



## ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA

### County Board Agenda Item Meeting of March 18, 2017

**DATE:** February 15, 2017

**SUBJECT:** Acceptance and appropriation of a National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Grant to establish the Northern Virginia Cooperative Weed Management Area Program.

#### **C. M. RECOMMENDATION:**

1. Authorize the County Manager or his designee to execute an agreement to accept funds from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation for the Northern Virginia Cooperative Weed Management Area Program.
2. Appropriate \$140,000 in National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Grant funds (101.359910) to the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) (101.83024) in FY 2017 for the Northern Virginia Cooperative Weed Management Area Program to control invasive plants along the Washington and Old Dominion Trail.

**ISSUES:** This is a request to appropriate one-time funds from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to support the Northern Virginia Cooperative Weed Management Area Program. This is a regional program dedicated to improving invasive plant management along the Washington and Old Dominion Trail and is a regional effort of Arlington County, the City of Alexandria, Fairfax County, Fairfax County Park Authority, Loudoun County, Prince William County, Dominion Virginia Power, NOVA Parks, and other partners. Arlington County will be acting as both the project manager and fiscal agent for this project. A local/regional match of \$145,810.50 is required to receive this grant. Arlington County will contribute \$15,000 towards this regional match, which is already included in the Department of Parks and Recreation's FY 2017 adopted budget. No issues have been identified.

**SUMMARY:** The Northern Virginia sections of the Washington and Old Dominion Trail stretch for 45 miles through three counties and three cities and have different organizations that both maintain and/or require access to the trail (e.g. Virginia Dominion Power and the Virginia Department of Forestry). This grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation will help to develop the Northern Virginia Cooperative Weed Management Area, a collaborative effort of all the stakeholders involved with maintenance of the Trail. This effort will build institutional

County Manager:

*MJS / Muc*

County Attorney:

*[Signature]* *[Signature]*

Staff: Sarah Archer, Department of Parks and Recreation

capacity to manage habitat along the Washington and Old Dominion Trail, engage volunteers, and improve management practices along a 45-mile stretch of meadow habitat to support a variety of birds and other wildlife species.

**BACKGROUND:** Arlington County's Natural Resources Management Plan, adopted by the County Board in 2010, states that invasive plant species represent the greatest and most immediate threat to the continued survival of Arlington's natural lands and native plant communities. Although Arlington's Invasive Plant Program has been managing invasive plants in prioritized areas, these plants will continue to spread in other areas without a more comprehensive approach. Arlington's regional partners have been working together to develop collaborative initiatives that will have a lasting effect on shared trails and other spaces, with the top priority identified as the Washington and Old Dominion Trail.

**DISCUSSION:** This funding is designated for the duration of the project (February 2017 to September 2018), and will total \$140,000. This grant will be used to support the costs of a contractor who will act as coordinator of the Cooperative Weed Management Area, responsible for coordinating work to inventory and create a management plan for invasive plants of the Washington & Old Dominion Trail, and the implementation of three pilot projects along the trail. The Department of Parks and Recreation will oversee the coordinator position and manage the contracted work for this regional initiative. Arlington's portion of the matching funds will be expended exclusively on Arlington-based projects.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** A regional match of \$145,810 is required to receive this funding, of which \$15,000 will be contributed by Arlington. Arlington's required match is currently in the FY 2017 Department of Parks and Recreation adopted budget. Regional partners have confirmed their contributions in writing as part of the grant application process.