

**NOVA Parks Board Meeting Agenda**  
**Thursday May 21, 2026**  
NOVA Parks HQ  
5400 Ox Road  
Fairfax Station, VA 22039



6:30 PM: Dinner

6:45 PM: Closed Session to discuss real estate acquisition and discussion of performance review process of the Executive Director

7:30 PM: Board Meeting

*Board Lead: Kumar*

- Call to Order
- Introductions
- Amendments to the Agenda
- Approve March 19, 2026 Minutes

7:35 PM: Treasurer's Report/Status of Funds

*Board Lead: Bonfils*

7:40 PM: Admin Items

*Staff Lead: Nolan/Wilson/Endler*

- *Bull Run Paving Award*
- *FY27 Executive Director Goals*
- *Employment Policy Manual*

7:45 PM: Adoption of Fiscal Year 2027 Budget & Restricted License Fee Fund

*Staff Lead: Wells*

8:00 PM: W&OD Trail Hours of Operation

*Staff Lead: Casalenuovo*

Adjourn

**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

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



**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

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## **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

**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**

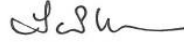
The meeting adjourned at 9:15

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

May 13, 2026

To: James Bonfils , Treasurer

From: Lauren Weaver, Director of Finance



Subject: Status of Funds

Note: Fund balances as of 4/30/26

**NORTHERN VIRGINIA REGIONAL PARK AUTHORITY**

NVRPA Checking (Truist Bank)	1,772,380.28
Credit Card Receivable Account (Truist Bank)	437,216.53
Carlyle House Garden Guild Savings (Burke and Herbert)	1,786.13
Carlyle House Docents Savings (Burke & Herbert)	639.12
FSA - SunTrust - Flexible Spending Account (Truist Bank)	20,234.01
Imprest Fund - Special Event Center at Bull Run (Truist Bank)	11,894.98
Imprest Fund - Meadowlark Light Show (Truist Bank)	1,569.82
Local Government Investment Pool - NVRPA - Capital Fund	18,735,071.52
Charles Schwab- Capital Fund	2,491,132.47
Local Government Investment Pool - Deirdre J. Turnage Endowment Fund	140,461.34
Local Government Investment Pool - Daman Account	243,504.43
Local Government Investment Pool - Designated Set Aside - General Fund	569,344.02
Local Government Investment Pool - Designated Set Aside & Strategic Opportunity - Enterprise Fund	<u>9,934,560.41</u>
Designated Set Aside Sub-Total ( <b>RESERVES</b> )	10,503,904.43
LGIP Month of April Effective Yield 3.835%	
<b>TOTAL NVRPA CASH</b>	<u><u>34,359,795.06</u></u>

**LOAN PROCEEDS**

VRA Resources from Construction Loan for Upton Hill -Par	-
VRA Resources from Construction Loan for Upton Hill -Net Premium	267,253.85
VRA Resources from Construction Loan for Occoquan -Par	-
VRA Resources from Construction Loan for Occoquan -Net Premium	<u>818,731.25</u>
	<u><u>1,085,985.10</u></u>

**RESERVE**

Local Government Investment Pool - Stribling Debt Service Reserve Fund	151,607.59
	<u><u>151,607.59</u></u>

**RESTRICTED LICENSE FUND**

Local Government Investment Pool - Restricted License Account	155,904.23
Charles Schwab- Restricted License Fund	2,052,296.88
(W&OD Friends portion of this balance = \$70,194.18)	
(Wetlands Mitigation Fund portion of this balance = \$76,879.72)	
<b>TOTAL RESTRICTED FUND CASH</b>	<u><u>2,208,201.11</u></u>

**CARLYLE HOUSE FRIENDS**

Local Government Investment Pool - Carlyle House Friends	417,277.02
<b>TOTAL CARLYLE FRIENDS CASH</b>	<u><u>417,277.02</u></u>

Since the last Status of Funds report submitted to you on March 11, 2026 the following major deposits were collected:

<b>Checks</b>			
3/5/26	Quantum Maryland	W&OD Rent	125,000.00
3/23/26	Wright Farms	Property Lease	25,380.00
4/10/26	T Mobile	W&OD Rent	23,094.76
4/10/26	AT&T	Qtrly License payment	187,572.32
4/10/26	Verizon	W&OD Rent	21,002.00
4/10/26	Maverick Construction	Construction Bond	5,000.00
<b>ACH's Received</b>			
4/1/26	City of Alexandria	4th Qtr Appropriations	216,080.23
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$ 603,129.31</b>



# MEMO

**To:** NOVA Parks Board of Directors

**Through:** Justin M. Wilson, Executive Director

**From:** Brian Nolan, Director of Planning and Development

**Date:** May 13, 2026

**Re:** Bull Run Regional Park Main Road Improvements

**Recommendation:** That staff be authorized to award a contract in the amount of \$249,603.67 to Tibbs Paving for the Bull Run Main Road Improvements project, and the Executive Director be authorized to execute the contract and approve contractor payments.

**Strategic Plan Alignment:** Objective 4.3.1: Maintain Capital Maintenance funding at a level to support the upkeep of current facilities

Objective 5.1.1: Enhance the performance of NOVA Parks’ light shows with a goal of increasing revenue by 3% annually from 2023 to 2027

Goal 5.4: Exemplify maintenance standards that make NOVA Parks destination sites.

**Financial Impact:** \$249,603.67 (included in the approved FY26 Capital Budget)

### Discussion:

Staff recently solicited bids to install 17,900 Square Yards of asphalt. The proposed work includes installing Geotextile fabric, and a 2-inch asphalt overlay.

The following bids were received:

Bidder	Total Bid
Tibbs Paving	\$249,603.67
Espina Paving Inc.	\$264,055.00
Rose Paving	\$349,936.82

Staff determined Tibbs Paving to be the lowest responsive and responsible bidder. The contractor has successfully completed similar projects for NOVA Parks in the past and has adequate project experience and favorable references.

**City of Alexandria**  
Sean Kumar  
Scott Price

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**Loudoun County**  
James Bonfils  
Eric Woodall





# MEMO

**To:** NOVA Parks Board of Directors  
**From:** Justin M. Wilson, Executive Director  
**Date:** May 13, 2026  
**Re:** FY27 Proposed Goals

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**Recommendation:** Approve the proposed goals for the Executive Director for FY27

**Strategic Plan Alignment:** N/A

**Financial Impact:** The resources necessary for these proposed goals are included in the FY 2027 Proposed Budget and the approved Capital Budget

## Discussion:

At the May board meeting, we will discuss my goals for the upcoming year. Following that discussion, the NOVA Parks team will work with managers to develop and approve goals for each team member, to be finalized by July.

Each member of our team should be able to link the work that they are doing directly to the goals that I present to the Board (and in turn, the Strategic Plan). As such, I reviewed these goals with our full team at our All-Staff meeting on April 15, 2026 (and our leadership team prior to that).

The changes highlighted below reflect revisions made to the goals since the Board received this memo in April, inclusive of input from Board members and staff.

Each of these goals are aligned with our strategic plan pillars and advance specific objectives in that plan.

I look forward to discussing and finalizing these proposed goals with the Board in May. Please let me know if you have any questions in advance of that discussion.

## Environment

### 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  
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### Loudoun County

James Bonfils  
Eric Woodall

- Implement expansion of the Roving Naturalist Program ([Objective 1.8.2](#))
- Expand invasive removal activities by 100% and explore in-house operational capabilities ([Objective 1.7.2/1.7.3](#))
- Plant 100 trees ([Objective 1.1.1](#))

### Belonging

- Achieve a 25% expansion of Title I field trips ([Objective 2.4.5](#))
- Formalize three new partnership relationships ([Objective 2.2.1/2.4.1/2.4.2](#))
- Adopt a Promotional Contributions / Community Engagement Policy ([Objective 2.3.1](#))
- Create at least one new “Friends” group ([Objective 2.3.1](#))
- Expand hours at Winkler Botanical Preserve ([Objective 2.7.1](#))

### Our Team

- Finalize review and revision of employee policies, including Board adoption ([Goal 3.1](#))
- Update pay compression analysis ([Objective 3.2.2](#))
- Clearly define the role of Central Maintenance under new leadership, with a focus on: ([Objective 4.3.1/5.4.1](#))
  - Improved communication and collaboration
  - Expanded training
  - Exploration of agency-wide efficiencies (e.g., contract services, bulk purchasing)

### Building the Future

- Develop and secure Board adoption of a new Strategic Plan ([N/A](#))
- Develop a vision for the W&OD Visitor Center and finalize due diligence for land acquisition ([Objective 4.1.1](#))
- Bring two land acquisitions to the Board for consideration ([Objective 1.2.2](#))
- Submit plans to Loudoun County for the Cattail property ([Objective 1.3.2](#))
- Develop a vision for future investments at Pohick Bay ([Objective 4.1.1](#))
- Provide for board review of W&OD Trail safety proposals, through either policy consideration or budget investment ([Objective 4.2.2](#))
- Add two new educational opportunities relating to natural resource conservation and historic interpretation ([Objective 1.8.1](#))

### Revenue & Efficiency

- Grow revenues across key business lines ([Objective 5.1.1/5.1.2/5.1.3/5.1.4](#)):
  - Golf: 8%
  - Aquatics: 4%
  - Marina: 15%
  - Camping: 1.5%
  - Facility Rental: 2%
  - Special Events: 15%
  - Retail Operations: 6%

- Expand the Marketing & Communications team to increase support capacity and ROI ([Objective 5.2.1](#))
- Develop and secure Board adoption of a Capital Endowment Policy ([Objective 5.3.3](#))
- 
- Implement UKG Core HR to replace onboarding platform and provide additional services, streamlining processes and reducing paper and email-based requests. (Objective 5.3.1)
-



# MEMO

**To:** NOVA Parks Board of Directors  
**Through:** Justin M. Wilson, Executive Director  
**From:** Danielle Endler, Human Resources Administrator  
**Date:** May 13, 2026  
**Re:** Employment Policy Manual

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**Recommendation:** Accept update on development of the Employment Policy Manual

**Strategic Plan Alignment:** N/A

**Financial Impact:** N/A

**Discussion:**

For the past several months, the Board’s Personnel Committee (Vice Chair Baldino and Board Member Harrison) have been working closely with our staff and outside counsel to refine and update our employee policies.

Our goal is to provide a comprehensive employee policy manual to be considered in one board action. Subsequent to the board approval, updates to the employee policy manual will be made through an annual process where any necessary updates will be made.

This effort has been a significant undertaking to ensure that policies reflect current business practices, align with applicable laws and regulations, and provide predictability for employees and leaders in our organization.

This new Employment Policy Manual is scheduled for adoption at the July board meeting. To ensure that the Board has appropriate time to review these policies and address any concerns in advance of this adoption, the proposed manual will be presented to the board no later than Monday June 15<sup>th</sup>.

The proposed manual will include the following policies for consideration:

**Chapter 1: Ethical Standards & Workplace Conduct**

**City of Alexandria**

Sean Kumar  
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*How employees are expected to behave*

- 1.1 Code of Ethics
  - 1.2 Harassment
  - 1.3 Whistleblower
  - 1.4 Substance Abuse Policy
  - 1.5 Smoking in the Workplace
  - 1.6 Acceptable Use Policy
- 

## **Chapter 2: Employment Lifecycle & Administration**

*From hiring through separation*

- 2.1 Employment Selection
  - 2.2 Background Check
  - 2.3 Conditions of Employment
  - 2.4 Probationary Period
  - 2.5 Employee Performance Evaluation
  - 2.6 Disciplinary Actions
  - 2.7 Appeal Procedure
  - 2.8 Employee Termination
  - 2.9 Disability Accommodations
  - 2.10 Personnel Files & Records
- 

## **Chapter 3: Compensation, Time, and Benefits**

*Pay, time, and employee-related costs*

- 3.1 Compensation / Pay Plan
  - 3.2 Pay Plan
  - 3.3 Payroll
  - 3.4 Attendance & Leave
  - 3.5 Flex Time Guidelines
  - 3.6 Expense Reimbursements
  - 3.7 Worker's Compensation
- 

## **Chapter 4: Work Arrangements, Safety & Organizational Resources**

*How work is performed and assets are used*

- 4.1 Telework Policy
- 4.2 Uniform Policy
- 4.3 Travel & Training Guidelines
- 4.4 Vehicle Use Guidelines

- 4.5 Take Home Vehicle Policy
- 4.6 Take Home Agreement



# MEMO

**To:** NOVA Parks Board of Directors  
**Through:** Justin M. Wilson, Executive Director  
**From:** Patrick Wells, Budget Administrator  
**Date:** May 13, 2026  
**Re:** FY 2027 Operating Budget

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**Recommendation:** The Board adopt the FY 2027 Operating Budget in the amount of \$43,302,887, inclusive of an Enterprise Fund of \$37,193,454 and General Fund of \$6,109,433.

That the Board adopt the FY 2027 budget as presented for the Restricted License Fee Fund in the amount of \$1,488,141 and the Carlyle House Friends Budget in the amount of \$21,500.

**Strategic Plan Alignment:** N/A

**Financial Impact:** The proposed operating budget is \$43,302,887 and the Restricted License Fee Fund is \$1,488,141.

**Discussion:**

At the March 2026 Board meeting, the Board received the FY 2027 Proposed Operating Budget for the General and Enterprise Funds.

There have been no changes since the March presentation, with a total budget of \$43,302,887. Major highlights from the March presentation of the budget include:

- Large expansion of the Roving Naturalist program
- Creation of a new Invasive Species Management account
- Receipt and budgeting of new funding from Dominion Energy (Displayed in the Restricted License Fee Fund)
- Expanded full-time staffing to support Title 1 programs, and increased program and promotion funding to provide new programs for park visitors.
- Funding for hourly rate increases in accordance with Board policy, as well as related increases to avoid pay-scale

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compression, including adherence to Board policy stating that all hourly rates will remain at least \$1/hour greater than Virginia minimum wage

The FY 2027 budgets for the Carlyle House Friends Fund and Restricted License Fee Fund are also presented for adoption. While we have included these budgets in this year's presentation as has occurred in previous years, the Restricted License Fee Fund (and Friends Budgets) will be composed and presented in a new structure and timetable in the future.

In April, staff provided the Board with a memo detailing income/loss data by park, with analysis to support the Board's deliberative process, which is included in this month's packet.

**RESTRICTED LICENSE FEE FUND**

<b>ACCOUNT DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>ACTUAL FY 2024</b>	<b>ACTUAL FY 2025</b>	<b>ADOPTED FY 2026</b>	<b>JUL-MAR ACTUAL FY 2026</b>	<b>PROPOSED FY 2027</b>
<b>BEGINNING BALANCE*</b>	<b>\$4,813,787</b>	<b>\$5,607,798</b>	<b>\$5,725,000</b>	<b>\$6,339,134</b>	<b>\$6,397,325</b>
<b>REVENUES</b>					
AT&T Fiberoptics License Fee	\$750,290	\$750,289	\$750,289	\$579,810	\$818,663
BRSC Friends - Memberships	5,426	4,594	2,000	392	2,000
BRSC-Donations	0	0	0	0	0
Balls Bluff Battlefield Friends	12,650	9,620	6,000	5,630	6,000
Interest	186,699	228,705	40,000	30,523	40,000
Interest-Accrued	3,102	(3,392)	0	(2,505)	0
Change in Market Value	53,657	33,905	0	23,325	0
Level Three License Fees (Williams)	658,080	541,019	541,019	418,217	590,828
Misc. Revenue (Dominion MOU)	0	0	0	100,000	0
FOWOD Donations	17,525	23,890	0	4,807	0
Interest FOWOD	1,518	2,219	150	2,132	150
W&OD Friends	40,460	18,977	28,000	27,908	28,000
Wetlands Mitigation Fund Revenue	0	0	2,000	0	0
Wetlands Mitigation Fund Interest	3,847	3,524	500	2,348	2,500
Final Close Adjustments	142,087	127,762	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>\$1,875,341</b>	<b>\$1,741,113</b>	<b>\$1,369,958</b>	<b>\$1,192,587</b>	<b>\$1,488,141</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>					
BRSC Friends - Misc. Expenses	\$ 4,062	\$ 3,160	\$ 4,000	\$ 6,352	\$ 4,000
Balls Bluff Battlefield Friends	7,220	6,742	4,000	3,460	4,000
OWL Friends - Misc. Expenses	71,732	0	0	0	0
Plantings for Dominion W&OD Project	0	0	0	0	100,000
W&OD Bridge Inspections	0	0	0	0	0
W&OD Friends	29,289	46,581	48,500	18,026	48,500
W&OD Major Maintenance	57,063	14,004	100,000	31,020	100,000
W&OD Professional Services	0	0	25,000	0	25,000
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$169,367</b>	<b>\$70,486</b>	<b>\$181,500</b>	<b>\$58,858</b>	<b>\$281,500</b>
Transfer to Capital Fund	\$ 465,723	\$ 400,000	\$ 400,000	\$ 0	\$ 400,000
Transfer to Enterprise Fund	415,000	480,173	775,130	581,348	645,000
Transfer to Enterprise Fund for Occoquan Debt Service	0	0	0	0	0
Interest Transfer to General Fund	31,240	59,118	40,000	30,538	40,000
<b>TOTAL TRANSFERS TO OTHER FUNDS</b>	<b>\$911,963</b>	<b>\$939,291</b>	<b>\$1,215,130</b>	<b>\$611,886</b>	<b>\$1,085,000</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES/TRANSFERS</b>	<b>\$1,081,330</b>	<b>\$1,009,777</b>	<b>\$1,396,630</b>	<b>\$670,744</b>	<b>\$1,366,500</b>
<b>ENDING BALANCE</b>	<b>\$5,607,798</b>	<b>\$6,339,134</b>	<b>\$5,698,328</b>	<b>\$6,860,977</b>	<b>\$6,518,966</b>

\*Beginning balance for FY 26 includes \$124,008 of Friends of the W&OD, \$945 Friends of Bull Run, \$8,697 Friends of BRSC, \$12,949 Friends of Balls Bluff & \$70,763 of Wetland Mitigation funds.

\*Beginning Balance for FY 26 is a combination of cash (\$2,150,378), monies due to/from other funds (\$3,690,705), and the balances from other friends groups.

**FRIENDS OF CARLYLE HOUSE**

**I. OPERATING BUDGET**

ACCOUNT DESCRIPTION	ACTUAL FY 2024	ACTUAL FY 2025	ADOPTED FY 2026	ACTUAL FY 2026 JUL-MAR	PROPOSED FY 2027
<b>BEGINNING BALANCE</b>	<b>\$44,340</b>	<b>\$46,438</b>	<b>\$48,817</b>	<b>\$48,758</b>	<b>\$46,862</b>
<b>REVENUES</b>					
Annual Dues	\$3,350	\$2,985	\$10,000	\$2,715	\$10,000
Donations-Operations/Museum Annual Appeal Education			6,500	0	6,500
Programmed Events	0	0	5,000	0	5,000
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>\$3,350</b>	<b>\$2,985</b>	<b>\$21,500</b>	<b>\$2,715</b>	<b>\$21,500</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>					
Clerical Support	\$0	\$464	\$3,000	\$1,349	\$3,000
Educational Activities	0	0	5,000	0	5,000
Membership Events	134	0	5,000	96	5,000
Office Supplies/Postage	68	9	500	209	500
Printing/Publications	0	0	2,000	0	2,000
Programs and Promotions	1,050	192	7,000	2,958	7,000
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$1,252</b>	<b>\$664</b>	<b>\$22,500</b>	<b>\$4,611</b>	<b>\$22,500</b>
<b>ENDING BALANCE</b>	<b>\$46,438</b>	<b>\$48,758</b>	<b>\$47,817</b>	<b>\$46,862</b>	<b>\$45,862</b>

**II. COLLECTIONS PURCHASES BUDGET**

ACCOUNT DESCRIPTION	ACTUAL FY 2024	ACTUAL FY 2025	ADOPTED FY 2026	ACTUAL FY 2026 JUL-MAR	PROPOSED FY 2027
<b>BEGINNING BALANCE</b>	<b>\$182,673</b>	<b>\$199,435</b>	<b>\$197,182</b>	<b>\$200,427</b>	<b>\$213,446</b>
<b>REVENUES</b>					
Donations - Museum Collection	\$1,680	\$2,405	\$6,500	\$1,015	\$6,500
Interest	19,869	17,684	500	12,560	500
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>\$21,549</b>	<b>\$20,089</b>	<b>\$7,000</b>	<b>\$13,575</b>	<b>\$7,000</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>					
Museum Collection Purchases	\$0	\$18,062	\$25,000	395	\$25,000
Museum Collection Maintenance	4,786	1,034	5,000	162	5,000
Museum Collection Transfer to Enterprise Fund	0	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$4,786</b>	<b>\$19,097</b>	<b>\$30,000</b>	<b>\$557</b>	<b>\$30,000</b>
<b>ENDING BALANCE</b>	<b>\$199,435</b>	<b>\$200,427</b>	<b>\$174,182</b>	<b>\$213,446</b>	<b>\$190,446</b>

**III. DOUG THURMAN FUND BUDGET**

ACCOUNT DESCRIPTION	ACTUAL FY 2024	ACTUAL FY 2025	ADOPTED FY 2026	ACTUAL FY 2026 JUL-MAR	PROPOSED FY 2027
<b>BEGINNING BALANCE</b>	<b>\$127,297</b>	<b>\$126,697</b>	<b>\$126,182</b>	<b>\$126,182</b>	<b>\$126,163</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>					
Education	\$600	\$515	\$8,000	19	\$8,000
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$600</b>	<b>\$515</b>	<b>\$8,000</b>	<b>\$19</b>	<b>\$8,000</b>
<b>ENDING BALANCE</b>	<b>\$126,697</b>	<b>\$126,182</b>	<b>\$118,182</b>	<b>\$126,163</b>	<b>\$118,163</b>
<b>ENDING BALANCE-TOTAL ALL</b>	<b>\$372,570</b>	<b>\$375,368</b>	<b>\$340,181</b>	<b>\$386,471</b>	<b>\$354,471</b>



# MEMO

**To:** NOVA Parks Board of Directors  
**Through:** Justin M. Wilson, Executive Director  
**From:** Patrick Wells, Budget Administrator  
**Date:** April 2, 2026  
**Re:** FY27 Proposed Budget Income/loss by park data

In follow-up to the questions posed by the Board during the budget presentation in March, we have prepared some additional information to support the Board’s deliberations.

The chart and data below can be found on page A-13 of the FY 2027 Proposed Budget. This was the first year that we have added the third column to this chart, showing the FY 27 proposed income/loss.

One result of including this additional data is that comparing the columns can be somewhat deceptive. FY24 and FY25 reflect actuals (inclusive of our achieved surplus), while FY27 reflect a balanced budget where overall revenue and expenditures are equal.

	FY 24	FY 25	FY 27 Budget
BULL RUN	1,993,168	1,755,961	2,001,955
MEADOWLARK	2,517,364	2,787,457	1,909,146
POHICK BAY	1,356,081	1,135,008	1,223,551
BRAMBLETON/BEAVERDAM	1,071,830	1,071,186	961,037
W&OD	672,267	611,689	531,204
ALGONKIAN	829,438	503,019	489,567
RUST SANCTUARY	583,968	550,497	331,517
CAMERON RUN	374,443	(206,198)	273,108
BULL RUN SHOOTING CENTER	119,298	128,008	82,635
HEMLOCK OVERLOOK	15,639	67,324	82,480
BR MARINA/FTNHEAD/SANDY RUN	90,584	25,685	25,868
MT. ZION/GILB. CORNER	(14,864)	(26,194)	23,400
UPTON HILL	101,695	485	20,394
BLUE RIDGE	4,357	4,334	1,800
PISCATAWAY CROSSING	(32,061)	(26,836)	(37,305)
BEAVERDAM	(13,286)	101,831	(47,101)
TEMPLE HALL	(43,407)	18,937	(119,420)
UPPER POTOMAC PROP.	(90,479)	(119,333)	(159,620)
ALDIE MILL	(175,431)	(179,518)	(227,473)
WINKLER BOTANICAL PRESERVE	(136,103)	(127,903)	(268,822)
OCCOQUAN	454,004	452,984	(343,110)
CARLYLE HOUSE	(284,446)	(332,956)	(346,669)
POTOMAC OVERLOOK	(255,026)	(284,789)	(403,489)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>9,139,031</b>	<b>7,910,677</b>	<b>6,004,653</b>

**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

Additionally, this chart excludes two departments that do not generate significant revenue: Enterprise Administration and Central Maintenance. Our overall FY27 proposal displays data from the balanced budget, inclusive of Enterprise Administration and Central Maintenance.

For example, parks such as Meadowlark, Brambleton, W&OD, Algonkian, Rust, Bull Run Shooting Center, are budgeted to subsidize these enterprise functions, but achieved a significant surplus in FY24 and FY25.

#### Specific Park Highlights:

- **Meadowlark:** The proposed budget reflects a large dip from FY24/25 actuals to FY27 budget (600k-800k difference). The light show is budgeted to continue a consistent level of growth and is not contributing to the difference in net revenues. The one-time changes in the accounting treatment for camps and membership impacted Meadowlark Botanical Gardens more than any other department. As a result, Meadowlark Botanical Gardens revenue was reduced by ~\$140,000 in FY27. In FY28, the revenue levels for camps and memberships will return to their normal levels. While The Atrium at Meadowlark is our best performing venue (The Atrium netted over \$1.5 million in FY24 and FY25), there is concern about the future of wedding bookings at The Atrium based on the trends we are seeing at the other venues, and due to the political and economic uncertainty that has negatively impacted rentals in the past. Revenue at The Atrium still tops \$2.5 million in the FY27 budget, compared to \$2.9 million in actuals for FY24.
- **W&OD:** The proposed budget reflects a slight reduction in net revenue from actuals. The main factor is part-time salaries being budgeted at \$130,000 for FY27 and showing under \$50,000 for actuals, due to contract landscape maintenance offsetting part-time labor. There is also an increase in maintenance costs reflecting recent experiences, due to increased maintenance expectations and costs. The trail is all about safety, and maintaining the trail is of utmost importance. The budget allows the trail to have staffing options between their part-time budget, and contracted labor (lawn services) from the maintenance budget. If the W&OD trail can't find qualified part-time staff, they will have the funds to contract out the labor.
- **Algonkian:** The Woodlands, the cottages, the golf course, and the waterpark all saw their revenue and net income dip from FY24 to FY25. Waterparks and the venue being down was expected, but even golf at Algonkian in FY25 was down a bit from FY24, which does not follow the other golf course trends.
- **Rust:** Our budgeting followed a similar approach as The Atrium at Meadowlark, however not as drastic. The revenues for the budget are budgeted below the actuals of FY24 and FY25. Rust Manor House continues to have restrictions that limit the number of events that can be hosted. At the same time, personnel expenses are higher for the budget than actuals due to the use of contract labor. The part-time budget is budgeted at a level to fulfill all the weddings, but if filling positions is ever an issue, they can utilize their contract labor services as an alternative.
- **Cameron Run:** The waterpark had the most severe reduction in revenues compared to the other waterparks. Revenue from FY24 to FY25 was down 21% while expenses remained constant. FY26 year-to-date data shows that the waterpark is bouncing back from the FY25 low. The budget for Cameron Run Waterpark is in between FY24 and FY25 actuals, and factoring in price increases the budget is closer to FY25 levels. Ice and Lights took a major slide during FY25 as well. The budget for Ice and Lights is back to FY24 levels, but actuals may fall short of this goal.
- **Occoquan:** The main factor of the discrepancy suggested on the chart is the debt service for The River View. The budget includes the principal amount of \$340,000 for FY27, however the debt service is not included in the FY24/25 actuals. The remaining differences come from the same

conservative revenue budgeting we have used at our other venues, with fully budgeted part-time personnel despite a large portion of staffing coming from contracted services. Additionally, we continue our work to address recent weakness in rental activity at The River View.



# MEMO

**To:** NOVA Parks Board of Directors

**Through:** Justin M. Wilson, Executive Director

**From:** Blythe Russian, Director of Park Operations  
Kevin Casalenuovo, Park Operations Superintendent

**Date:** May 13, 2026

**Re:** W&OD Trail Hours of Operation

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**Recommendation:** That the Board approve hours of operation expansion for the W&OD Trail (the Trail) to 5 AM to 9 PM effective June 1, 2026.

**Background:**

During the presentation on W&OD Trail Safety at the March Board meeting, staff presented various policy alternatives for consideration by the Board. As a follow-up, in April, the Board received a memo that provided additional detail and a suggested approach on each topic

After hearing from the Board, the Friends of W&OD, staff and users, we are recommending expanding the hours of operation of the Trail to a consistent 5 AM to 9 PM.

The current operating hours for the Trail west of Herndon is dawn to dusk, while the areas east of Herndon operate from 5 AM to 9 PM.

Implementation of this change requires several steps:

- Inform jurisdictions and law enforcement of new hours
- Update NOVA Parks website
- Update Friends of the W&OD and Trail Patrol
- Inform stakeholders who promote the Trail, including publications, Visitor Associations and Destination Marketing Organizations
- Review and update signage, as needed
- Update lighting standards for jurisdictions seeking to deploy new lighting

The Trail is a major commuter route for our region. Expansion of the hours of operation is an opportunity to standardize and reflect the actual use of the Trail.

**City of Alexandria**  
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Scott Price

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# Great Employees Delivering Memorable Experiences!

Monthly Report | April 2026



## ABOUT NOVA PARKS

In the late 1950's, the Northern Virginia Planning District Commission and a group of residents 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 residents, 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 12,500 acres of rolling and wooded Virginia countryside for you and created a priceless legacy for future generations.

**NOVA Parks' 2023-2027 Strategic Plan** provides goals and objectives that direct the work of the NOVA Parks team. The 5-year plan is organized into 5 Strategic Pillars. Each update in this report now includes the strategic pillar the staff work supports:

**(E) Strategic Pillar 1: Environment**

**(B) Strategic Pillar 2: Belonging**

**(T) Strategic Pillar 3: Our Team**

**(F) Strategic Pillar 4: Building the Future**

**(R) Strategic Pillar 5: Revenue & Efficiency**

# MONTHLY UPDATES FROM:

Justin Wilson, Executive Director  
Kelly Gilfillen, Marketing and Communications Director  
Anh Phan, Community Engagement Manager  
Blythe Russian, Operations Director  
Dustin Betthausen, 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, Historic Site Manager
<b>Algonkian</b>	Reid Nebergall, Park Manager
<b>Blue Ridge</b>	Ryan Corder, Park Manager
<b>Bull Run</b>	Eric Ferguson, Park Manager
<b>Bull Run Shooting Center</b>	Laurelyn Rawson, Park Manager
<b>Cameron Run</b>	Lee Hovis, Park Manager
<b>Carlyle House</b>	Rebecca Super, Historic Site Manager
<b>Cattail Property</b>	Ben Bilko, Park Manager
<b>Fountainhead</b>	Kate Irwin, Park Manager
<b>Meadowlark Botanical Gardens</b>	Jeff Hill, Botanical Gardens Manager
<b>The Atrium at Meadowlark</b>	Wayne Hager, Atrium Facilities Manager
<b>Occoquan</b>	Matthew Taylor, Park Manager
<b>The River View at Occoquan</b>	Hannah Fry, Hospitality & Event Sales Manager
<b>Piscataway</b>	Ben Bilko, Park Manager
<b>Pohick Bay Park</b>	Brad Jackson, Park Manager
<b>Potomac Overlook</b>	Rachel Doody, Park Manager
<b>Red Rock</b>	Ben Bilko, Park Manager
<b>Reservoir Park</b>	Matthew Murphy, 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

### Justin Wilson, Executive Director

- Presented FY 2027 Budget Proposal. (R)
- Met with City of Alexandria Stormwater team to discuss potential partnerships at Winkler Botanical Gardens. (B)
- Met with Falls Church City and Tinner Hill Heritage Foundation to discuss potential Phase 2 improvements to the Tinner Hill Heritage Site. (B, F)
- Continued pursuit of several land acquisition efforts, including in partnership with the Town of Vienna along the W&OD Trail (B, F)
- Partnered with Fairfax County Park Authority to welcome visiting park officials from Charlotte/Mecklenberg County. (B)
- Met with Loudoun County Transportation staff to advance Goose Creek Bridge Design and Engineering work. (B, F)
- Held introductory meetings with Fairfax Supervisor Dalia Palchik, Loudoun Supervisor Mike Turner and Town of Herndon leadership. (B, F)
- Recorded a message to be included in a customer service staff training video about the importance of ensuring customers' expectations are exceeded and their experiences are memorable. (T)



## Kelly Gilfillen, Marketing & Communications Director

- Attended The Virginia Parks and Recreation Society (VRPS) Director's Conference in Staunton, VA to discuss best practices and network with many local and state-wide parks and recreation leaders. (T)
- Met with Wedding Pro Account Manager to audit and optimize Event Venues' storefronts on the theKnot and Wedding Wire. (R)
- Met with Visit Alexandria's Vice President of Marketing & Research to discuss regional tourism data trends, tools, resources, legislation, best practices and training opportunities. (R, B)
- Reviewed prerelease demo of Design Portal updates that will allow multiple levels of approval within the platform and email notifications to reviewers. (R)
- Conducted Marketing & Communications planning meetings for Brickmakers Cafe & Catering, Event Venues & Catering, Climb Upton and Summer Camps. (R)
- Expanded existing 2026 Summer Camps communication plan to include print advertising with Alexandria Times, email advertising with Northern Virginia Magazine, additional email communications to unregistered customers, and social content highlighted camp sessions with capacity. (R)
- Coordinated a Customer Service video to be included in staff trainings. (T)



## Anh Phan, Community Engagement Manager

- Assisted with check-in for Women's History Month "Remember the Ladies" lecture on Revolutionary War Women at Carlyle House. (B)
- Connected park staff with national organizers at Turning Point Suffragist Memorial event Driving the Vote for Equality and debriefed with local groups during lunch. (B)
- Attended Friends of the W&OD board meeting regarding e-bike safety and trail detours/closures. Volunteered for future tabling events. (B)
- Set the agenda for Juneteenth and Turning Point Suffragist Memorial Event planning meetings, brainstormed ideas and roles of the involved organizations. (B)
- Assisted with Board member onboarding and arranged for introduction to HQ leadership staff. (T)
- Met with the Environmental Collective regarding a potential fishing derby for youth at a NOVA Parks location. (B)
- Attended Naturally Latinos Conference sponsored by Nature Forward and hiked Kenilworth National Park with Latinos Outdoors DMV area group and encouraged future events at NOVA Parks locations. (B)



## Blythe Russian, Director of Park Operations

- Hosted Mecklenburg County, NC leadership for lunch and presentation at Brickmakers Café. (B)
- Attended VRPS Director's Conference in Staunton, VA where I had the opportunity to network and work in small groups to discuss solutions to shared issues. (T)
- Attended a presentation on Beech Leaf Disease with Fairfax County and Bartlett Tree Service. (E)
- Participated in a planning session for Pohick Bay Regional Park to discuss ideas for future development. (R, F)
- Conducted interviews for Central Maintenance Administrator. (T)
- Met with Catering and Accounting staff to review taxable items for catered events. (R)
- Shared FY26 goals with park staff for feedback on goal highlights for budget process. (F)

## Kevin Casalenuovo, Park Operations Superintendent

- Attended a meeting with stakeholders supporting expanded equestrian trail opportunities in Loudoun County. (B)
- Continued coordination and finalization of the five-year bridge and culvert inspection process along the Washington and Old Dominion Trail to ensure safety and long-term asset management. (E, F)
- Participated in a capital project punch list meeting at Rust Sanctuary focused on improvements to the bathroom and kitchen facilities. (F)
- Attended Golf and Marina Committee meetings to support operational coordination and planning. (R)
- Participated in a planning meeting for Pohick Bay Regional Park and the Washington and Old Dominion Trail. (F)
- Attended a meeting with the marketing team to discuss upcoming events and promotional strategies. (R)
- Met with a vendor to explore potential support for wedding venue operations and enhancements. (R)
- Participated in a meeting to discuss point of sale systems for golf operations. (R)
- Attended a meeting at Brambleton Golf Course to review landscape plans and site enhancements. (F)
- Conducted rental inspections at Aldie Mill and Mount Defiance. (R)
- Assisted in developing a safety memorandum to the Board and a presentation regarding the Washington and Old Dominion Trail. (E, T)



## Dustin Betthausen, Park Operations Superintendent



- Attended a Pohick Bay Park planning meeting to revisit priorities and identify opportunities for future development. (F)
- The Superintendents participated in a “Players 1st” demo to explore the globally used platform for capturing golfer feedback, generating real-time insights, and benchmarking the overall golf experience. (R)
- Worked with representatives from the City of Alexandria to plan landscape restoration efforts within the Cameron Run parking lot. (E, F)
- Participated in Camps and Programs, Golf, and Marina Committee meetings to align operational priorities, review program offerings, and discuss strategies to enhance revenue, customer experience, and seasonal readiness. (F, R)
- Collaborated with management at Winkler Botanical Preserve to plan and coordinate logistics for hosting the monthly board meeting and site improvements. (F)
- Met with NOVA Parks Leadership, Capital Projects, City of Alexandria representatives, and adjacent property owners at Winkler Botanical Preserve to discuss stormwater management projects and planned improvements. (E, F)
- Coordinated with park staff and catering to host and lead an “About NOVA Parks” presentation and tour at Occoquan Regional Park for representatives from Fairfax County Park Authority and Mecklenburg County, NC. The session highlighted the agency’s funding model, self-supporting structure, and key revenue-generating facilities. Additional discussion included events, catering operations, light shows, and partnerships. (B, R)
- Worked with Community Engagement Manager Anh Phan to assess the feasibility of partnering with The Environmental Collective to host a fishing derby for underserved youth. (B)

## Dennis Charlton, Food and Beverage Manager

- Great Blue Heron catering provided services for 27 events. (R)
- Chef Kevin is looking forward to working in the newly renovated kitchen space at Rust Manor House. (F)
- Brickmakers Café has enjoyed the warmer weather and increased guest visitation. (R)
- Working with Chefs to substitute kitchen cleaners with natural cleaners. (E)

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

- Staff prepared the merchant mill for 2026 weekend tour season, which starts on April 4. (R, E)
- Conducted annual inspections of rental properties at Mt. Defiance and Aldie Mill parks. (R)
- Reviewed conceptual design and provided feedback for recirculating water system at Aldie Mill. (F)
- Participated in launch of Creek Keepers program at Gilbert’s Corner in partnership with the Goose Creek Association on March 7. (B, E)
- Participated in Marketing Overview Training on March 13. (T)
- Staff finalized public programs and special event calendar for 2026 season. (B, R)
- Staff booked spring school programs for May and June 2026. (B, R)
- Staff continued research and acquisition of images for new wayside signage on park grounds. (B)
- Participated in meetings with contractors bidding on new HVAC system at Mt. Zion Historic Park. (E)

## Algonkian – Reid Nebergall, Park Manager

- Staff continue to hire and train lifeguards in preparation for the upcoming summer season. (T)
- Completing preseason maintenance and safety checks to ensure all attractions are operational. (F)
- Play is picking up at the golf course as seasonal demand returns with improving weather conditions. (R)
- Beginning to receive and confirm bookings for golf tournaments and group outings. (R)
- Hosting tastings for prospective clients and preparing for upcoming weddings. (F)
- Event bookings are steadily increasing as peak event season approaches. (R)
- Staff is gearing up for the upcoming Persian New Year celebration with event planning underway. (B)
- Park operations are transitioning into the busy spring season with increased visitor activity. (R)

## Blue Ridge – Ryan Corder, Park Manager

- Park staff is removing invasive bamboo in the park. (E)
- Spring maintenance continues on park grounds and trails. (T)
- Park Specialist worked with Scout Troop to begin Eagle Scout Project to rebuild stage at the amphitheater. (T)

## Brambleton – Matthew Murphy, Park Manager

- Hosted our first in-house tournament of the season. “Birdie Bash” was a great day with a full field. (F, R)
- New sidewalks were installed from the parking lot providing a more polished customer journey. (F)
- Spring aerification of the Golf Course greens and tees. (E, F)
- Golf Course Superintendents are meeting with contractors to discuss new irrigation system installation. (F)
- Golf Committee met to discuss “Swing into Spring” promotion. (R)
- Staff are busy booking new and repeat outings for the Spring and Summer. (R)
- Staff are excited to add new retail merchandise to the pro shop on redesigned displays. (R)
- New ratings from the VSGA have been finalized and adopted. (F)

## Bull Run – Eric Ferguson, Park Manager

- Park staff attended 7 job fairs to hire waterpark and seasonal park staff. (T)
- Staff attended the aquatics and customer service committee meetings. (T)
- Park hosted annual CPR and First Aid class. (T)
- Partnered with NOVA Disc Golf to clean up the course and prepare for spring. (B)
- A Girl Scout is nearing completion of her project in the cemetery, which includes a clean-up, path installation, and interpretive audio and video. (B)



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

- Our archery concessionaire and BRSC hosted the annual VA State JOAD Indoor Archery Championship. There were several state records broken and many personal bests set by the FFX Archery Team. (B, T, F)
- Boy Scout groups are booking their spring events. (R)
- Staff is working with Central Maintenance on projects and connecting staff with contractors for other projects. (T)
- One instructor and two staff members attended the National Shooting Complex in Texas for the Collegiate Championships competing and coaching for JMU. One of our employees finished 47 out of 876 shooters with a 98 out of 100 in skeet! GREAT job everyone! (T)
- Spring corporate events are off and running. We currently have multiple groups booked every week this month and expect more to confirm. (R)



### I'll be back!

Friendly and knowledgeable staff, good range, and great prices for ammo, targets, and rentals. I'll definitely be coming here again.

[Google Review](#) ★★★★★  
March 2026 by E. Bangor

## Cameron Run – Lee Hovis, Park Manager

- Miniature Golf and Batting Cages reopened for the spring season. (R)
- The City of Alexandria will begin parking lot repairs resulting from the winter snow-removal season. (F)
- Replacement of batting cage backstops is in progress. (F)
- Seasonal hiring is 85% complete. (T)
- Restroom renovations are ongoing and scheduled for April completion. (F)
- Lifeguard training classes have begun. (T)
- Pool and facility cleaning and repairs continue. (R)

## Carlyle House – Rebecca Super, Park Manager

- Staff conducted volunteer trainings about working with objects and the French and Indian War. Both trainings were in anticipation of our annual interpretation for General Edward Braddock's residency at Carlyle House 271 years ago this month. (B)
- Staff changed the interpretation of the house. Carlyle House is a house at rest after the holidays until late March when General Edward Braddock and British troops arrived for a two week stay in 1755. The colonial governors are currently meeting in the dining room. (B)
- Carlyle hosted our last two winter lectures. The first was on the women of the American Revolution and was presented by Mary Cooper, our Education Curator and the second was on fashion of the 18th century and was presented by Emma Rowland a local historic clothing expert. (R)

## Cattail Property – Ben Bilko, Park Manager

- Staff will start mowing soon. (E)

## Fountainhead – Kate Irwin, Park Manager

- Park Specialist and Site Supervisor conducted first orientation and training session for seasonal staff with 16 employees attending. (T)
- Lord of Life Lutheran Church hosted a trail cleanup at Hemlock Overlook. (E)
- Roving Naturalist held a sold-out Night Hike with 30 participants. (B)
- Bell Pump & Well completed renovation of the upper well house. (F)
- Park Manager and Park Specialist attended marina committee meeting. (T)



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

- Electrical contractors are working throughout the gardens to revitalize the 30+ year old electrical grid that supports daily operations. (B)
- New directional signage with uplighting was installed in the parking lot. (B)
- Several staff members attended the CPR Course held at Algonkian. (T)
- The food truck received its state inspection. It is now in use at Meadowlark and is becoming a staple for guests to enjoy during their visit. (R)
- Meadowlark staff hosted a volunteer welcome back snack where we introduced new volunteers and welcomed back returners. It also allows each department the opportunity to set the vision and tone for the year ahead. (T)
- The Spring Egg Hunt started early this season, with over 300 guests participating in the opening weekend. The hunt will shift to a general garden theme the first week of April and extend throughout the month. (R)
- Manager met with several Eagle Scouts who are looking to establish their projects this spring. One Eagle scout completed his project. (B)
- Manager will attend Transworld Convention and Trade Show in St. Louis, MO, the largest convention dedicated to Christmas and holiday lighting with workshops and seminars. (T, R)

### So Blissful

Visited here last spring just because, and fell in love...it truly feels like you have left the known world and stepped into another dimension of magic and serenity throughout these gardens. They are absolutely breathtaking and so blissful. A beautiful escape from the busy-ness of NoVa living.

[Google Review](#)



March 2026 by LL

## Meadowlark Atrium – Wayne Hager, Atrium Facilities Manager

- The Atrium hosted 10 events. 1 Garden Club visit, 2 Celebration of life, 1 Birthday party, and 6 Weddings. (R)
- The Atrium hosted 12 event walk-throughs, 48 guided tours, a private tasting as well and a standard tasting, and 3 photography sessions. (R)
- We are seeing an increase in Pavilion and Gazebo rentals as weather conditions stabilize. (R)
- Atrium staff attended CPR and First Aid Training. (T)

## Occoquan – Matthew Taylor, Park Manager

- Hosted officials from the Fairfax County Park Authority and Mecklenburg County, NC, Parks & Recreation Department for lunch and a meeting about revenue-based recreation. Lunch was hosted at Brickmakers Café, followed by a presentation in the 1608 Room and a tour of the park. It was a great opportunity to share ideas and network with fellow parks and recreation professionals. (T, F)
- Hosted the “Driving the Vote for Equality Tour” featuring an original 1914 Saxon Roadster automobile, which was used in 1916 by two suffragists who travelled across the country to promote voting rights for women. For the 110th anniversary, the cross-country journey was replicated and Turning Point Suffragist Memorial was one of the many stops. Approximately 35 guests attended this event. (B)
- The batting cages opened for the season and experienced a busy opening weekend. Revenue was up 117% for opening weekend this year compared to last year. (R)
- Construction continues on the Brickmakers Café deck project. Deck furniture will be purchased soon. (F, R)
- The gravel parking lot, located at the back of the park, was renovated, including re-grading, leveling, and adding car stops and borders. These improvements helped expand parking to 116 spaces. (F)
- The park experienced a large crowd during the Eid holiday weekend. Many visitors took advantage of the nice weather and enjoyed picnicking and celebrations with family and friends throughout the park. (B)
- The US Coast Guard Auxiliary conducted a complimentary annual safety inspection of our kayak fleet. (R)



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

- Hosted two annual events this March, OWL Installation of Officers for the 4th year and Women’s History Month Breakfast for the 2nd year. They have already begun the process of booking for 2027. (B)
- The River View hosted 4 weddings, a menu tasting and nearly 50 tours. (R)
- 6 future events were booked in March. (F)

## Piscataway – Ben Bilko, Park Manager

- Farm lessee has started preparing fields for planting. (R)

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

- Pohick Bay Customer Service Champion attended Customer Service Level 2 instructor training at Temple Hall Farm. (B)
- Pohick Management Team attended the March Golf Committee meeting. The committee is finalizing Swing into Spring campaign details. Golf Superintendents presented their findings from this year's GCSAA Conference and Trade Show. (R)
- Grounds crew aerated greens and tees on the course, to help prevent soil compaction. (E)

### Keep up the great work!

Shaping up to be a fantastic spring - green and the course maintenance are doing an amazing job- keep it up!

[Google Review](#) ★★★★★  
March 2026 by S. Shaul

## Pohick Bay Park – Brad Jackson, Park Manager

- Hiring efforts are wrapping up for the Marina and Waterpark as their seasons near opening. (T)
- Park Manager & Assistant Managers have been working together to secure interns for the season. (T)
- Working with the Meadowlark Horticulturist team on improvements in plantings to our monarch waystation around the mini golf course and around the Eagles Nest Veranda. (E)
- Staff are conducting interviews for the Campground Supervisor vacancy. (T)
- Two lifeguard training classes were held, certifying over 40+ new and returning lifeguards for Pirate's Cove. (T)
- A volunteer clean-up was conducted by the Hazen & Sawyer Consulting and Engineering Firm along our trails and shoreline areas leading to fisherman's point. This clean-up gathered over 20 bags of litter. (E, B)
- Conducted meetings with external event hosts for a 5k/10k stand up paddleboard (SUP) race and fishing event in June to align with the free fishing weekend. (R)
- Exteriors of Comfort Station #3 & #4 were painted ahead of the season. (F)
- Shelters #1 & #2 are nearing completion on their renovation and will be ready for the start of the season. (F)
- Contract work is being completed at the pool on the tower slides. (F)
- Paving of the family campground, main office, maintenance yard, and staff and guest parking areas was completed, resulting in a fully paved site and an improved arrival experience for guests. (F)
- Coast Guard Auxiliary group completed the annual rental boat inspection ahead of the marina season. (B)



## Potomac Overlook – Rachel Doody, Park Manager

- Public programs hosted at Potomac Overlook in March included Frog Frenzy and Raptors of the Potomac and will be hosting the annual Spring Egg Hunt through the first week in April. (E)
- Public and private school field trip programs have started back up again for the year including the new Our Changing Ecosystem program which focuses on how the different native plants and animal species are interconnected. (E)
- Nature Center birthday parties and Girl Scout badge programs continue to fill the weekends at the Nature Center. (E)
- The Roving Naturalist hosted public program at a wide variety of parks this March including Slitherin' Salamanders at Bull Run, Woodpeckers at Algonkian, Thermal Night Hike at Fountainhead, Bagels and Birding at Meadowlark and an Owl Prowl at Algonkian. Three Cherry Blossom Photography workshops at Meadowlark will wrap up the month. (E)



## Red Rock – Ben Bilko, Park Manager

- The park has been busy with families and walkers on nice days. (E)

## Reservoir Park – Matthew Murphy, Park Manager

- Park Specialist led the Marina Committee Meeting at Fountainhead Regional Park. (T)
- New Site Supervisor started and has been quickly learning the ropes ahead of boat rentals opening on April 4th. (T)
- Park Specialist met with Roving Naturalist to schedule paddle programming for Reservoir Park and discuss programming enhancements at the Marina Committee level. (F)
- Continued interviewing and hiring for 2026 seasonal staff positions. (T)
- Utilized social media platforms to share informative content related to gizzard shad kill, responding to increased guest inquiries after full ice melt-off. (E)

### Nice little hidden gem

Great spot to walk around. Boardwalk and trails in excellent shape.  
Nice little hidden gem.

[Google Review](#) ★★★★★  
March 2026 by J. Conklin



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

- Rust Manor is partnering with Nature Forward on upcoming field trips with local public schools. (E)
- We continue to book weddings for this year who are opting for our pass-through service to bring in their ethnic food to be catered at their events. (B)
- Venue Coordinators attended the CPR training at The Woodlands. (T)
- Continue to meet with the other venues to implement Event Temple processes including workflows, tasting notes, walkthrough notes, and Banquet Event Orders. (R)

## Sandy Run – Kate Irwin, Park Manager

- Park Manager attended Virginia Scholastic Rowing Association board meeting. (B)
- We hosted the Polar Bear Regatta, the George's Cup, a dual regatta between Georgetown and Wisconsin, and the Walter Mess Regatta. (R)
- An Eagle Scout rebuilt motor racks in the engine room building. (B)
- We hosted the Peddie School (NJ) and University of Maryland for spring break training. (B)

## Temple Hall – Ben Bilko, Park Manager

- The team is preparing for opening on April 1st with spring cleaning, upgrades to play structures, and having the vet out for spring checkups on the animals. (T, F)
- Ben Lasko started as the new maintenance worker on March 23. (T)
- Legacy Farms started their summer program on March 17. (B)
- There are 11 birthday parties scheduled for April. (R)
- Temple Hall hosted Customer Service level 2 training on March 13. (T)

## Upton Hill – Evan McGurrin, Park Manager

- Staff attended the Arlington Teen Summer Job Fair. We connected with more than 60 prospective candidates and conducted interviews on the spot for lifeguard positions. (T)
- Continued collaboration on the Climb UPTon Spring Communications Plan, with a focus on promoting offerings to Annual Passholders, NOVA Parks Summer Camp participants, and campground guests. (R)
- Attended the Arlington County Park Steward Thank You Party on March 19th. Through Arlington Regional Master Naturalists and other volunteers, NOVA Parks received more than 3,000 volunteer hours last year between Upton Hill and Potomac Overlook. (E, B)
- The Ocean Dunes bathhouse interior renovation is nearing completion. Staff participated in a punch-out meeting with Exterior Medics following the installation of new siding on the building. (F)
- The waterslide tower at Ocean Dunes underwent a structural inspection as part of pre-season operational checks. (F)



## Winkler Botanical Preserve – Rachel Doody, Park Manager

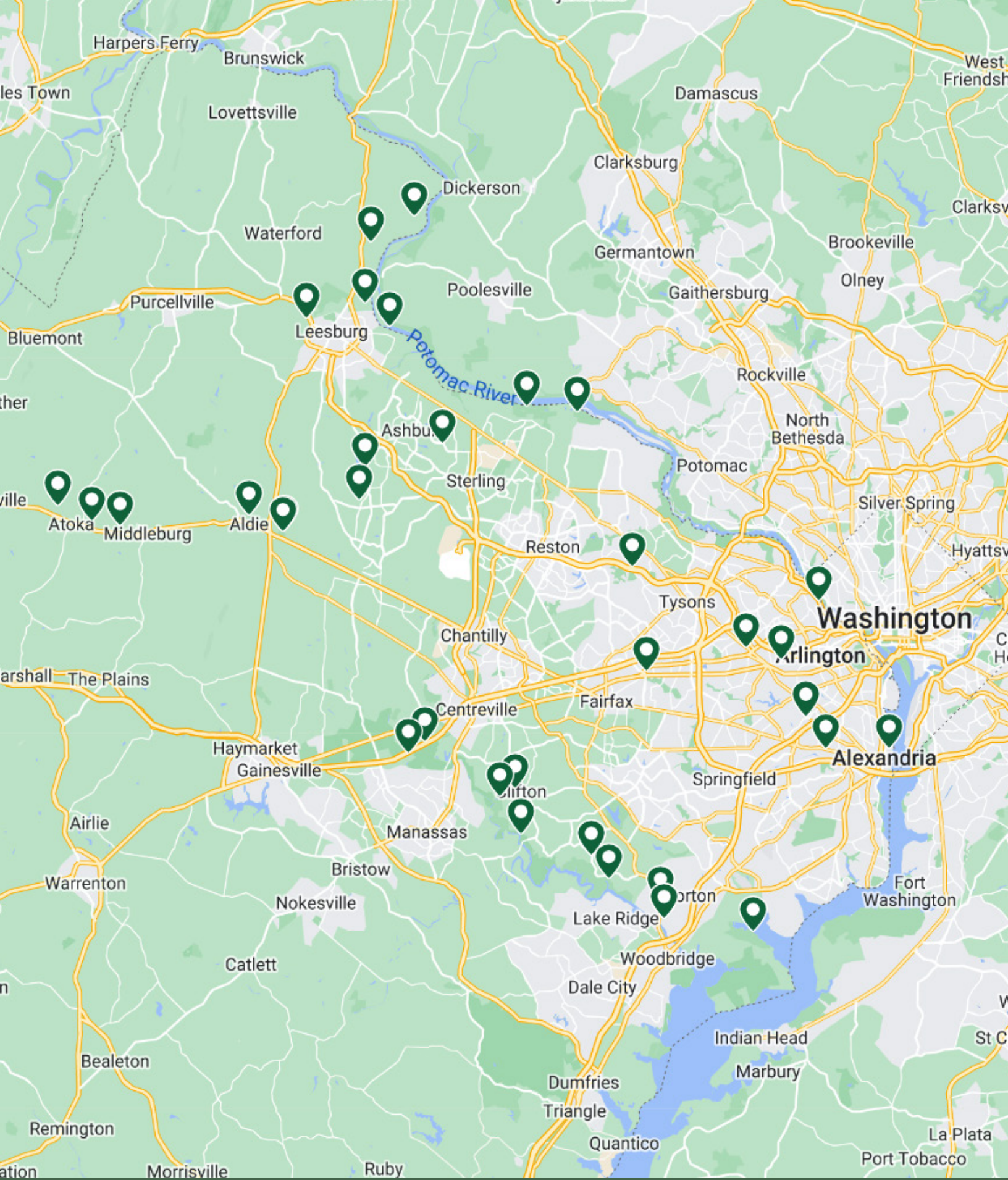
- Winkler hosted a Citizenship in Society Merit Badge program for 14 Scouting America Scouts and a First Aid merit badge for 7 more scouts. Multiple girl scout troops for a total of 42 scouts also came out to Winkler in March for the Letterboxing badge program. (E)
- Public programs offered in March included a free Book Hike through the park and a Tracks and Traces public program which sold out, and will end the month with the annual spring break free scavenger hunt, the Sasquatch Hunt, where participants will try to count the number of Sasquatches they find in the preserve to try to win cabin rental at Pohick Bay! (E)
- The spring season has begun with over 125 local public-school students coming out to Winkler for a field trip to learn about the local ecosystem and the plants and animals who live at the preserve. Winkler staff also presented at Alexandria City High School Summer Resource Fair about summer camp and school programming opportunities. (E)
- Winkler also hosted the March Board Meeting. (T)



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

- Met with Dominion Energy and Capital team to review upcoming tree work in Ashburn and Sterling. (E)
- Sent out 2 permit approvals for 2026 events to be held utilizing the W&OD Trail. (T)
- Met with Dominion Forestry Team to go over plans for a proposed wildflower meadow in Vienna. (E)
- Met with members of the Reston Bike Club to discuss potential partnerships and improving trail safety. (F)
- Worked with a contractor and the Capital team to oversee the Broad Run Bridge construction project. (F)







**Great Employees Delivering Memorable Experiences!**  
Monthly Report | May 2026



## ABOUT NOVA PARKS

In the late 1950's, the Northern Virginia Planning District Commission and a group of residents 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 residents, 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 12,500 acres of rolling and wooded Virginia countryside for you and created a priceless legacy for future generations.

**NOVA Parks' 2023-2027 Strategic Plan** provides goals and objectives that direct the work of the NOVA Parks team. The 5-year plan is organized into 5 Strategic Pillars. Each update in this report now includes the strategic pillar the staff work supports:

**(E) Strategic Pillar 1: Environment**

**(B) Strategic Pillar 2: Belonging**




**(T) Strategic Pillar 3: Our Team**
















**(F) Strategic Pillar 4: Building the Future**

**(R) Strategic Pillar 5: Revenue & Efficiency**

# PERFORMANCE SCORECARD

## QUARTERLY COMPARISON

 Positive Change  
 5% Decrease or Less  
 More Than 5% Decrease

		Jan-Mar 2025	Jan-Mar 2026	% Change		Cause for Change
<b>Aquatics</b>	GENERAL ADMISSIONS	N/A	N/A	N/A		
	YOUTH GROUP PARTICIPANTS	N/A	N/A	N/A		
	ANNUAL WATERPARK MEMBERSHIPS SOLD	33	43	30%		
<b>Campgrounds &amp; Cottages</b>	GROUP CAMPERS	307	235	-3%		
	NIGHTLY RENTALS <sup>1</sup>	2,599	2,711	4%		
<b>Catering &amp; Venues</b>	CATERED EVENTS AT VENUES <sup>2</sup>	56	39	-30%		Decreased bookings at Woodlands, Atrium and Rust.
	OTHER CATERED EVENTS	11	12	9%		
<b>Events</b>	EVENT ADMISSIONS <sup>3</sup>	5,533	5,823	5%		
<b>Golf</b>	18-HOLE GOLF ROUNDS	7,666	6,809	-11%		Courses closed for a month due to snow.
	SUBSCRIPTION MEMBERSHIPS	65	78	20%		
<b>Marina</b>	BOAT LAUNCHES	397	395	-1%		
	REGATTA COMPETITORS	1,758	1,916	9%		
	BOAT RENTALS	173	173	0%		
<b>Park Operation</b>	FEE PAYING NON-JURISDICTION VEHICLES	1,452	1,208	-17%		Bluebell visitors captured in March 2025 vs April 2026.
	PICNIC SHELTER & PAVILION RENTALS	103	110	7%		
	PARK ACTIVITY PARTICIPANTS <sup>4</sup>	8,406	9,977	19%		
<b>Programs &amp; Tours</b>	HISTORIC SITE TOUR ATTENDEES	900	793	-12%		Closures due to construction and weather.
	PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS <sup>5</sup>	4,407	4,797	9%		

1. Nightly rentals include campsites, cabins and cottages
2. Catered events include non-NOVA Parks events either catered by Great Blue Heron Catering or a pass-through fee was charged
3. Event admissions include cars for Festival of Lights and individual admissions for Winter Walk of Lights, Ice & Lights and Temple Hall Farm Pumpkin Patch

4. Park activities include mini golf, batting cage, and Climb UPTon participants and party participants
5. Program participants include attendees of all staff-led public programs, including camps, historic and environmental education and learn to shoot

# MONTHLY UPDATES FROM:

Justin Wilson, Executive Director  
Kelly Gilfillen, Marketing and Communications Director  
Anh Phan, Community Engagement Manager  
Blythe Russian, Operations Director  
Dustin Betthausen, Park Operations Superintendent  
Kevin Casalenuovo, Park Operations Superintendent  
Dennis Charlton, Food and Beverage Administrator

<b>Aldie Mill, Mt. Zion, and Gilbert's Corner</b>	Corwyn Garman, Historic 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>	Matthew Murphy, Park Manager
<b>Bull Run</b>	Eric Ferguson, Park Manager
<b>Bull Run Shooting Center</b>	Laurelyn Rawson, Park Manager
<b>Bull Run Marina</b>	Kate Irwin, Park Manager
<b>Cameron Run</b>	Lee Hovis, Park Manager
<b>Carlyle House</b>	Rebecca Super, Historic Site Manager
<b>Cattail Property</b>	Ben Bilko, Park Manager
<b>Fountainhead</b>	Kate Irwin, Park Manager
<b>Meadowlark Botanical Gardens</b>	Jeff Hill, Botanical Gardens Manager
<b>The Atrium at Meadowlark</b>	Amelia Carchia, Hospitality & Event Sales Manager
<b>Occoquan</b>	Matthew Taylor, Park Manager
<b>The River View at Occoquan</b>	Hannah Fry, Hospitality & Event Sales Manager
<b>Piscataway</b>	Ben Bilko, Park Manager
<b>Pohick Bay Park</b>	Brad Jackson, Park Manager
<b>Potomac Overlook</b>	Rachel Doody, Park Manager
<b>Red Rock</b>	Ben Bilko, Park Manager
<b>Reservoir Park</b>	Matthew Murphy, 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

### Justin Wilson, Executive Director

- Conducted 2026 All-Staff Meeting: Great team discussions about our next Strategic Plan. (T)
- Participated in groundbreaking for Sterling Boulevard W&OD Trail overpass. (F)
- Met with Virginia Department of Environmental Quality to develop new partnership to fund electric vehicle charging infrastructure at additional NOVA Parks locations. (E)
- Participated in W&OD Trail walk with Vienna Mayor Hardi and City of Falls Church residents. (B)
- Participated in a trail walk with Mayor Colbert of Vienna and Dominion Energy to discuss future plantings. (E)
- Participated in the press conference with the Korean American Cultural Committee leadership to announce the upcoming Korean Bell Garden celebration at Meadowlark Botanical Gardens. (B)
- Held several meetings with UOSA leadership to arrange for external funding of Cub Run Bridge Replacement. (F)
- Hosted Virginia Department of Historic Resources staff to tour NOVA Parks African-American cemetery sites. (B)
- Held discussions with Fairfax community groups to develop new partnerships for invasive management in our parks. (E)
- Toured NRPA building with Loudoun County staff. (R)
- Held meeting with Arlington County operations staff to refine collaboration during snow events on the W&OD Trail. (R)
- Toured a potential land acquisition. (F)
- Participated in the 2026 Land Conservation & Greenways Conference in Newport News. (E, T)



# UPCOMING BOARD EVENTS

NOVA Parks Board members are invited to attend and participate with local elected officials, stakeholders and members of the public in the following upcoming events.

Board members who plan to attend these events should RSVP in advance to [jwilson@nvrpa.org](mailto:jwilson@nvrpa.org).

MAY 2026	
<b>SAT 16</b>	<b>KOREAN BELL GARDEN ANNUAL CELEBRATION</b> 11:00am-12:30pm Meadowlark Botanical Gardens
<b>MON 25</b>	<b>CITY OF FALLS CHURCH MEMORIAL DAY PARADE</b> 2-3pm City of Falls Church Park Avenue to Little Falls Street

JUNE 2026	
<b>SAT 13</b>	<b>5TH ANNUAL BULL RUN JUNETEENTH COMMEMORATION</b> 3-5pm Bull Run Regional Park
<b>FRI 19</b>	<b>JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION</b> Noon-5pm Tinner Hill Historic Site

JULY 2026	
<b>SAT 4</b>	<b>CITY OF FAIRFAX INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADE</b> 10am-noon Downtown Fairfax

AUGUST 2026	
<b>WED 26</b>	<b>WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY</b> 10am-noon Occoquan Regional Park

## Kelly Gilfillen, Director of Marketing & Communications

- Collaborated with NOVA Parks Historian Paul McCray and Howard University Historian to produce a video about the 1944 student bus protest and Caroline Ware's involvement that helped overturn Jim Crow law. (B)
- Attended and photographed staff at the Annual All Staff Meeting at The Woodlands at Algonkian. (T)
- Conducted interviews for Digital Marketing Specialist position. (T)
- Continued to execute deliverables for Marketing & Communications plans for Waterparks, Brickmakers Cafe, Brickmakers Catering, Event Venues & Great Blue Heron Catering, Climb Upton and Summer Camps. (R)
- Collaborated with Food and Beverage Administrator and Catering Administrative Assistant to photograph new waterpark concessions items. Worked with Operations to finalize and produce waterpark menus and signs. (R)
- Coordinated FOX5 Field Trip at Meadowlark Botanical Gardens. Park Manager Jeff Hill represented NOVA Parks very well! (R)



## Anh Phan, Community Engagement Manager

- Attended the 5th annual GMU Native American Indigenous Alliance (NAIA) Pow Wow and introduced myself in person to their student-board of officers. (B)
- Met with Ana Ka'ahanui of Capital Nature and discussed indigenous Hawaiian culture, forest bathing and naturalist activities. She is actively programming with Matt Felperin, NOVA Parks' Roving Naturalist. (B)
- Attended the Arlington Forestry and Natural Resources Commission meeting, reconnecting with some friends in ARMN and Nature Forward. (E)
- Attended the Garden Club of Fairfax dedication ceremony of the new permanent kaleidoscope across from the Children's Garden at Meadowlark Botanical Garden. (B)
- Organized planning calls for the Juneteenth and Women's Equality Day events this summer. (B)
- Attended Korean media press conference for Korean Bell Garden at Meadowlark Botanical Garden. (B)



## Blythe Russian, Director of Park Operations

- Worked with POS Systems Specialist to initiate a plan to convert boat and RV storage from a permit system to memberships. (R)
- Conducted interviews for Central Maintenance Assistant Administrator and Hospitality and Event Sales Manager. (T)
- Participated in end-of-season feedback meetings with Vivenu to continue to improve the light show online ticketing system for next year. (R)
- Scheduled the first Maintenance Roundtable with Park Managers and Central Maintenance Administrator with the primary focus of defining and improving communication. (T)
- Provided FY26 highlights and FY27 cost center goals for Park Managers to review as a final step in the FY27 budget process. (F)
- Worked with Food & Beverage Administrator to finalize the beverage contract. (R)
- Attended meeting with soccer associations to discuss future plans for Kincheloe field. (F)
- Celebrated Kenneth Tapscott and Parker Derflinger's dedication and increased workload during back-to-back maternity and paternity leaves at their park. (T)

## Dustin Betthausen, Park Operations Superintendent

- Conducted a walk-through of the Ocean Dunes renovation to confirm alignment with project scope and ADA requirements. (F)
- Worked with committee leads to develop and finalize the annual staff meeting presentation, highlighting 2025 accomplishments and future opportunities. (T)
- Met with the Director of Operations and representatives from VISTA Soccer Club and Southwestern Youth Association to discuss current and future use of the Kincheloe Soccer Complex. (F)
- Conducted interviews and completed the hiring process for the Hospitality and Event Sales Manager position at The Atrium at Meadowlark. Congratulations, Amelia Carchia. (T)
- Conducted a biennial walk-through at Hemlock Overlook to identify improvement needs and clarify maintenance roles. (F)
- Attended Garden Club of Fairfax's dedication ceremony for the donation of a Kaleidoscope at Meadowlark. (B)
- Worked with multiple parks to develop and refine FY27 capital equipment requests in support of operational needs and long-term planning. (F)
- Attended meetings with park staff and Vivenu ticketing representatives to evaluate performance, identify areas for improvement, and plan enhancements for the 2026 light show season. (R)
- Worked with Cameron Run management to plan and execute maintenance projects, including landscape plans and site improvements. (F)
- Worked with Cameron Run on a plan to increase weekday youth group pavilion rental and with Meadowlark on opportunities to increase off-peak visitation and revenue for their light show. (R)
- Worked with staff and Marketing to develop a signage and promotional plan to support Brickmakers Catering at Occoquan and promote catered pavilion events across parks. (R)
- Worked with the Camps and Programs Committee to coordinate three Title I field trips for the spring season, with contingency planning for fall opportunities if spring dates are not feasible. (B)



## Kevin Casalenuovo, Park Operations Superintendent

- Attended a planning meeting for Brickmakers and catering operations. (R)
- Participated in a meeting regarding the Algonkian Cottage renovation project. (F)
- Conducted a kickoff meeting with bridge and culvert engineers for the W&OD Trail and other regional park sites. (E, F)
- Evaluated trail conditions at Seneca and Reservoir Parks to inform maintenance and future projects. (E, F)
- Attended Event Committee and Golf Committee meetings. (R)
- Participated in a site walk along the W&OD Trail with the Town of Vienna Mayor and Dominion Energy to review planting locations. (E, B)
- Coordinated with staff on capital equipment and capital project planning. (F, R)
- Recognized Eric Ferguson on his transition to Temple Hall Farm following his leadership at Bull Run. (T)
- Recognized Ben Bilko on his promotion from Temple Hall Farm to lead the Central Maintenance Department. (T)
- Attended and participated in the agency-wide staff meeting. (T, B)
- Attended the groundbreaking ceremony for the Sterling Boulevard Overpass, which will improve conditions for W&OD Trail users. (F, E)

## Dennis Charlton, Food and Beverage Administrator

- The new Hospitality Suite Package at The River View, which includes breakfast items, beverages and lunch provided by Brickmakers Café, has been a popular add-on for weddings. (R)
- Collaborated with Marketing on a photo shoot to feature basket and pizza menu options for the concession boards at the waterparks. (T)
- Food and beverage services were provided for 32 events this month, including 3 local high school proms at The River View. Three more proms will take place next month and we are developing an enhanced prom-focused package for next year. (R, F)

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

- Aldie Mill offered free weekend tours of the merchant mill, welcoming 120 adult and 28 child visitors. (R)
- Historic Site Manager promoted spring programs and special events by distributing flyers and updating park webpages and social media channels. (B, R)
- Met with contractor to review conceptual designs and provide feedback on stabilization and the recirculating water system at Aldie Mill. (R, F)
- Performed maintenance on milling equipment, cleaning and lubricating gears and the eastern waterwheel axle. (R, F)
- Collaborated with volunteer Bryan Robbins to develop a new Battle of Middleburg tour for Mt. Defiance Historic Park. (B, R)
- Obtained quotes for tree work at Mt. Defiance Historic Park and coordinated clearing of overgrown trees and shrubs around historic structures. (R, F)
- Met with the Mt. Defiance tenant to define the scope of work required to uphold lease terms. (R, F)
- Participated in contractor meetings for bids on the new HVAC system at Mt. Zion Historic Park. (E)
- Facilitated the use of the church at Mt. Zion Historic Park for meetings hosted by the Piedmont Environmental Council and the Aldie Heritage Association. (R, F)

## Algonkian – Reid Nebergall, Park Manager

- Spring leagues have resumed with strong participation, increasing overall course activity and revenue. (R)
- Recent aeration has been completed successfully, with the course healing well and conditions continuing to improve. (F)
- Preparations for the upcoming season are underway, including completion of key pool repairs and facility maintenance. (R)
- Seasonal staffing efforts have been successful, with a strong team in place ahead of opening. (T)
- Park usage has increased significantly with improved weather, driving higher visitation and engagement. (B)
- Hosted a well-attended community Egg Hunt event. (R)
- Participated in the City Nature Challenge, enhancing community involvement and environmental awareness. (E)
- The updated catering menu has been well received, contributing to positive guest feedback. (R)
- Successfully hosted the 2026 NOVA Parks All Staff Meeting, showcasing the venue's capabilities. (T)



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

- Friends of Ball's Bluff members led volunteers for the annual park day workday on April 25. (B, E)
- Loudoun Wildlife removed garlic mustard and invasives along the bluff for the 5th year in a row. (E, B)

## Blue Ridge – Ryan Corder, Park Manager

- Park staff continue to work on removing invasive bamboo in the park. (E)
- Renewed mowing and restroom agreements for the 2026 season. (R)
- Hosted the first two group camping reservations of the season. (T)

## Brambleton – Matthew Murphy, Park Manager

- Hosted 3 large outings: Forever Young, RiverDogs, and Leesburg Moose Lodge. (F, R)
- Hosted multiple smaller tee time outings and our 11 Golf Leagues are in full swing! (F, R)
- Planted native plants around the golf course as part of a project led by volunteer Larry Messner with assistance from volunteers from our Monday Ladies league and staff. (E)
- Completed parking lot striping. (F)
- Golf Committee launched its first marketing campaign of the year, "Swing into Spring". (F, R)



### My experience at Brambleton Golf Course has been good so far.

They offer a wide range of practice facilities and the course is in great shape!

[Google Review](#)



April 2026 by W. Stanek



## Bull Run – Eric Ferguson, Park Manager

- Special Events Manager attended VRPS Leadership Training Institute. (T)
- Badges have arrived for the new Junior Ranger program that is rolling out this spring. (B)
- Girl Scout completed her Gold Award project by installing a path through the Harris Cemetery. (F)
- Aquatics staff attended lifeguard instructor training and taught the first lifeguard class of the season. (T)
- The park was extremely busy during bluebell peak bloom during the first two weeks of April. (E)
- Many capital projects are underway, including the waterpark building wall replacement, waterline addition in the campground, and chimney sealing. (R, F)
- Partnered with NOVA Disc Golf to complete a course cleanup workday. (B)

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

- Park staff and Risk Manager attended a half-day conference hosted by the ATF. The topics included maintaining an Acquisition & Disposition Log, background checks and upcoming changes. (F, R)
- Working with a contractor to replace the roof of the Bird Barn & Lean-to storage building. (F)
- Hiring spring/ summer staff is underway for 3 or 4 additional Trappers/Range Safety Officers. (T, F)
- Spring corporate groups have been strong so far this month, with groups ranging from 5 to 80+ participants. (T, F, R)



### I definitely recommend taking a lesson

Annette's instruction on safety, parts of the shotgun, and proper form were clear and thorough. If you're looking to get into shooting and get more confident with it, I definitely recommend taking a lesson with her!

[Google Review](#) ★★★★★ April 2026 by G P

## Bull Run Marina – Kate Irwin, Park Manager

- Friends of the Occoquan hosted their annual spring reservoir cleanup with 13 volunteers participating. (E)
- Finalized the MOU with South Lakes Crew for use of the facility for scholastic rowing and shell storage. (R)

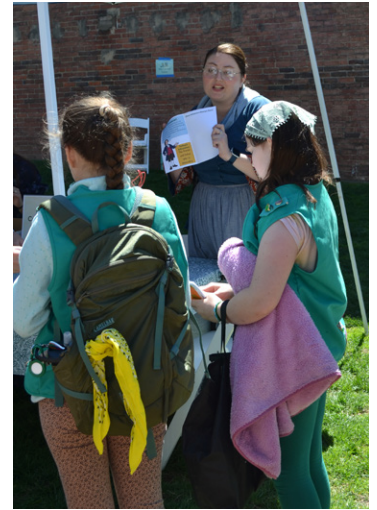


## Cameron Run – Lee Hovis, Park Manager

- 1000+ mini golf border bricks have been sured. (F)
- Batting box and safety lines were repainted. (F)
- Participated in the City Nature Challenge. (E)
- Hiring continues for the spring and summer seasons with approximately 90% of positions filled. (T)
- Main building roof repairs and changing room floor project were completed. (F)
- Lifeguard training classes continue in preparation for the waterpark season. (T)
- Pool surface cleanings for the catch pool and wave pool have been completed. (F)
- Park Manager completed the Ellis & Associates Lifeguard Instructor course. (T)
- The Food and Beverage Retail Manager attended the Virginia Recreation and Park Society's Leadership Training Institute. (T)
- Repairs and reconditioning of themed palm trees and kiddie pool tile repair projects were completed. (F)
- The blue water slide reconditioning project is complete. The project included cleaning, caulking and gel coating the slide path. (F)
- Staff are evaluating opportunities to enhance Ice & Lights for 2026 to improve guest experience and overall operations. (R, F)
- Precision Ice Rinks has scheduled a spring visit to inspect and inventory parts that may be needed for the 2026 event. (F)

## Carlyle House – Rebecca Super, Historic Site Manager

- Carlyle House commemorated the 271st arrival and stay of General Edward Braddock with its annual *Braddock Day* with house tours and programming. (B)
- Girl Scouts earned their *Playing the Past* badge and writing with quill pens was an unexpected hit with child and adult visitors. (B)
- A reunion of past staff and volunteers continued the 50th anniversary programming. (B)
- Hosted field trips from St. Louis Catholic and the Lake Anne School Group. (B)
- Programming this month included the first historical fiction book club, Yoga on the Magnolia Terrace, and a fun night of Revolutionary War Bingo. (B)
- Contractors fixed several locations of the brick sidewalks in the garden. (F)



## Cattail Property – Ben Bilko, Park Manager

- Mowing and landscaping have commenced for the season. (E)
- Planning and Development visited the property to prepare plans to open the park to the public. (F)

## Fountainhead – Kate Irwin, Park Manager

- Virginia Happy Trails Running Club hosted the Bull Run 50 Miler with 234 runners. (B)
- Friends of the Occoquan hosted their annual spring reservoir cleanup with 34 volunteers. (E)
- Burgandy Farm Day School hosted a spring park cleanup with an environmental lesson for 19 students. (E)
- The US Coast Guard conducted a safety inspection of rental boats. (R)



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

- Electrical upgrades were completed throughout the gardens providing stable, reliable power. (F)
- Additional Capital Projects are underway now that the weather has improved. (F)
- The programming team hosted 13 guided tours with group sizes ranging from 20 to 300 guests. (B)
- The self-guided Spring Scavenger Hunt has served over 1,900 kids thus far. (R)
- The Horticulture team held an invasive pull day on Earth Day around Lake Lena. (E)
- Northern Virginia Azalea Society of America conducted a plant sale promoting local cultivars from the Klimavicz Legacy Garden. (B)
- The Northern Virginia Bonsai Society hosted their annual Spring Bonsai Show and workshop. (B)
- Park Manager gave remarks at a ceremony recognizing the donation of a Kaleidoscope sculpture by the Garden Club of Fairfax. (F)
- The food truck continues to perform well, providing guests with refreshments on our busiest days. (R)
- In collaboration with the Marketing Department, Garden Manager hosted FOX5 for several live video interviews in the gardens promoting spring and summer programming. (T)



## Meadowlark Atrium – Amelia Carchia, Hospitality & Event Sales Manager

- The Atrium hosted 11 weddings in April. (R)
- The Atrium team conducted 40 scheduled tours, 12 walkthroughs for upcoming events, and 2 menu tastings. (R)
- There were 7 outdoor rentals of the Pavillion and Gazebos throughout the gardens along with 7 engagement photo shoots. (R)
- The Atrium team attended the Events Committee meeting. (T)
- Wayne Hager retired from The Atrium after 27 years of service; the Garden Manager, Operations Superintendent, and Director of Operations conducted interviews to fill the vacancy. (T)

## I had the chance to photograph a wedding at the Atrium at Meadowlark Botanical Gardens in September of 2025.

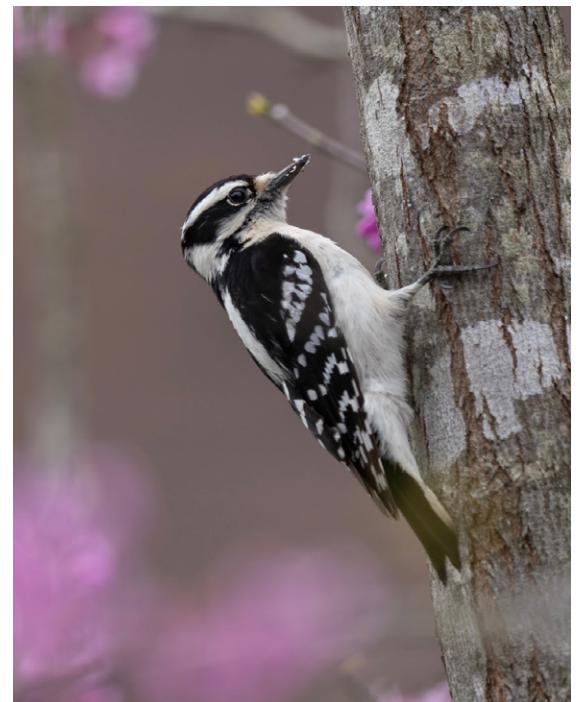
From a photographer's standpoint, this place just works, tons of natural light in the atrium, clean sightlines, and a ton of variety within a short walk of the main space. You can move from the tall grasses to the garden paths, greenhouse, and pillars without losing momentum on the timeline, which makes the day feel smooth for everyone.

[Google Review](#) ★★★★★

March 2026 by Aidan -  
Benson Park Photography

## Occoquan – Matthew Taylor, Park Manager

- Hosted three events in the park including a 5k with a pavilion rental, kayak fishing tournament, and a family fun day field rental. (R)
- Hosted two volunteer groups for park cleanup including the Friends of the Occoquan (FOTO) and students from George Mason University. (E)
- Hosted three guided tours at the Turning Point Suffragist Memorial. (B)
- Completed repairs to the historic brick kiln, including remounting a fallen metal strap and welding new braces to strengthen structural integrity and prevent future damage. (E)
- Despite inclement weather, a small crowd visited the park for the Persian New Year (Sizdah Be-dar). (B)
- Park management finalized request submissions for FY27 capital equipment budget. During the process, the team collaborated to discuss needs throughout the park, prioritized selections, and requested estimates from various distributors and manufacturers. (F)



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

- The River View hosted a client menu tasting, 3 proms, 5 weddings and a gala in April. (R)
- Conducted 45 venue tours and hosted Late Night Tours to encourage visitation beyond normal hours. (B)
- In April, 7 event contracts were completed, and 5 new contracts were issued. (F)

## Piscataway – Ben Bilko, Park Manager

- Visitation is up due to warmer weekend weather. (R)

## Pohick Bay Park – Brad Jackson, Park Manager

- The aquatics team completed preseason lifeguard classes for the 2026 season, allowing hiring to conclude earlier and providing additional time for facility setup. (T)
- The pools have been drained, cleaned and filled in preparation for May operations, allowing time for chemical balancing and final setup. (R)
- Renovations to Shelters 1 and 2 were completed in time for the start of the spring rental season. (E)
- We welcomed Campground Supervisor Garrett Harrison to the team in advance of the peak summer season to support operations. (T)
- Pohick Bay and Bull Run Regional Parks launched a new Jr. Ranger program, where guests can earn up to eight badges through site-specific, nature-based activities highlighting local wildlife and providing engaging educational experiences for children and families. (F)
- EX2 Adventures hosted their annual Back Yard Burn Spring Race with over 300 registrants, providing a great opportunity for guests to explore the park. (R)
- Quantico Orienteering Club held their spring event with over 100 participants exploring Pohick Bay's unique topography. (R)
- The mentor program mid-way “Meet-Up” was held on April 29, with staff from across the agency, including Assistant Manager Nathan Dorr, connecting and reviewing program successes. (T)
- The wading pool at Pirate's Cove received a new Diamond Brite coating ahead of the season. (E)
- Central Maintenance Carpentry Crew installed a new countertop at Comfort Station 3 and constructed custom walls around a main feature at Pirate's Cove Waterpark, delivering both projects on an expedited timeline and exceeding expectations. (T)



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

- Pohick Bay's Customer Service Champion hosted a Level 1 Customer Service Training at the Eagle Nest for Marina staff. (F)
- Pohick Bay course manager helped with Pool Cleaning at Pirates Cove Waterpark. (T)
- Collaborated with the golf committee and launched the first marketing campaign of the year, “Swing into Spring.” (F, R)

## Potomac Overlook – Rachel Doody, Park Manager

- The annual Spring Egg Hunt welcomed over 450 participants, many of whom enjoyed new photo-op stations along the bunny trail. (R)
- Additional programs included the next installment of the Art in the Park series, nature photography, and a Night Hike and Campfire focused on evening observations for the City Nature Challenge. (E)
- New SOL-based programs included Signs of the Season, Habits, and Our Changing Ecosystem. Girl Scout Troops also came out for an Animal Habitat program, and the brand-new Bugs badge themed program. (E)
- The mentor program mid-way “Meet-Up” was held at Potomac Overlook and included a high-energy goal setting and motivation activity, providing six mentor-mentee pairs with tools to develop and refine personal goals for FY27. (T)
- The Roving Naturalist hosted public programs across multiple parks in April, including *Bluebell Hikes*, photo workshops, a *Slitherin’ Salamanders* at Bull Run; a *Wildflower Walk* at Balls Bluff; a meteor shower program at Gilbert’s Corner, while also supporting a *Nature Photography* class at Potomac Overlook and leading a private *Intro to Bird ID* class for the Northern Virginia Bird Alliance. (E)
- For this year’s City Nature Challenge, the Roving Naturalist led Nature ID walks at nine different NOVA Parks properties including Balls Bluff, Meadowlark, Algonkian, Fountainhead, Pohick Bay campground, Gilberts Corner, Webb Sanctuary, Rust, and Bull Run. (E)



**I learned a lot and hope this will spur me on to improve my skills** and I love the nature angle as I really hadn’t considered that as something I could do. I am grateful for these classes and all that NOVA parks does to bring a little joy into our lives - especially when budgets are tight.

April 2026 by S. Bruns via Email

## Red Rock – Ben Bilko, Park Manager

- The park experienced strong visitation from families and picnickers. (B)



## Reservoir Park – Matthew Murphy, Park Manager

- As part of the City Nature Challenge, staff demonstrated use of iNaturalist and promoted the challenge on social media platforms. (E)
- Staff completed various trail projects, including deadfall clean up on the west side of the reservoir. (E)
- Collected summer camp requests from Crew Teams and worked with teams from Algonkian and Sandy Run to ensure consistency and equitable pricing structure. (B)
- Park Specialist worked with Marina Committee to finalize group rental webform edits for each park, which will be standardized across all sites. (T)
- A staff workday included removing weeds and non-filtering plants from bio-retention rock beds. (E)
- Park Specialist was interviewed by Loudoun Times Mirror reporter to include Reservoir Park in a special summer recreation feature. (B)
- Planning for Phase 4 of trail sustainability improvements continues with FINA Trails. (E)

### Such a beautiful park.

Peaceful and serene

[Google Review](#) ★★★★★  
April 2026 by M A



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

- Rust Manor is excited for Amelia Carchia, Venue Coordinator, to grow with the organization and excel in her new role as Hospitality and Event Sales Manager at The Atrium. (B)
- Gearing up for high school volunteers to help with invasive species. (E)
- The new catering kitchen is up and running, and the dishwasher will be installed next week to complete the project. (F)
- Continuing to host multiple tours on weekdays and weekend mornings to ensure we are hitting our revenue goals. (R)



## Sandy Run – Kate Irwin, Park Manager

- Hosted multiple regattas, including the Darrell Winslow, Ted Phoenix, Occoquan Collegiate Invite, Ryz Obuchowicz, Mason Invite, Al Urquia, and Mid-Atlantic Collegiate Club Championships. (R)
- Staff worked on budget goal highlights, capital equipment requests, and capital equipment inventory. (T)
- Northern Virginia Rowing Club hosted their annual spring open house. (B)

## Temple Hall – Ben Bilko, Park Manager

- Specialist and Crew Leader renewed their First Aid and CPR training. (T)
- Started the season with the Annual Egg Hunt. (R)
- Conducted five field trips for local schools and preschools. (R)
- Thirteen birthday parties were hosted at Temple Hall in April. (R)
- New signage was added to the farmyard to educate visitors about our animals. (F)
- The team officially said farewell to Ben Bilko as park manager but are excited to welcome Eric Ferguson to the role. (T)
- Planning a children's garden with help from Legacy Farms. (B, F)



### **Temple Hall Farm was such a fun and easy spot for a birthday party.**

There's a great mix of activities for all ages, from animals and open play areas to wagon rides and plenty of space for kids to run around. Everything felt well organized and easy to navigate, which made the day smooth for both kids and adults. It was the kind of place where kids stay entertained the whole time without needing much direction, and parents can actually relax a bit. Great option if you're looking for an outdoor, kid-friendly birthday spot with lots to do or just a fun family outing.

[Google Review](#) ★★★★★ May 2026 by K B

## Upton Hill – Evan McGurrin, Park Manager

- Members of the Climb UPTon team obtained Clic-iT safety gear maintenance training and certifications. (T)
- Held Staff training for batting cages to implement strategies for maintenance and upkeep. (T)
- Completed seasonal hiring of lifeguards and attendants for Ocean Dunes Waterpark, building a team of over 50 staff members. (T)
- Completed improvements to the mini golf course including repairs to the course turf, walkways, and mulching. (E)
- Transitioned Big Splash Birthday Parties and Swim Lessons to Fare Harbor to enhance the guest booking experience, cross promote Climb UPTon and simplify adding on climbing opportunities. (R)

## Winkler Botanical Preserve – Rachel Doody, Park Manager

- Winkler hosted the second annual Sasquatch Hunt where park guests were challenged to count over 50 sasquatches hidden around the preserve with the winner receiving a free weekend cabin rental at Pohick Bay. (E)
- Public school field trip programs continued throughout April, spanning six days and serving three different schools. (E)
- Winkler partnered with the Arlington Regional Master Naturalists and the Northern Virginia Conservation Trust to conduct a bioblitz for the City Nature Challenge, with seven participants documenting plant and animal species in the preserve over a two-hour period using iNaturalist. (E)
- New part-time Roving Naturalist, Meghan Rohr, began work at Winkler, supporting the City Nature Challenge walk, public book hike, and multiple Winkler Botanical Preserve field trips. She also visited additional park properties, met staff, and planned a variety of programs across sites. (T, E)



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

- Met with Dominion Energy, Vienna Mayor, and Capital team to review Vienna planting plan. (F)
- Attended groundbreaking ceremony for the Sterling Boulevard bridge project. (F)
- Approved 1 additional permit for 2026 event to be held along the W&OD Trail. (T)
- Met with Dominion Forestry Team to review plans for proposed replanting in Reston. (E)
- Met with Capt. Mat Bessler of Loudoun County Sheriff's Office to discuss trail safety and E-bike usage. (F)
- Coordinated several paving projects with contractor. (F)
- Coordinated trail cleanup efforts with several organizations for Celebrate Trails Day. (B)



