March 19, 2026
7:00 p.m.
Winkler Botanical Preserve
5400 Roanoke Avenue
Alexandria, VA 22311



ATTENDANCE

Board Members:

In Attendance:

Sean Kumar, Chairman
Paul Baldino, Vice Chairman
James Bonfils
Mark Chandler
Paul Ferguson
Stella Koch
Michael Nardolilli
Scott Price
Douglas Stewart
Eric Woodall
Patricia Harrison arrived at 7:10

Absent:

Dave Gustafson

Staff:

Justin Wilson, Executive Director
Blythe Russian, Director of Operations
Brian Nolan, Director of Planning and Development
Lauren Weaver, Director of Finance
Kelly Gilfillen, Director of Marketing and Communications
Kevin Casalenuovo, Park Operations Superintendent
Dustin Betthausen, 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
Sigma Chawdhury, Budget Analyst

City of Alexandria

Sean Kumar
Scott Price

Arlington County

Paul Ferguson
Michael A. Nardolilli

Fairfax County

Patricia Harrison
Stella Koch

City of Fairfax

Mark Chandler
Douglas Stewart

City of Falls Church

Paul Baldino
David Gustafson

Loudoun County

James Bonfils
Eric Woodall

OPEN SESSION

CALL TO ORDER

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:05

Introductions

Mr. Kumar introduced Eric Woodall and then all attendees took turns introducing themselves.

Ms. Harrison arrived as staff was finishing introductions.

Amendments to the Agenda

No amendments to the agenda

Approval of Minutes

Douglas Stewart Made a motion to approve the January 2026 Board meeting minutes
Nardolilli seconded

Unanimously approved

Mr. Bonfils said, "I move that the Nova Parks Board convene in closed session pursuant to 2.2-3711 (A)3&6 of the Code of Virginia to discuss the acquisition of real property for a public purpose."

Mr. Nardolilli seconded the motion

Unanimously approved

CLOSED SESSION (as allowed by § 2.2-3711)

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

Financial investment matter, in accordance with Code of Virginia, Section 2.2-3711 (A)(6)

Mr. Nardolilli first Made a motion to move out of closed session:

Mr. Bonfils seconded the motion

Unanimously approved

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.

This certification was **unanimously approved** by roll call vote

OPEN SESSION

Re-entered open session at 8:10

ACTIONS FROM CLOSED SESSION

Mr. Nardolilli said,

“I move that the Executive Director be authorized to acquire property on behalf of NOVA Parks and sign the comfort letter on behalf of NOVA Parks, as determined by the Board during Closed Session.”

Mr. Bonfils seconded the motion

Unanimously approved

Treasurer’s Report/Status of Funds

James Bonfils

Mr. Bonfils reviewed the status of funds and stated that everything is in order

Admin Items

Gateway Regional Park Award
Virtual Meeting Policy

Mr. Baldino made a motion to approve the admin items

Mr. Nardolilli seconded the motion

Unanimously approved

Presentation of Fiscal Year 2027 Budget

Patrick Wells

Mr. Wilson extended thanks to Mr. Wells and Ms. Chawdhury for their hard work in preparing the proposed budget. He also thanked Ms. Russian and operations for their contributions to the budget proposal

Mr. Wells’ presentation outlined the sources of funding—primarily jurisdictional appropriations and user fees—and how those funds are spent, including personnel services and operating costs. Mr. Wells then highlighted new investments being made by NOVA Parks in the upcoming budget such as an increase in the budget for major maintenance and an investment in the management of invasive species. The presentation also covered income/loss by park which showed actual revenue numbers for FY24 and FY25 as well as the budgeted amount for FY27.

Both Mr. Baldino and Mr. Nardolilli had questions regarding the numbers for specific parks and Mr. Wells offered to create reports for them detailing the park specific numbers.

Presentation: W&OD Trail Safety
Kevin Casalenuovo/Mike DePue

After Mr. Casalenuovo and Mr. DePue introduced themselves, Mr. Casalenuovo presented Policy considerations and opportunities such as

- Should we extend hours?
- Should we work to light more areas of the trails?
- Should we adopt a speed limit?
- Should we enhance collaboration with law enforcement?
- Should we limit e-bikes?
- Should we replace stop signs with yield signs?
- Should we advance more grade separations?
- Should we continue to expand dual trails?

Mr. DePue discussed that as a result of a study performed by Toole in 2012, NOVA Parks has successfully made improvements to several intersections in coordination with Counties and VDOT. He also mentioned projects partnering with Loudoun County.

Mr. Casalenuovo reviewed NOVA Parks' standard for intersections along the W&OD:

- Advanced warning stop sign
- Rumble strip
- Secondary stop signs with stop bars
- Truncated domes for ADA compliance

Due to a safety initiative with FCDOT, there will be new signs at 9 intersections:

- Buckthorne Ln.
- Cedar Ln.
- Hunter Mill Rd.
- Michael Faraday Dr.
- Sandburg St.
- Shreve Rd.
- Sunrise Valley Dr.
- Sunset Hill Rd.
- Virginia Ln.

Mr. Casalenuovo also expressed his appreciation for the Friends of the W&OD group and how helpful they have been in getting information out to others.

Mr. Kumar thanked Mr. Casalenuovo and Mr. DePue for the presentation and asked Mr. Wilson how he would like to receive feedback from the Board.

Mr. Wilson said that feedback would be great and added that items can be brought back to the Board once the Board has indicated their interest.

Mr. Baldino suggested a simple survey as a way for the Board to give feedback.

Mr. Ferguson asked for suggestions on how we would enforce things like speed limits, etc.

Strategic Process

Justin Wilson

Mr. Wilson gave a brief review of the status of the Strategic Plan adopted by the Board in 2022. He reported that many of the objectives have been accomplished. He pointed out that a good strategic plan sets the bar high, making it unlikely that every objective will be completely met. He then laid out a timeline to work on the new Strategic Plan.

Mr. Ferguson made a motion to approve the schedule and process for the development of the next NOVA Parks Strategic Plan and accept the update on the status of the current strategic plan.

Ms. Koch seconded the motion

Unanimously approved

Mr. Bonfils made a motion to adjourn the meeting

Mr. Stewart seconded

Unanimously approved

ADJOURNMENT

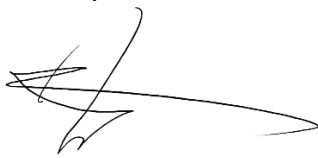
The meeting adjourned at 9:15

Respectfully submitted



Justin M. Wilson, Secretary

Approved by the NOVA Parks Authority Board
On May 21, 2026



Justin M. Wilson, Secretary



Sean Kumar, Chairman