

Springdale Regional Park - Proposed Acquisition

NOVA Parks (Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority) has applied for a Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grant to acquire approximately 128 acres adjacent to its 150 acre Springdale Regional Park in northern Loudoun County (shown on aerial map below). The Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation has advanced NOVA Parks' grant application to the second stage of the LWCF process. NOVA Parks is seeking public comment on the acquisition proposal.

Written comments for the record must be sent to:

NOVA Parks
Planning & Development
5400 Ox Road
Fairfax Station, VA 22039-1022

or submitted by email to plandev@nvrpa.org, and must be received by 4:30 p.m. on September 20, 2019. For more information, contact Dan Iglhaut at dighaut@nvrpa.org or 703-359-4628.

The 128 acre parcel is located between the Potomac River and Route 15, approximately 1.5 miles south of the Point of Rocks bridge. The property is 5.5 miles north of NOVA Parks' Temple Hall Farm Regional Park and 8 miles from White's Ford Regional Park. Maryland Department of Natural Resources' Heater's Island Wildlife Management Area sits opposite the site's Potomac River shoreline.

NOVA Parks' goals associated with the proposed park are to preserve the property's open space and for the public to engage in passive recreation activities, such as hiking, picnicking and observing the natural landscape. The current action is for acquisition only. NOVA Parks may install hiking trails, benches, picnic tables, park identification and interpretive signs. The park would include a portion of the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail.

Background

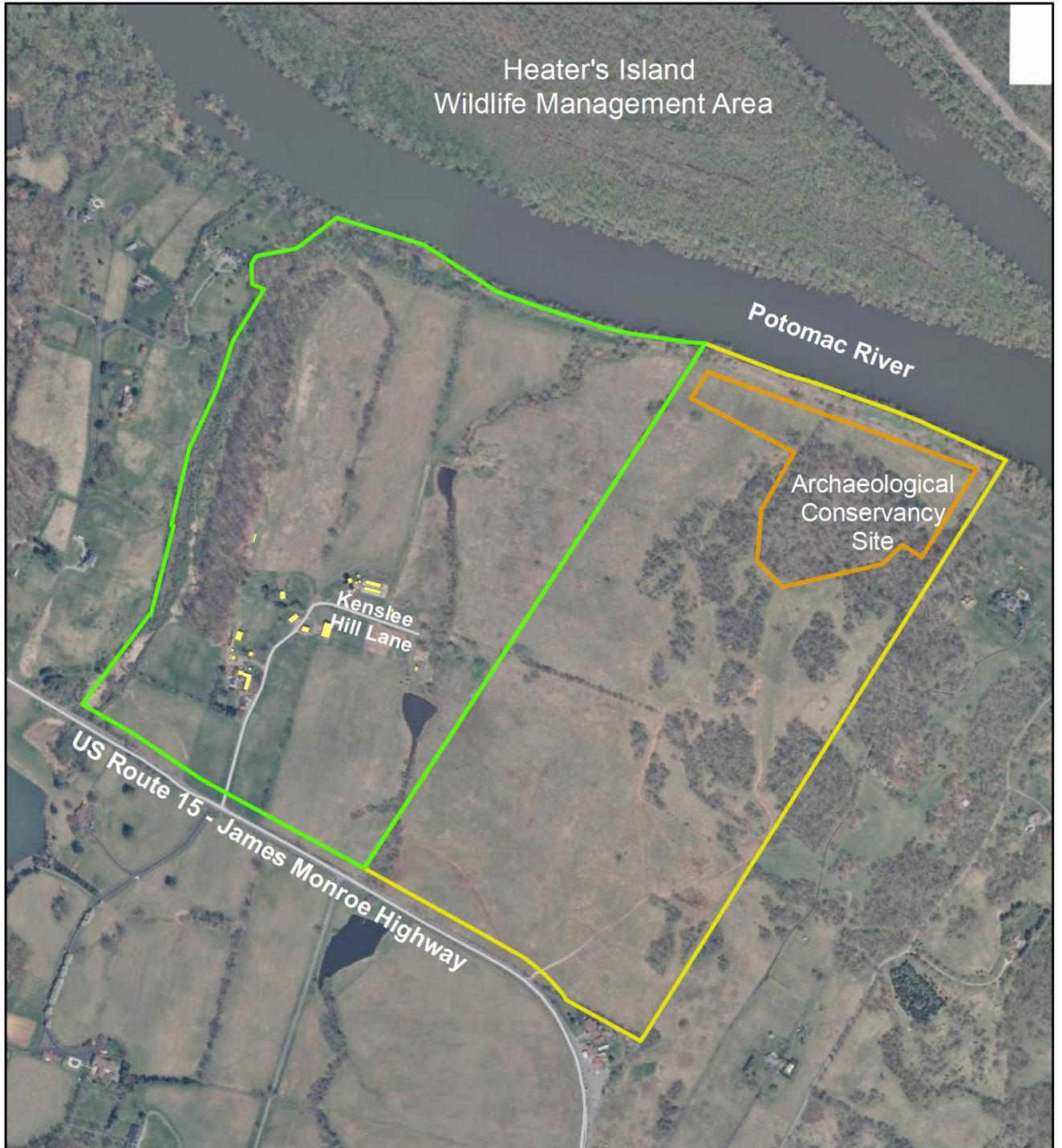
The project purpose is to acquire 128 acres of land to protect the Potomac River shoreline and provide public recreational access. The property proposed for acquisition is located on Route 15, south of the Point of Rocks bridge over the Potomac River, which is a gateway into Northern Virginia, as well as the Virginia gateway to the Journey Through Hallowed Ground National Heritage Area.

The proposal will provide public access to land that is not currently protected, provide needed open space and passive outdoor recreation facilities in a densely populated and

high-growth region, conserve natural and historic resources, and protect riparian lands for the region's watershed. The property acquisition will provide long-term open space benefits by adding 128 acres to the public domain. The proposal benefits public outdoor recreation because it will allow for expansion of the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail system along the property's 0.3 mile Potomac River boundary and increases opportunities for hiking, picnicking, and wildlife watching. Acquisition of the property has significant long-term benefits related to historic and scenic resources because it will permanently protect the scenic open space resources in the state Catoclin Rural Historic District and along Route 15 in the Journey Through Hallowed Ground National Heritage Area.

Proposed park uses on the subject parcel include recreation activities such as walking, hiking, picnicking, observing wildlife and studying natural, cultural, and historical resources and other uses consistent with passive recreation activities. NOVA Parks may construct trails, kiosks, signs, benches and picnic tables. NOVA Parks staff will manage, operate and maintain the property to be acquired under this grant proposal.

The property contains the following resources and features: 1,415 lineal feet (0.3 mile) of Potomac River frontage; 18.27 acres of Potomac River floodplain; an unnamed tributary of the Potomac River running across the southwest corner of the property with 1.33 acres of associated minor floodplain; mature forest of 18.92 acres and 1.14 acres of scrub wood; and 5.68 acres of hydric soils (wetlands). Most of the property features open meadows and fields. The property contains moderately steep slopes identified by Loudoun County as slopes between 15% and 25%. The property is within the Loudoun County Limestone Overlay District and calcareous conglomerate rock outcrops are present. A June 26, 2006 Phase I Archeological Survey of the property noted 2 archeological sites recorded as site 44LD1428 (Lithic scatter representing transient use, no further archeological work recommended) and site 44LD1429 (minor prehistoric components, no further archeological work recommended). The 20-acre outlot surrounded by the property, owned by the Archaeological Conservancy and not part of this application, contains site 44LD0017, which contains the Jeffery Rockshelter and an associated open-air site recommended to be preserved. The outlot also contains site 44LD0013, a late woodland village associated with the Mason Island Complex.



Legend

- Springdale Regional Park
- Springdale II
- Roads
- Existing Building

Proposed NOVA Parks
Springdale Regional Park

Loudoun County PIN 175-30-2374-000

