

2014

Fairfax County Restoration Project
A Public-Private Partnership

Celebrate Earth Week and ReDiscover Your Earth!

green
inspirations

ENVIRONMENTAL FILM FESTIVAL



Summary of Activities

January 2014 - December 2014

January 1, 2013 – December 31, 2013

FCRP Mission

The Fairfax County Restoration Project (FCRP) strengthens the relationship between people and nature through community action. FCRP **connects, creates, 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.

2014 Activities

Reforest Fairfax: For each \$35 gift purchased five (5) seedlings are planted 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 www.reforestfairfax.org.

To develop this program FCRP created 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.

Employment Enterprises Inc. (www.eeih.com/the-environment) has formed a strategic partnership with Reforest Fairfax promoting and supporting the program.

In 2014 the total number of gifts purchased rose to 95. The total number of trees planted has reached 475 trees. All proceeds go directly to Fairfax ReLeaf.

Green Inspirations Environmental Film Festival:

FCRP developed an environmental film festival entitled The Green Inspirations Environmental Film Festival for Earth Week, 2014. The event was held at the Cinema Arts theatre in Main Street in Fairfax.

Sponsors included:

[Envirosolutions Inc.](#),
[MOM's Organic Market, Dewberry](#),
[E'toile de Marie](#)
[Audubon Society of Northern Virginia](#),
[Cinema Arts](#)

The full schedule of films shown can be found at
http://media.wix.com/ugd/180807_fb9d0ced1eb5415ebfceb3c9f8cd24d.pdf

Stormwater Ponds on 495:

FCRP has requested the VDOT provide a video we can stream of the 5 stormwater ponds that were upgraded because of our effort. This request is in process and we expect it have video of spring unfolding there as well as updates throughout the upcoming year.

On-going Initiatives

495 HOTLANES - In 2012 the HOTLANES project, the original impetus for the FCRP, was renamed 495 Express Lanes. Spring 2015 represents the end of the planting along the corridor. The unfortunate occurrence of unauthorized mowing destroyed much of the growth that had taken place between Braddock Road and Gallows Road. However, VDOT has been able to confirm that the trees destroyed will be paid for by the errant contractor and those voluntary natives will be replaced if they fail to regenerate as they are expected to do. Nothing can be done about the 8 years of growth we have lost but we look forward to the area recovering. VDOT has taken additional steps so this will not happen again. It was a disappointing development but we appreciate VDOT's quick response.

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 Nursery & Pottery](http://CravensNursery.com) 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, Ron Tuttle while with 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 UUCF parking lot is underway and will be completed by Labor Day 2014 so the parking lot is ‘back up to speed’ for the fall schedule including UUCF services as well as the Hunter Mill Montessori School, Fairfax Mindfulness Center, and Shepherd Center.

We are exploring many opportunities to expand the influence of this project into the ‘neighborhood’ including several public outreach lectures tied to this project that highlight the environmental stewardship illustrated on the site.

Raintree HOA:

FCRP Partner Lands and Waters has been contacted by the new management company to assist with maintenance of the planted areas that FCRP helped to establish to absorb stormwater and help the HOA recover from the huge impact of the ExpressLanes projects. Previous reports have detailed the efforts made at Raintree.

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 completed and available for download at www.plantnovanatives.org. Full color copies are also available.



Chesterbrook Elementary School Living Classroom - Lands and Waters led biodiversity surveys in the Chesterbrook Living Classroom in Fall 2014 with 4th-grade classes from Chesterbrook Elementary, as part of their "Follow the Water" program, funded by Fairfax Water. The Friends of Accotink Creek provided volunteer support.

Upcoming Initiatives:

- Developing a demonstration Green Streets Project
- Outreach on Sustainable Sites Initiative

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:



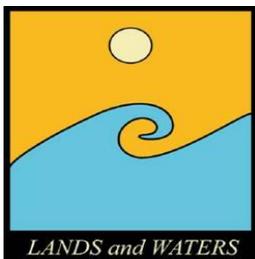
[The Fairfax County Office of Public Private Partnerships](#)



[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->

Fairfax County Park Authority



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

Northern Virginia Conservation Trust



NativeScapes Horticultural Consulting, LLC

<http://www.nativescapes.net>



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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