

2013

Fairfax County Restoration Project

A Public-Private Partnership



Photo by Laura Beaty and Marianne Mooney, Virginia Native Plant Society

Summary of Activities

January 2013-December 2013

January 1, 2013 – December 31, 2013

FCRP Mission

The Fairfax County Restoration Project (FCRP) will strengthen the relationship between people and nature through community action. FCRP will **connect, create, and promote efforts** to restore ecosystem functions in Fairfax County through collaboration with public, private, and volunteer organizations.

Background

With the help and guidance of the Fairfax County Office of Public/Private Partnerships, The Fairfax County Restoration Project (FCRP) began in April 2008. Although the FCRP was formed in response to deforestation along the Capital Beltway/495 Express Lanes project, it quickly widened its scope to environmental issues throughout Fairfax County. As a core group of community organizations, businesses and government staff coalesced, it became evident that another environmental organization that would compete for funding and volunteer time was not needed. What was and is needed is a focal point for a community of practice where organizations and individuals interested in environmental restoration in Fairfax County can meet, share information and take collaborative action. FCRP was chartered to help foster a collaborative approach to environmental restoration in Fairfax County.

In keeping with its broader perspective, FCRP's first step was to meet with Dominion Virginia Power in the spring of 2009 to discuss easement plantings. FCRP sought to expand the use of native shrubs and eliminate non-native shrubs from the approved plant list for transmission line easements. Although we didn't get everything we wanted, FCRP did get Dominion to add a few more native shrubs and eliminate non-native invasive species from the list of approved plants.

In the summer 2009 FCRP also helped homeowners engage with VDOT and potential landscapers to discuss replanting the 495 Express Lanes corridors, resulting in a greater emphasis on replanting and the use of native plants. That fall, FCRP held the first of a conference series called Restoring Lands/Restoring Waters. This conference was a first step in an on-going process of educating Fairfax County landowners, particularly those in the 495 Express Lanes corridor, about the use and benefits of native plants in the home landscape; and about the human, written and electronic resources available to help develop their own native plant gardens.

FCRP used a monetary grant from Transurban and in-kind grant from Eze Solutions to develop a website, www.fcrpp3.org, which helps FCRP partners connect with each other and supports FCRP sponsored programs like ReForest Fairfax.

FCRP has continued its mission to engage the community through projects, outreach, education and providing resources to improve the environment and community.

2013 Activities

PlantMorePlants.com – In 2011 FCRP began considering a media campaign to raise awareness of the relationship between runoff and pollution. A primary focus of the campaign was to be how replacing turf with trees and other plants could reduce runoff and improve water quality. We became aware that The Chesapeake Club had already developed a similar campaign called www.plantmoreplants.com, which we felt was very well done and extremely effective. Working with the Club and Chairman Bulova's office, FCRP was able to bring the campaign to Fairfax County. Beginning in Fall 2012 throughout the rest of the year, Cox Communications placed the ads in their normal PSA schedule. FCRP is streaming the video clips through its website to further promote the message. Supporting materials developed by The Chesapeake Club have been distributed at functions and are available to any of our partner organizations, and banners can be seen at retail & landscaping outlets. Ad buys are being done collectively throughout the state to further the message.

Channel 16, the Fairfax County channel, has been running the ads on a regular and routine basis and will continue to do so.

Reforest Fairfax: Originally forecast for Spring 2011 Reforest Fairfax was finally launched on October 13th, 2011. Reforest Fairfax is a tree-gifting program designed to help replenish the tree canopy and to help the County achieve its tree canopy goals. For each \$35 gift purchased five (5) seedlings are planted by Fairfax ReLeaf during a spring or fall planting season. An on-line locator is available so once the trees are planted the location of the gifts can be identified. There is also an optional on-line registry for supporters of the program. The program can be accessed at <http://www.fcrrp3.org/reforestfairfax/>.

FCRP developed partnerships with Xpedex, an International Paper Company, McCabe's Printing Group, the Northern Virginia Soil & Water Conservation District, Eze Solutions and Fairfax ReLeaf in order to create the Reforest Fairfax Program. Once again, Transurban provided a grant to support the program's initial development. Merchandising items to further support the program are currently being developed.

In 2013 the total reached 56 gifts purchased and 280 trees planted as of this writing.

A strategic partnership has been developed with Employment Enterprises, Inc. who have placed FCRP and Reforest Fairfax as one of their priorities. We look forward to developing this partnership which was announced here: <http://www.eeihr.com/index.php/news-and-events>.

Dirt! The Movie awakens viewers to the importance of our soil resources. By exploring the role of soil along with the sun and water in driving the entire Earth eco-system, this movie imbues viewer with the need to protect not only the plants and animals we see around us, but also the need protect the microscopic flora and fauna in the soil that supports all life on Earth. FCRP partner, the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District (NVSWCD) has purchased the educational version of this movie with an unlimited viewing license. It is available to all of the FCRP family. The package includes a 40 minute classroom version so schools, local colleges and universities may also utilize this resource. It is available to any of our Partner organizations for their viewing. Get Dirtified!

To date Sustainable Reston has had one viewing and is planning another around Earth Day 2014.

Stormwater Ponds along 495 Express Lanes. FCRP facilitated discussion among Virginia Megaproject partners, Fluor-Transurban and VDOT, Supervisor Foust and Fairfax County staff to develop more environmentally comprehensive strategies for some of the stormwater ponds being constructed as part of the 495 Express Lanes. Discussions focused on the grading design within the ponds and a mixture of compost and seed that will create habitat for native species. Agreement that five of the twenty-six planned ponds will be upgraded with the recommended compost and seed mix while the remaining nineteen ponds will receive only the seed mix as far as the supply lasts. At this writing, compost

sightings have been reported and the process of the upgrades has begun. In June 2013 there were excessive rain washing some of the seed away. Reseeding the areas impacted has been ongoing.

Tours of the ponds were conducted with Stormwater Management Personnel and pictures of the ponds at various stages are included in the appendix.

2013 Awards and Recognition

For 2013, Alan Ford, President of the Potowmack Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society and a valued Leadership Team member was awarded the Environmental Excellence Award by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors in the Citizen category.

In 2012 Ron Tuttle, a member of the FCRP Leadership Team from Stormwater Management Division was awarded this recognition in the category of County Employee.

In 2011, the Board of Supervisors recognized the entire partnership Fairfax County Restoration Project with an Environmental Excellence Award.

On-going Initiatives

495 HOTLANES - In 2012 the HOTLANES project, the Original impetus for the FCRP, was renamed 495 Express Lanes. Landscape implementation for the project has begun. Both Phase I and Phase II are being implemented simultaneously. FCRP stressed the use of native species of trees, shrubs, vines, wildflowers and grasses throughout the process in working with our partners from VDOT. As this project continues throughout the fall we will be watching the progress. Additionally, spring 2014 will see additional follow up throughout the warranty period.

Chesterbrook Greening Project - Begun in 2010, this project is a conversion of turf to forest at the Falls Church Pumping Station. After four years of cooperative efforts with the City of Falls Church (land owners), FCRP partners Lands & Waters, Virginia Native Plant Society, and Chesterbrook Elementary School (Fairfax County Public Schools) the property was transferred to Fairfax Water. A decision by the new landowners to contract all grounds maintenance has led to the termination of the volunteer maintenance of the Living Classroom Forest. The educational component developed and managed by Lands & Waters remains in effect. Plans are under development for classroom sessions in Fall 2014.

GMU Potomac Heights Organic Vegetable Garden – This first formal FCRP project is administered by the GMU Office of Sustainability, and was funded in 2010 by Transurban. Over the years the garden has produced hundreds of pounds of vegetables that have been used by Food for Others in Fairfax. The garden has expanded and the project now involves a farmers' market and courses in sustainable gardening. The garden has also become a focal point for involvement of the George Mason student body with the surrounding community.

Tree Coupon Program – This partnership between FCRP and Craven's Nursery and Pottery continues allowing homeowners to download a coupon and bring it to [Cravens](#) to purchase native trees. Native tree fact sheets can be found on the FCRP website at www.fcrpp3.org. Each year has seen between 17 and 35 native trees purchased and planted. Homeowners may still take advantage of this program to enhance their property value and help the environment by planting native trees in their yards.

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax in Oakton, VA - FCRP partners Asad Rouhi and Dan Schwartz of the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District and Ron Tuttle of Fairfax County Public Works, and Jim McGlone with the Virginia Department of Forestry have worked extensively with members of the UUCF community to plan and design a retrofit of the parking lot on church property that would eliminate most, if not all, of the runoff from the average one year storm. This is accomplished by terracing the lot and incorporating Fairfax County standard BMP

facilities, including a bio-swale and infiltration trench. The existing parking lot is over an acre in size, compacted impervious gravel, and steeply sloping.

The congregation is committed to implementing the plan and is awaiting review and approval from Fairfax County. Pending approval from the county, bids should go out and construction should begin in 2013. Significant work on removing the extensive invasive plants around the perimeter is part of the project and will change the appearance from Hunter Mill Road quite dramatically. Care of Trees/Davey has been enlisted for help with the larger items but there will be significant volunteer efforts lead by several Fairfax Master Naturalists and Master Gardeners from the congregation.

Raintree HOA: FCRP and its partners assisted Raintree HOA, which is located adjacent to the 495/Gallows Road interchange, with securing grant funding from Transurban and the Fairfax County Neighborhood Enhancement Program. The HOA suffered damage during the 495 Expresslanes project: loss of a tree buffer; staging of construction vehicles and equipment on HOA property; and use of HOA roads for U-turns during traffic flow interruptions. FCRP helped Raintree HOA reach out to Delegate Watts' office for help in dealing with this damage. Delegate Watts has secured barriers to force vehicles to slow down to make the turn into the complex. She is working with the Police Department to determine why trespassing laws are inadequate.

In addition to provide support for grant writing and connection to local elected officials, FCRP partners have provided technical assistance to formulate and execute plans to mitigate the damage suffered during the 495 Express Lanes project. The NVSWCD has offered advice on dealing stormwater and soil compaction issues. The Audubon Society of Northern Virginia and the Virginia Native Plant Society have consulted on plant selection and planting plans.

Another FCRP partner, Lands and Waters is now active with Raintree HOA, providing consulting and volunteer management services. Lands and Waters has coordinated several volunteer workdays at Raintree in partnership with DC Cares volunteers and Raintree HOA volunteers. Several areas have been planted already and Lands and Waters, along with Raintree's Maureen Goodfellow, worked with community volunteers to protect and maintain the planted areas. Overly aggressive maintenance by the landscaping contractor has damaged some of the plants. Lands and Waters is planning to return for additional plantings in Spring 2013.

The Raintree project is a great example of what FCRP is doing in Fairfax County. We found a need and put together a group of organizations that used their individual strengths and expertise to develop and implement a plan to address the need.

FCRP Outreach Efforts:

FCRP Leadership Team decided that our current quarterly meeting schedule would be altered to include two outreach efforts each year during the spring and fall. That leaves regular membership meetings during the winter and spring.

This year's first outreach event took place at Meadowlark Gardens. It doubled as an opportunity to thank our existing business partners and included a reception of networking and exhibits describing projects we've worked on to date. Sponsors included EnviroSolutions, Inc., Transurban, The Audubon Society of Northern Virginia, and Meadowlark Gardens. A copy of the program is attached along with the press release.

Strategic partnerships with Employment Enterprise, Inc. as noted earlier were one outcome of this outreach. Other partnerships are in development.

Upcoming Projects currently in development:

Mantua Stormwater Project – FCRP is working with the Mantua HOA, friends of Accotink Creek and the county to improve stormwater management in Mantua, a large sub-division in the headwaters of the Accotink Creek.

Ruckstuhl Garden Project – FCRP is working with neighborhood residents, the Fairfax County Park Authority, Whole Foods, and the Virginia Department of Transportation to improve habitat and install a community garden on the Ruckstuhl property located between 495, I-66 and Route 7.

Grow NOVA Natives – this is an initiative of the Northern Virginia Regional Commission, the Virginia Department of Forestry, Virginia Native Plant Society, Audubon Society of Northern Virginia, Nature by Design, GMU Office of Sustainability, Virginia Coastal Zone Management and other partners in Northern Virginia. Working through a network of community leaders, the campaign is seeking increased awareness and availability of native plants in Northern Virginia. A guide to plants native to the area is in production and community leader trainings have already taken place. Some of the funding for the program has been shifted to allow the hiring of a volunteer coordinator to carry the program forward.



Membership Report

Since the FCRP Charter was completed we have 32 Individual Members and 20 Organizational Memberships

The area that continues to be challenging is business membership and more focus needs to be given to this issue.

Organization members:



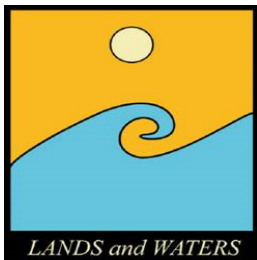
[The Fairfax County Office of Public Private Partnerships](#)



[Transurban](#)



[Eze Solutions Inc.](#)



[Lands and Waters Inc.](#)



[Clean Fairfax Council](#)



Northrop Grumman Corporation

<http://www.northropgrumman.com/>



[Virginia Native Plant Society](#)



[Friends of Accotink Creek](#)



[Audubon Society of Northern Virginia](#)



[George Mason University, Office of Sustainability](#)



[Fairfax County Department of Planning and Zoning](#)



www.dbanzondesign.com www.stophinkgreen.com



Rebuild Recycled Building Network

<http://www.rebuildwarehouse.org>



Deconstruction Services, LLC.

<http://www.deconstructionservices.com/>



Earthshare

<http://www.earthshare.org/>



FreeState Farms

<http://freestatefarmsva.com/>



<http://www.virginiamasternaturalist.org/fairfax.html>

Virginia Master Naturalist – Fairfax Chapter



<http://www.fcps.edu>

Edgar Allan Poe Middle School



[nrp.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/resources/resources-nrp.htm)

[http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/resources/resources-](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/resources/resources-nrp.htm)

Fairfax County Park Authority



<http://www.nvct.org/>

Northern Virginia Conservation Trust



NativeScapes Horticultural Consulting, LLC

<http://www.nativescapes.net>



EMPLOYMENT ENTERPRISES INC

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<http://www.eeihr.com/>

Individual members:

Diane Artemis
Dorothy Banzon
Brittany Bennett
Judi Booker
Diane Blust
Trish Butler
Karen DuVal
Stacey Evers
Kamol Farid
Alan M. Ford
Suzanne Foster
Judy Fraser
Amy Gould
Sandhe Hrushikesh
Kashka Kubzdela
Terry Liercke
Caitlin Lundquist

Jim McGlone
Pat McMullan
Jamie Minnaert-Grote
Mark Priest
Marie Reinsdorf
Juan Revollo
Kristin Rule
Daniel Schwartz
Kim Scudera
Jayashree Srinivasan
Eva Stern
Emily Swenson
Carol Turner
Ron Tuttle
Elizabeth Walsh

APPENDIX A – Pictures of 495 Express Lane Stormwater Pond Upgrades





FCRP

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FINDING COMMON GROUND

**Meadowlark Gardens
9750 Meadowlark Gardens Court, Vienna, VA**

4:00 pm **Tour of Gardens**
4:30 pm **Reception & Networking**
5:00 pm **Welcome -Amy Gould, FCRP Chair**

**Remarks by the Honorable Sharon Bulova, Chairman of the
Fairfax County Board of Supervisors**

Partner Appreciation

Sponsor Remarks
Conrad Mehan, EnviroSolutions, Inc.
Mike McGurk, Transurban

Gallery Exhibits:

**-Transurban – Mike McGurk, Christine Manley,
Jamie Breme**

**-495 ExpressLanes Stormwater Pond Upgrades-
Fred Rose**

**-Wakefield Run Stream Restoration-
Matthew Meyers**

**-Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Fairfax-
Suzanne Foster**

**-Chesterbrook Elementary School Living
Classroom-Jeanette Stewart & Alan Ford**

-Reforest Fairfax- Jim McGlone

**-Marshall High School Stormwater -
Improvements & Curriculum-
Elaine Tholen**

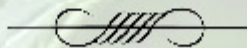
**-MSI/Potomac Heights Garden-
Lenna Storm**

**-Restore Your Landscape Brochure-
Terry Liercke & Dorothy Banzon**

**-Craven's Nursery & Pottery
Tree Coupons**

-PlantMorePlants.com

7:15 pm **Closing Remarks**



Sponsored by:

**EnviroSolutions, Inc. • Meadowlark Gardens
Audubon Society of Northern Virginia • Fluor/Transurban**

Photo by Laura Beaty and Marianne Mooney, Virginia Native Plant Society



Exponentially increasing the value of
public-private partnerships in Fairfax County


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FCRP Celebrates Partnerships – Looks to Future

[\(Printable version\)](#)

FAIRFAX COUNTY, Va – The [Fairfax County Restoration Project \(FCRP\)](#) highlighted its partnerships and honored its corporate partners at a reception at Meadowlark Gardens Atrium on October 16th. Surrounded by representatives from successful environmental partnerships and their corporate partners the event celebrated the efforts from around the region to restore ecosystems in Fairfax County.

The success of the projects and the environmental solutions can be attributed to the hard work and commitment of the volunteers, the organizations and their partners. Sharon Bulova, Fairfax County Chairman, noted, "One of the best parts of Fairfax County's personality is our partnerships." Partnerships between businesses, nonprofit organizations and the County continue to rise as many more companies look toward "strategic philanthropy" to give back to the community, while at the same time, enhancing their bottom line. Conrad Mehan, EnviroSolutions, Inc, sponsor of the event and a local partner said, "Public Private Partnerships not only support the community, but are good for us as well."

Some notable partnerships included:

- Mason Potomac Heights Vegetable Garden provides produce for the George Mason campus community, local food banks and creates a place for students to learn and practice sustainable gardening.
- [Reforest Fairfax](#) is a gifting program designed to help restore the tree canopy in Fairfax County. For each gift certificate issued five tree seedlings will be purchased and planted by Fairfax Releaf during the upcoming planting season, either Spring or Fall.
- Restore & Beautify Your Property Brochure, created in concert with D Banzon Designs & Northern Virginia Soil & Water, Conservation District (NVSWCD). Audubon Society Of Northern Virginia (ANSV).
- Plant More Plants, sponsored by Cox Communications, tells residential homeowners practices that are beneficial to their lifestyle and to the Chesapeake Bay
- Collaboration with VDOT to refoliate the 495 Express Lanes

Many of the projects were funded by the Transurban/Flour Community Grant Program which was started in conjunction with FCRP to help homeowners restore areas impacted by the road projects. There are many opportunities for companies and individuals to get involved with the environmental initiatives with FCRP and its partners. Contact [FCRP](#) for more details.

Fostered by the [Fairfax County Office of Public Private Partnerships](#), FCRP is an all-volunteer organization that strengthens the relationship between people and nature through community action. FCRP connects, creates, and promotes efforts to restore ecosystem functions in Fairfax County through collaboration with public, private and volunteer organizations.