

Huntley Meadows Park

1975-2025

A Retrospective



Compiled by Carolyn Gamble
In Celebration of Huntley Meadows Park's
50th and Historic Huntley's 200th



Dedicated to the hard-working staff and
volunteers who helped build this park from
the ground up and continue to serve.

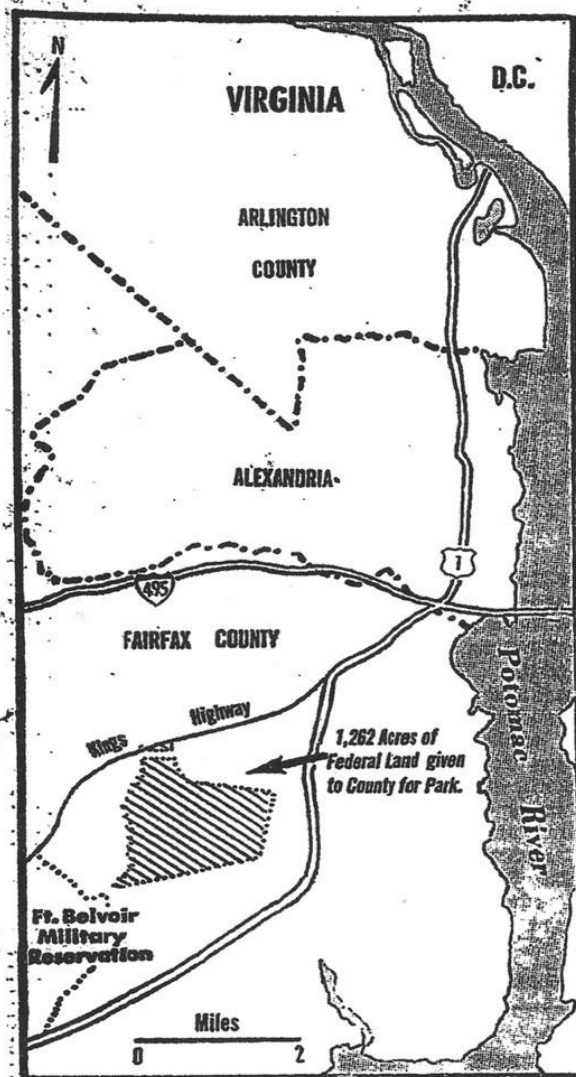


50 Years Ago

Fairfax Gets 1,262 Acres Of Parkland
By Judith Yablonky Washington Post Staff Writer
The Washington Post (1974-); Jun 26, 1974; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The Washington Post
pg. E1

Fairfax Gets 1,262 Acres Of Parkland

By Judith Yablonky
Washington Post Staff Writer



NEW PARKLAND—Map locates 1,262 acres of parkland in Hybla Valley given to Fairfax County by the U.S.

The U.S. government is giving Fairfax County 1,262 acres in the Hybla Valley valued at \$10 million for use as a nature park.

The public park site, south of Alexandria with Dodge Creek as its western boundary, and Telegraph Road to the north, will be the largest park under the Fairfax County park authority and the second largest park in the county. The Bull Run-Occoquan Park, administered by the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority, is the largest at 4,201 acres. Rock Creek Park contains 1,800 acres.

The park, as yet unnamed, will be kept in its natural state of woods and rolling countryside. Joseph Downs director of the Fairfax County park authority, said that a tentative six-year plan, which was submitted by the county as part of its request for the land, includes a nature center, an environmental education center, an observation tower, an equestrian center and a maze of hiking and riding trails.


The cost of developing the site is estimated at \$2.1 million. A public hearing on plans will be held later.

The park will complement two other county park areas being developed in the southeast section of Fairfax. The Greendale golf course and the Lee District park will be active recreation areas, with sports fields, swings, and developed recreation sites.

The Hybla Valley area, which has been occupied by the Naval Research Laboratory, will be transferred from the U.S. government to the county administration under the Legacy Of Parks Program. The Parks Program, a White House-run program initiated by President Nixon several years ago, converts federal surplus land to park and recreation areas by turning the sites over to local, regional and state authorities for that specific purpose.



1976 Aerial Photography Fairfax County GIS and Mapping Services. Note lack of open water in central wetland due to absence of beaver activity at this time.



Discover your parks ...

Anne Paine
FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY
ANNANDALE, VIRGINIA 22003
4030 HUMMER ROAD 941-5000

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Carl L. Sell, Jr., Fairfax County Park Authority chairman, announces that Harry F. Byrd, Jr., United States Senator from Virginia, will be principal speaker at the April 26 dedication of the Park Authority's 1,262 acre Huntley Meadows Park, located adjacent to the intersection of King's Highway and Telegraph Road in Lee Magisterial District.


The public is cordially invited to attend the 10:00 a.m. ceremony and take part in afternoon guided tours of the new parkland.

Other officials to take part are Mrs. Jean Packard, Chairman Fairfax County Board of Supervisors; Joseph Alexander, Supervisor from Lee District; Warren Cikins, Supervisor from Mt. Vernon District and Herbert Harris of the House of Representatives of the United States Congress.

Mr. Sell will be Master of Ceremonies.

Additional guests to be recognized include Adelard L. Brault, Virginia State Senator and Rob Blackmore, Director of the Virginia Commission of Outdoor Recreation. Special honored participants in the ribbon cutting will be Oscar C. Harlow of Alexandria and Joe Fields, 7th grade student at Luther Jackson Intermediate School, both winners in the recent "Name Your Park" Contest.

- more -



DEDICATION CEREMONIES
Huntley Meadows Park
April 26, 1975
10:00 a.m.

PROGRAM

Opening Remarks	Carl L. Sell, Jr., Chairman Fairfax County Park Authority
Recognition of Honored Guests . . .	Carl L. Sell, Jr., Chairman
Remarks	The Honorable Harry F. Byrd U. S. Senate
	The Honorable Herbert E. Harris, II U. S. House of Representatives
	Mrs. Jean R. Packard, Chairman Fairfax County Board of Supervisors
	Mr. Joseph Alexander, Supervisor Lee Magisterial District
	Mr. Warren I. Cikins, Supervisor Mount Vernon Magisterial District
Ribbon Cutting	Mr. Oscar C. Harlow and Mr. Joseph Fields, Co-Winners, "Name Your Park" Contest, and Honored Guests
Trail Walks for Invited Guests . . .	Conservation and History Division Staffs



Future Central Wetland, 1976. FCPA photo.



Park Dedication Attendees. FCPA photo.



April 26, 1975, Park Dedication. FCPA photo.



Future Lockheed Boulevard entrance, 1976. Until 1983 the only entrance was at S. Kings Highway and Telegraph Road. FCPA photo.



Firsts



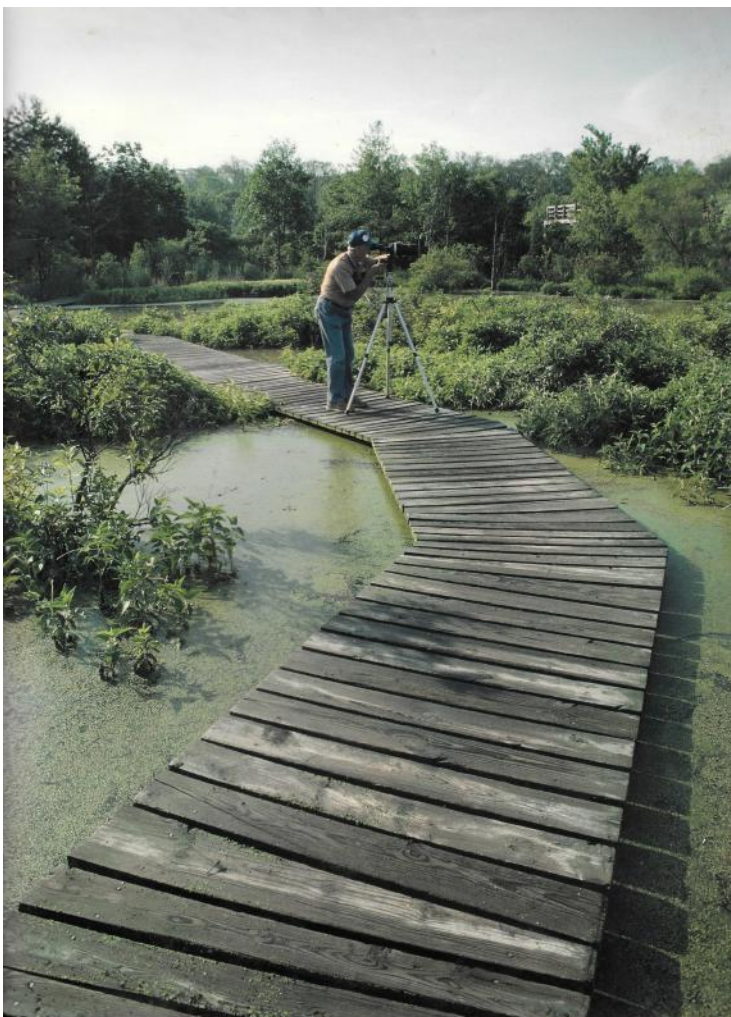
Gary Roisum, first Huntley Meadows Park staff member leading program, 1978. Gary was the park manager for almost three decades. FCPA photo.



The first office and information center is now the HMP Resource Management Office located at 6901 S. Kings Hwy. FCPA photo.



First beaver lodge in central wetland, 1981. The lodge was located directly north of the observation platform. FCPA photo.



Volunteer Ken Howard on the first boardwalk, 1987. The first boardwalk and observation platform were built 1980-1981. Photo by FCPA Photographer Don Sweeney.



First observation platform, 1982. FCPA photo.



First Visitor Center built in 1983. FCPA photo.



First Volunteer Picnic, 1985. FCPA photo.



First Wetlands Awareness Day, October 1988, speakers recruited by Norma Hoffman. FCPA photo.



First photographic evidence of River Otter, 1984. Photo by volunteer Joni Norris.



**Early
Successes**



Alan Lassman, left, and John Lein, work on a boardwalk that will carry visitors into a swampy section of Huntley Meadows Park in Fairfax County. At right,



The Washington Star / Paul A. Schmick

Erik Platenberg, project supervisor, looks over an area where the boardwalk is still to be built as part of a program aided by two federal grants.

Youths' Summer in Fairfax Swamp Builds Park Trails — and Character

By Susan Baer

Special to The Washington Star

Amid acres of thick vegetation in the swampland of Huntley Meadows Park, tiny white hard hats appear in the distance.

Having cut trails through the thorny marsh, the busy construction workers — some of whom still wear braces on their teeth — are hammering nails, painting boards and sawing edges of the 2,700-foot boardwalk they are building through the central swamp area of the Fairfax County Park Authority property.

Two groups of young people are working on the development of the 1,262-acre park in the Hybla Valley area of Fairfax County as a result of federal grants for such conservation projects.

While the young workers carefully measure and saw each board and haul wheelbarrows of supplies back and forth, frogs leap and splash all around them, dragonflies zoom about, beavers build their dams and black and green snakes occasionally squirm into sight.

"I can stand everything but the snakes," YACC worker, Michele Lein, a graduate of Alexandria's T.C. Williams High School, said, bemoan-

and camaraderie. "I'm here to learn. I've learned how to use saws and ride a tractor. And the best part is the people."

Most of the high school students in the YCC program — which employs a few mentally retarded students — said they took this summer job to prepare for some sort of career in forestry or park management. Many just wanted to be outdoors.

A junior at Fairfax County's W.T. Woodson High School, 16-year-old Melissa Burkel, said she wants to be a forest ranger when she's older. "This job makes you very strong," she said, collapsing on a bench at lunch break and swapping Milk Duds and apples with her co-workers. "And it's better than being cooped up in a restaurant where it's so smoky."

The federally paid youth groups started work on the project last year and are expected to finish the boardwalk and the trail system it is to hook up with next summer.

The winding walkway will give access to an otherwise inaccessible area. Visitors will be able to look out on the wildlife that makes its home in the knee-deep marsh, as well as the cattails, lizard tails, swamp roses and other exotic vege-

are bused from the outskirts of the 3.5-mile long undeveloped tract to the low, flat inner wetlands where drainage ditches dug by farmers were abandoned years ago.

A \$19,000 grant for the U.S. Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) program pays high school students recruited by the state for a seven-week summer program. And a \$90,000 grant employs the U.S. Young Adult Conservation Corps (YACC), men and women 16 to 23 years old, out of school and out of work, who are selected by the park for a year-long program.

Work on the park began this year following five years of research on the area by naturalists. Formerly owned by the Department of Navy, Huntley Meadows was awarded to the Fairfax County Park Authority in 1975 as part of President Ford's Legacy of the Parks Program.

Beckner said the authority plans to install a minimal number of trails and wayside centers in an attempt to maintain the wild, fragile nature of the forested park, which attracts everything from deer and turkeys to whistling swans.

"We want to make it a real nice get-away-from-it-all place in metropolitan Washington," Beckner said, "but it's undisturbed land and we



Gary Roisum successfully applied for Young Adult Conservation Corps and Youth Conservation Corps grants. Teenagers and young adults built the first boardwalk and observation platform under staff direction using Roisum's design, 1980-1981. FCPA photos.



Land acquisition makes 'wildlife corridor' complete

By CHRISTA WATTERS
Staff Writer

A long-awaited parcel of land that fills a gap in a "wildlife corridor" in southeastern Fairfax County was recently acquired by the Fairfax County Park Authority.

Known as Edgewood Acres, the 165-acre tract is shaped like an ax, with the handle pointing south, and lies contiguous to the southern borders of Huntley Meadows Park.

The land will provide a "significant addition" to Huntley Meadows' 1,261 acres, according to Park Authority spokeswoman Memi Fitzgerald, and will enlarge the wildlife corridor—a swath of land running south from Huntley Meadows through Fort Belvoir to Mason

Neck, enabling free movement for area wildlife on a north-south axis.

The Park Authority paid \$1,605,129 for the land. Owners of the property elected to donate the northern portion, which contains includes wetlands. Ducks Unlimited, a Maryland-based environmental group, is contributing \$25,000 toward the purchase price in response to a request made by the Virginia Chapter of the Sierra Club, according to longtime Huntley Meadows Park volunteer Norma Hoffman. The remainder of the funding came from 1988 park bonds approved by Fairfax County voters.

Huntley Meadows Park Manager Gary Roisum described Edgewood Acres as "an environmentally sen-

sitive wetlands ecosystem that filters pollutants from Dogue Creek."

Roisum said animals such as white-tailed deer, mink, beaver and river otter use the watery habitat, and freshwater clams — never seen in Huntley Meadows — have been found there.

In addition there are foundation ruins from what appears to be a spring house, water wells, cisterns and drainage systems, possibly from the 19th century — all pointing to the need for an archeological study of the site, said Hoffman.

Though a trail through the Edgewood Acres tract from Huntley Meadows has been suggested, Hoffman said no such plan is now under consideration.

Mt. Vernon Gazette January 23, 1992, article on the addition of 165 acres to HMP.



1990 Aerial Photography Fairfax County GIS and Mapping Services. Note open water in central wetland due to a new beaver dam started in 1978.



HMP staff designed and fabricated exhibits for the new Visitor Center which opened in 1983. Park staff members from Hidden Pond and Ellanor C. Lawrence helped with exhibit construction. FCPA photos.

Fairfax County  Park Authority
cordially invites you to the
Dedication
of the new
**Huntley Meadows Park
Visitors Center**
3710 Lockheed Blvd., Hybla Valley
Sunday, October 16, 1983
(please note date change)
12:00 - 5:00 p.m. Rain or Shine



Discover your parks...

FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY • 3701 PENDER DR. • FAIRFAX, VA 22030

Merni Fitzgerald
Ellen Wood
Press Inquiries: 246-5661
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 21, 1989
PA-1822T

FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY PURCHASES HUNTLEY MANSION

The Fairfax County Park Authority recently purchased Huntley Mansion, a 19th century house built by a member of Virginia's Mason family. The mansion and 2.88 acres of surrounding property were purchased for \$460,000 from Kellogg, Shapiro Limited using land acquisition funds, authorized under the 1988 Park Bond Referendum.

Huntley was a vacation home of Thomson F. Mason, a grandson of George Mason. It is thought to have been built by Benjamin Latrobe, a principle architect of the U. S. Capitol. In addition to the main house, the Huntley property includes a tenant house, an underground ice house with a vaulted brick ceiling and a six-hole brick outhouse.

Unoccupied for many years, the historic mansion, in Lee District, is currently in an advanced state of disrepair. The Park Authority has no current plans for the site, but possibilities include restoring the mansion to its original appearance or renovating it for public use.



FCPA press release, December 21, 1989, announcing purchase of Historic Huntley. Huntley was built c. 1825 and this year marks its 200th anniversary. Historic Huntley c. 1994. Historic Huntley was "mothballed" in 1989. A chain-link fence surrounded the buildings until restoration and renovation began in 2011. Restoration planning began in the late 1990s. Photo by Richard Lucente.

Fairfax Won't Build Controversial Road In Wetlands Park

By John Ward Anderson
Washington Post Staff Writer

Fairfax County officials said yesterday they will abandon plans to build a four-lane road through Huntley Meadows Park, one of the region's largest park and wetland areas, resolving perhaps the longest-running and toughest environmental battle the county ever fought.

The announcement came after the Department of the Interior notified county officials in a letter delivered yesterday that it would not permit the road, known as the Lockheed-Van Dorn Connector, to cross the 1,261-acre park because of potential environmental damage.

The road was considered a critical direct link connecting Route 1 and the Springfield Mall area that would divert motorists from an inadequate network of neighborhood streets.

The park, which is just north of Fort Belvoir in southeastern Fairfax, has 800 acres of wetlands and is home to about 50 species of birds and other wildlife that have been listed as rare to Virginia.

Supervisor Joseph Alexander (D-Lee), chief sponsor of the two-mile road, said he will not challenge the decision.

Alexander said he will propose that the board shift about \$13 million budgeted for the road to other projects that would relieve traffic congestion in southeastern Fairfax.

"I see no reason to contest the decision because . . . litigation would be futile," Alexander said. "There's no question that the environmental concerns are overriding here."

"This has been our objective for 15 years," said Norma Hoffman, president of the Coalition to Save Huntley Meadows, which was formed after the county began planning the road in 1975. "The national policy of no net loss of wetlands is a reality in this case, and the National Park Service is the hero. We feel

that Fairfax County is the winner in this battle because they will be protecting the environment and an important natural resource."

The National Park Service, a division of the Department of the Interior, had authority to deny use of park land for the road because of the conditions under which the Park Service gave the land to the county in 1975.

Those conditions stipulated that the purpose of the land was to preserve open space for recreational use and to preserve and manage "the wildlife and environmental attributes of the site . . . in perpetuity."

"Huntley Meadows Park is presently demonstrating increased signs of stress from urban development,

and the risk of irreversible damage to the wetlands from the construction of Lockheed Boulevard across their water source is too high to permit the project to go forward," Robert Stanton, regional director of the National Park Service, said in the letter to Fairfax County Executive J. Hamilton Lambert.

The decision does not resolve environmental questions about a smaller segment of the Lockheed-Van Dorn Connector north of the park—between Kingstowne Boulevard and Telegraph Road—that has been delayed because of its possible negative impact on wetlands. Alexander said he hoped the decision to abandon the Huntley Meadows portion would lead to a favorable decision from the federal government to permit construction of the other segment.

Alexander said money slated for the abandoned stretch of the connector could be used to widen Hayfield Road to four lanes between Manchester Lakes Boulevard and Telegraph Road, and to widen Beulah Street to four lanes between Franconia and Telegraph roads. Portions of the money, he said, could also be used to improve water runoff and detention up stream from the park.



Washington Post article on the cessation of County efforts to build the Lockheed-Van Dorn Connector Road through Huntley Meadows Park, December 4, 1990. Norma Hoffman and the Citizens Alliance to Save Huntley campaigned against the road for fifteen years, 1975-1990. Photo of Norma celebrating with Elise and Charles Lepple by volunteer Suzanne Lepple.

Washington Post December 4, 1990



Early Challenges



Invasive Japanese Stilt Grass invading forest floor, 1999. The spread of invasive species has greatly increased since. Staff and volunteers currently address this pervasive problem. Photo by former Resource Manager Chris Lamond.

Erosion control tightened

July 7, 1987
Fairfax pushing stiff measures at Huntley park

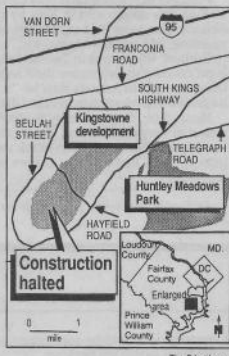
By MARK GROSSMAN
 Journal staff writer
 Fairfax County officials are enforcing stiffer erosion control measures at three construction projects near Huntley Meadows Park.

The action comes after the county halted construction at the massive Kingstowne subdivision June 26 because eroding silt from that project threatened the park, the second time in 10 months that the county has taken such action.

Lighter silt runoff from road improvements at South King's Highway and building at the Woodstone subdivision also prompted the stricter controls.

County efforts thus far to control erosion in the area have not been adequate, said Claude Cooper, director of Fairfax County's Department of Environmental Management.

Some of the new measures are:



- Further construction at Kingstowne will be prohibited until a 14-acre lake is completed that will trap silt.
- Kingstowne officials must present a detailed plan to control erosion at the site, which then must be approved by the county.

tion at the site, which then must be approved by the county.

■ Grading of additional land at Kingstowne must wait until all building plans are approved. Previously, the developer, Kingstowne Limited Partnership, could start grading before these plans were approved.

■ A full-time county inspector has been assigned to monitor the Woodstone construction site.

■ Increased monitoring of the silt control methods at the South King's Highway project, where the state is regrading the road and adding a bicycle lane.

"We want to make sure we have the most advanced silt control methods at these sites as possible," said Dana Kauffman, administrative assistant to Supervisor Joseph Alexander, D-Lee. "This is something you have to stay on top of."

Kauffman said most of the silt emptying into the park comes from Kingstowne.

Officials for Kingstowne Limited Partnership would not comment.

County officials, though, said they expect construction at the King-

Please see SILT, A4

Fairfax Journal, July 7, 1987. In 1986, Woodstone and Kingstowne construction caused tons of silt to be deposited in the wetlands of HMP. Volunteer Ken Howard's whistle blowing resulted in unprecedented "stop work orders" from the County. Photo of silt deposition by Ken Howard, August 3, 1986.



Historic Huntley surrounded by eroding soil during townhouse development, 1989. Photo by volunteer Ken Howard.



High water levels flooded the original boardwalk. HMP staff closed sections beginning in 1991, with the entire boardwalk closed on October 28, 1992, Photo by volunteer Stan Russell.



Extreme drought, siltation and reduced dam maintenance by beavers spurred FCPA efforts to research and fund wetland management methods. 2005. FCPA photo.



**Friends Groups Established to Help Find
Solutions to Challenges**

FRIENDS OF HUNTLEY MEADOWS PARK

OCTOBER 1987

President's Message

Friends of Huntley Meadows Park has about 100 members as a result of the mail-out for our June meeting. We welcome all the new members and I want to stress that we need your participation. The park needs volunteer help for its activities and to assist at the Visitor Center. In addition to that, the Friends of Huntley Meadows Park needs members who will help the organization to function. The organization needs members who will serve as officers (i.e., we have been without a secretary for a year). We need assistance with telephoning and mail-outs. We will have our brochure completed soon and we will need help in distributing it. As you can see, there is plenty of work to go around.

I hope to see you on November 9 when we will hear about Fairfax County's plans for an inventory of the County's ecological resources. For further information, do not hesitate to call me at 765-1406.

Alfred Aitken, President

Naturalist's Notes

After five months, the search for a Huntley Meadows Park site manager has finally seen its way through the County recruitment process. Carolyn Gamble, a six year veteran naturalist at Huntley Meadows Park, has accepted the duties and responsibilities of site manager. Carolyn brings many talents and abilities to her new position. We wish her the very best!

Welcome to Bill Ehmann, our newest staff member. Bill worked with us for 15 months as a volunteer, during which he wrote the Huntley Meadows Park seasonal trail guides. Now he continues to share his natural history knowledge as a weekend naturalist. Stop by the Visitor Center or look for him on the trails on most weekends.

All artists are invited to exhibit and sell original work at the FCPA's Wildlife Art and Photography Show on March 13, 1988. The art and photography must depict wildlife or nature scenes. Please submit slides of your work by February 1, 1988. For further details call 768-2525

Don't forget "The Gift of Good Land" program series being presented this fall by the Park Authority's Conservation Division. Of particular interest is a program at Providence Recreation Center at 8:15 p.m. on November 10, 1987 entitled "A Matter of Worth: Competing claims on the land." The guest speaker is Linda Lear, Senior Fellow, Institute for Resources, History and Policy, George Mason University. Following the lecture is a discussion on the conflicting land-use issues surrounding Huntley Meadows Park. Panel speakers include Carl Sell, Lee District Representative of the Fairfax County Planning Commission and Andrea Yank, Director of the Natural Resources Council of America. Don't miss it! For more information on "The Gift of Good Land" program series, call 768-2525.

Gary Roisum
Park Manager

Friends of Huntley Meadows Park newsletter, October 1987.
FOHMP was founded in 1985.

Former FOHMP president Glenn Curtis at Wetlands Awareness Day, 2003. From 1988 to today, FOHMP has sponsored the park's annual Wetlands Awareness Day.
Photo by volunteer Stan Russell.



HUNTLEY HEADLINES

Newsletter of the Friends of Historic Huntley, a non-profit group formed to support the preservation of Huntley, the Fairfax property of Thomson F. Mason, a 19th century judge, mayor and leading citizen of Alexandria.

Volume 1 No. 1

February 4, 1992

HUNTLEY MEADOWS ESTATES SOLD

On December 6, 1991, Huntley Meadows Estates, as the property surrounding the historic house and property of George Mason's grandson Thomson F. Mason has come to be called, was sold at auction to MI Homes for \$1.750 million. Robert Moesle of Vienna, Virginia is the President of the company. The property is planned for 89 townhomes, some below but most rising three stories on the hill above Huntley. The developer will be coming to the Board of Architectural Review, which has jurisdiction over development in Historic Districts, because changes are being made in the original site plan. These changes include improved provision for drainage and expanded parking. The Fairfax County Department of Environmental Management has stated that the plan will be approved by them as it stands. Supervisor Alexander is working to expedite the development.

The developer is planning to charge approximately \$160,000 - \$180,000 for a three bedroom apartment. The buildings will have architectural detailing "reflecting Huntley".

Because the townhouses built above Huntley will inevitably tower over it, buffer planting is important to protect the view of the historic house from below on Harrison Lane. The projected apartments will also be built below Huntley, and care will be needed to site them to minimize disruption of the view from Huntley, which historically overlooking its farm and wood lands which have since become Huntley Meadows Park. Michael Reirson of the Fairfax County Park Authority will be meeting with the developer to discuss buffering requirements and to try to minimize the disruption of Huntley. The Fairfax County Park Authority owns Huntley and its remaining dependencies, including a

unique vaulted roof ice house, a six hole necessary and storeroom building, and a tenant house, with 3.2 acres of land.

Norma Hoffman, Vice President of Friends of Historic Huntley (FOHH), met with the developer, Carl Sell, the Lee District member of the Planning Commission, and representatives from Stony Brook community. She expressed the concerns of FOHH for the protection of Huntley's surrounding property and the views of and from the house.

DAR TO DEDICATE PLAQUE AT HUNTLEY

The Freedom Hill Chapter of the Virginia Daughters of the American Revolution will dedicate a plaque to recognize the historic importance of Huntley at a private ceremony in May 1992. The bronze plaque will bear a brief statement of the significance of Huntley, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

LECTURE PRESENTED ON HISTORIC DEVELOPMENT OF ROUTE ONE

On October 29, 1991, Mike and Barbara Keck, owners of the "From Out of The Past" Bookstore on Route One, presented a videotape they have made on the development of Route One from colonial times to the present. Mike narrated the tape which included many fascinating historic pictures - some of landmarks which existed within the memory of many of the audience, but are no more. Among the historic photographs shown were some of the air park which existed where Hybla Valley shopping center is now, a site visible from Huntley.

Friends of Historic Huntley newsletter, February 4, 1992. FOHH was founded in 1990.

Norma Hoffman greeting attendees at Friends of Historic Huntley Open House, 2002. From 1992-2010, FOHH provided free public access to an unrestored ("mothballed") Historic Huntley twice each year. FOHH photo.





**New Boardwalk
Installed
1992-1994**



HMP Central Wetland, 1990 and 2002. Note the new boardwalk alignment in the photo on the right. Aerial Photography Fairfax County GIS and Mapping Services.



Boardwalk installation, 1993. Photo by volunteer Stan Russell.



Demolition of first observation platform, 1992. Photo by volunteer Stan Russell.



New boardwalk being constructed next to original boardwalk, February 1993.FCPA photo.



New observation platform under construction, 1993 . Photo by volunteer Stan Russell.



Resource Management



Former Resource Manager Chris Lamond conducting Aldous Browse Survey, 1998. Surveys such as this provided evidence that there was overpopulation of deer at HMP. Photo by Brooke Lewis.



Volunteer David Gorsline checking a wood duck nestbox, 2022. Photo by P.J. Dunn.



Americorps Volunteers clearing meadow habitat and making brush piles for wildlife, 2002. FCPA photo.



Former Park Manager Kevin Munroe and Naturalist Suzanne Malone assisting with a fish survey by the VA Department of Wildlife Resources, 2008. FCPA photo.



Controlled burn for meadow management, 2015. FCPA photo.



Maintenance Assistant Joy Singh removing invasive plants, 2024. FCPA photo.



Public Programming



Naturalist Kathi McNeil teaching students on a field trip, 1995. FCPA photo.



Volunteer Suzanne Lepple teaching about wetland soils at Wetlands Awareness Day, 2007. FCPA Photo.



Volunteer Patty Young hosting a Tea at Historic Huntley, 2022. Photo by volunteer Carolyn Gamble.



Volunteer Ron Clabbers sharing spotting scope views of wildlife at Wetlands Awareness Day 2017. FCPA photo.



Volunteer Coordinator Ann Stat teaching camp, 1998. FCPA photo.



Naturalist Melodie Stehling teaching a class online, 2021. FCPA photo.



Restorations




Information and Office trailers in parking lot during visitor center expansion, June 1990. FCPA photo.



Building the wetland diorama, 1991. Exhibits for the new center were professionally designed and fabricated by contractors. FCPA photos.




*The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors
 and
 The Fairfax County Park Authority
 cordially invite you to attend the dedication event of
 the expanded Visitor Center at
 Huntley Meadows Park
 Harrison Lane and Lockheed Boulevard
 Alexandria, Virginia
 Saturday, October 26, 1991
 11:30 a.m.
 Rain or Shine*

*Keynote Speaker: David Davis, Deputy Director
 Office of Wetlands, Oceans, and Watersheds
 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency*

*Sign interpreters are available upon request.
 Please call 703/246-5563 (V/TDD)
 at least one week in advance for accommodations.*

*Gauthier, Alvarado & Associates Inc.
 Architects and Engineers*



The expanded Visitor Center was dedicated on October 26, 1991. Photo by volunteer James Chadwick.



Historic Huntley north front being reconfigured to emulate presumed 1825 appearance, 2011. FCPA photo.



Restored Historic Huntley, north front, 2012. Photo by Don Sweeney.



Plaster work in central room, 2011. FCPA photo.



Restored Historic Huntley, south front. Photo by Carolyn Gamble.

Historic Huntley Opening Celebration!

Saturday, May 19, 2012 • 6918 Harrison Lane, Alexandria, Virginia



Join the Friends of Historic Huntley, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, and the Fairfax County Park Authority Board to celebrate the completion of restoration work on the early 19th-century, Mason-era buildings and the opening of the site to the public.



- 2:00 p.m. Enjoy refreshments, memories, and the hilltop view
- 2:30 p.m. Opening remarks and ribbon-cutting ceremony
- 3:00 p.m. Tour the restored buildings and grounds

Directions: Take Rt. 95 South (Beltway) to Exit 1; south on Richmond Highway (Rt. 1) for 3.5 miles; right onto Lockheed Blvd.; after 1/2 mile, turn right onto Harrison Lane; Huntley is 1/4 mile up the hill. *Parking:* Faith United Methodist Church, 7010 Harrison Lane. Handicapped permits accommodated at the park entrance on Huntley Meadows Lane. *Questions:* 703.768.2525.

Huntley Meadows Park wetland gets a facelift

April 10, 2013

By Kali Schumitz

The wetland at Huntley Meadows Park is about to get a makeover.

Construction on a \$3 million wetland restoration project at the park will begin this month and continue through most of the year.

County and park leaders warned that the construction will be intense, and the park might not look good during the process.

"It's going to be ugly for a little while," said Harry Glasgow, a board member of Friends of Huntley Meadows Park. He urged park users to have patience and said the group is confident the process will benefit the park in the end.

Kevin Munroe, manager of the park, said the Fairfax County Park Authority took a lot of care in developing a restoration plan with the smallest possible construction footprint.

Park staff members have been contemplating this project for 21 years and have conducted multiple surveys and consulted several environmental engineering firms in the process, Munroe said.

"We wanted to get this right," he said.

Park staff members have taken some plants out of the construction area to preserve them elsewhere, he said, and will relocate some wildlife to ensure it is not harmed during construction.

Most park features will remain open during construction, including the visitor center and boardwalk through the marsh, but the hike-bike trail off South Kings Highway will be closed for much of the construction period.

The wetland at Huntley Meadows is a hemi-marsh, created by beavers building a dam near a floodplain area. A hemi-marsh is characterized by deeper water and both above-water and underwater plant life.

The Park Authority acquired the land in 1975.

More recently, development in the Route 1 corridor has caused about six tons of silt to wash into the wetland, reducing water depth by 8 to 10 inches, Munroe said.

The project is designed to restore the depth and install a system that will help the Park Authority manage water levels at Huntley Meadows for years to come.

This system actually will prevent the wetland from going through the natural cycles of a beaver marsh, Munroe said, because the county wants to preserve the biodiversity that exists in a hemi-marsh.

Huntley Meadows is the largest non-tidal wetland in Northern Virginia, he said.

Supervisor Jeff C. McKay (D-Lee) said the project is essential for ensuring that Huntley Meadows remains a place local residents can experience and learn about nature.

"It's really tough to have an oasis like this in the middle of an urbanizing area," he said. "This will indeed sustain this park for [current residents] and their children."

**FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY
HUNTLEY MEADOWS PARK
PUBLIC MEETING**

JUNE 28, 1990

THE PURPOSE OF THIS MEETING IS TO GATHER PUBLIC COMMENTS AS PART OF A STUDY BEING CONDUCTED.

**AGENDA FOR EVENING
PARK HISTORY
NEED FOR PROJECT** 20 MINUTES **GARY ROISUM
HUNTLEY MEADOWS PARK MANAGER**

PROJECT APPROACH 15 MINUTES **WILLIAM DELANCEY
PROJECT MANAGER - TAMS**

WILDLIFE HABITAT STUDIES 10 MINUTES **JANET O'NEILL
SENIOR ECOLOGIST - TAMS**

WETLAND IMPOUNDMENT-WHAT I WANT TO SEE

RED	55552	=22	IN-DEPTH STUDIES OF HYDROLOGY CYCLES AND WATER BUDGET (1)
	443222	=17	SILTATION CONTROL BEFORE PARKLAND (AT SOURCE IF POSSIBLE) (2)
	54431	=17	MAINTAIN CURRENT BEAVER DAM (2)
	5211	= 9	PROTECTION OF EXISTING NEST SITES (3)
	52	= 7	AESTHETICALLY NEUTRAL (4)
	331	= 7	NATURAL SUCCESSION (4)
	321	= 6	KEEP IT SIMPLE, RELIABLE, DURABLE, REPAIRABLE (5)
	41	= 5	Control of water input
	41	= 5	Man-made impoundment only to be used as backup (downstream)
	4	= 4	Expand north end water areas
	3	= 3	Adjustable dam
	3	= 3	Vol. monitoring of off-site construction
	0	= 0	Vol. monitoring of the project
GREEN	5443	=16	BASELINE STUDY- NOW AND REPEAT STUDY LATER (1)
	54333	=15	SEDIMENT CONTROL WHICH MIMICS NATURE (2)
	54411	=15	NO FURTHER DEVELOPMENT WHICH WOULD AFFECT THE WETLANDS (2)
	5321	=11	ALL NATURAL MATERIALS (3)
	5221	=10	WATER LEVEL REGULATED (BEST SEASONAL FLUX FOR DIVERSITY) (4)
	22	= 4	ALTERNATIVE SPILLWAY FOR WATER LEVEL REGULATION (5)

Public Input on possible wetland impoundment, 1990. Discussion of replacing the beaver dam with a manmade berm began early on.



Installation of Spillway, June 2013.
FCPA photo.



Installation of Berm Core, August 2013. FCPA photo.



Overview of completed work, showing habitat pools, 2013. FCPA photo.

Huntley Meadows Park



Come Celebrate the Restored Wetland!

Huntley Meadows Park Wetland Restoration Project Grand Opening
Saturday, May 10, 2014 • 10 a.m. until noon

Twenty-two years of planning, 60 public meetings, and a cutting-edge design equals biodiversity restored, wildlife habitat returned, and a rejuvenated experience for visitors!

- 10 a.m. Meet at the Norma Hoffman Visitor Center for light snacks and project photos
- 10:30 a.m. Ceremony on the boardwalk
- 11:15 a.m. Behind the scenes walking tours

Huntley Meadows Park is located at 3701 Lockheed Blvd in Alexandria, Va. For more information contact the Public Information Office at 703-324-8662.



If accommodations or alternate formats are needed, please call 703-324-8563, TTY 703-803-3354. www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/ada.htm



Volunteers & Staff



Volunteers and staff, 1992. FCPA photo.



Monday Morning Bird Walk group, 2005. FCPA photo.



Wood Duck Nestbox Monitoring Team, 2015. FCPA photo.



Herbarium team: volunteers Dorothy Raduazo, Karla Jamir and Virginia Powers, 2009. FCPA photo.



Staff and volunteers, 1988. FCPA photo.



Volunteers and staff, 2010. FCPA photo.



2016 Staff: Park Manager Karen Sheffield, Resource Manager Dave Lawlor, Naturalist Jen Crawford, Historian Cheryl Repetti, Administrative Assistant Anna Finch, Program Director Kylie Lee, Labor Crew Chief Brian Moore and Visitor Services Manager Kathleen O'Shea. FCPA photo.



2025 Staff: Jackie Den Otter, Gina Sando, Kathleen McNerney, Margaret Wohler, Tami Entabi, Jackson Allsman, Chris King, Malcolm MacNeil, Karen Sheffield, Brooks Long, Joy Singh, Carl Meadows. FCPA photo.



Wildlife Comings and Goings



Green Tree Frog, 2024. Photo by Julia Tanner. This species was first found in the park in 2000.



Least Bittern, 1990. Photo by volunteer Bill Stephenson. Least Bitterns nested in the park from 1982 to 1992.



First photographic evidence of coyotes in park, 2007. Coyotes are known breeders here and are sometimes heard yipping during evening programs. FCPA photo.



Beavers have been stalwart residents since 1978. Photo by volunteer Jim Cox.

A photograph of a field of tall, green grasses and weeds, possibly a meadow or a field of wildflowers. The plants are dense and reach varying heights. The text "What's Next?" is overlaid in the center of the image in a large, bold, black font.

What's Next?



The view of Huntley Meadows Park through the south door of Historic Huntley, 2023. Photo by volunteer Carolyn Gamble.

Huntley Meadows Park and Historic Huntley belong to everyone. There have been many changes over the last 50 years. What are your wishes for the park's next 10 to 20 years?



Park visitors, 2019. FCPA photo.