



Poplar Ford Park CDP Notes:

- Resource Protection Zone (RPZ): Uses within the RPZs will be restricted to foot traffic on park-maintained trails, unless otherwise designated. Off trail use is highly discouraged for all visitors and their pets due to the sensitivity of the natural plant communities and rare or unique wildlife species. Authorized trails will be maintained within their existing footprints, though existing trails may be rerouted for resource management if they are found to be impacting rare species or natural communities, or to improve their sustainability with Park Authority approval. If trails are rerouted, all abandoned sections must be carefully restored and managed. No new trails may be constructed except in the general areas as shown on the approved CDP.
- Trail maintenance should be coordinated internally to minimize impacts to all resources. Limited off-trail activity will be permitted. Site management and programs scheduled and supervised by the Park Authority are permitted.
- Accessible trails are trails that are designed and constructed to align with ADA Guidelines to the extent possible. Trail design and construction should consider FCPA maintenance and operations needs and should minimize impacts to natural resource communities.
- Constructed sustainable trails may be constructed as dirt paths, stonedust trails, or paved trails as site conditions warrant. They may not be able to be designed as fully accessible.
- Trail locations are approximate and shall be located as ground conditions allow. Trails may be closed at the discretion of the FCPA as needed for operations or management purposes.
- Pedestrian trailheads shall include park identification, safety signage, map signage, and/or kiosks as needed.
- Deed restricted areas are overlay areas that may restrict the types of use, facility or maintenance in this portion of the park. Refer to deed and/or agreement language for further development guidance.
- Radio Control Zone - Use in this area pursuant to special agreements. Enhancements to facilities may include pavilion or shelter, parking and/or other support amenities as agreed upon.
- Access Zone - may include entrances, trailheads, information kiosks, and paved parking areas, some of which are suitable for equestrian trails.
- The Historic Overlay District for Manassas Battlefield Park limits the height of buildings within that area to sixty feet.
- See Hickory Forest CDP for details on park facilities at that site.

Resource Protection Zone Notes:

- Old Field & Meadow Resource Protection Zone**
This Resource Protection Zone contains a healthy cedar dominated old field habitat that supports one of the largest remaining breeding populations of prairie warblers and associated bird species in our region. Prairie warblers have been documented to be in steep decline due primarily to habitat loss. The old field habitat at Poplar Ford Park is considered to be one of the best remaining breeding habitats for prairie warblers and related old field, scrub and meadow bird species by consensus of professional and amateur ornithologists consulted by the Park Authority. Similarly, meadow habitats are disappearing from Northern Virginia as treeless areas are developed for human uses. Meadows support a wide diversity of plant and animal species. Protecting the integrity of the old field and surrounding meadow habitat will support a hundreds of plant and animal species, provide outstanding wildlife viewing opportunities for the public and support the water quality protection goals for the Bull Run-Occoquan Reservoir.
- Diabase Forest Resource Protection Zone**
This Resource Protection Zone contains a good example of the globally rare Northern Hardpan Basic Oak Hickory Forest. This community type is ranked as both globally and state rare (G3/S3) by the Virginia Natural Heritage Program. This forest type, characterized by white oak, pignut hickory, white ash and redbud, occurs on diabase soil underlain by dense plastic clay, commonly referred to as shrink-swell soil. Under these conditions, water ponds easily during wet periods but evaporates quickly during dry spells. Such fluctuation in soil moisture results in stunted, open-canopy trees but encourages a wide variety of grasses and herbs to occupy the sunlit understory. With a natural range restricted to just a few counties in the northern Virginia and Maryland Piedmont, most examples of this forest-type have disappeared due to the rapid urban and suburban growth of the area. Protecting the integrity of the remaining diabase forest blocks is critical to the survival of the community type and the species it supports. Other examples exist on Fairfax County parkland at the Elklick Woodlands Natural Area Preserve, Cub Run Stream Valley Park, Confederate Fortifications Historic Site and Hickory Forest Park.
- Wet Meadow Resource Protection Zone**
This RPZ contains wet meadow lying entirely within the county designated Resource Protection Area for Bull Run and its tributaries. The meadows are dominated by grasses and wildflower species, with some trees and shrubs. This habitat provides important ecological benefits, but it also susceptible to encroachment by non-native invasive plant species. Long term management will focus on promoting native meadow species, controlling woody plant species and eliminating invasive species.
- Forested Wetland Resource Protection Zone**
This RPZ contains forested wetlands and lies almost entirely within the county designated Resource Protection Area for Bull Run and its tributaries. This bottomland forest community includes good to high quality forested wetlands which provide important habitat and ecological services within the Bull Run watershed, and supports rare and unusual plant and animal species. Threats include increased stormwater flows and sedimentation of wetlands from adjacent land development, encroachment by non-native invasive plant species, and the potential future construction of the Battlefield By-pass. Long term management will focus on protecting wetlands and forest species and controlling invasive species.
- Riparian Forest Community**
This RPZ contains an association of forested vegetation communities commonly found along riparian corridors and lies almost entirely within the county designated Resource Protection Area for Bull Run and its tributaries. This riparian forest community includes good to high quality vegetation which provide important habitat and ecological services within the Bull Run watershed, and supports aquatic dependent plant and animal species. Threats include increased stormwater flows, over-browse by white-tailed deer and encroachment by non-native invasive plant species. Long term management will focus on protecting existing native riparian forest species and controlling invasive species.

Manassas Battlefield National Park

POPLAR FORD PARK
Sully Woodlands

Conceptual Development Plan
Approved Plan

Prepared by: Fairfax County Park Authority
March 25, 2015

439 acres • Tax Map 52-3 and 52-4

LEGEND:

- Park Boundary
- - - Constructed Sustainable Trail
- - - Portage Way
- - - Trails by others
- - - Manassas Battlefield Historic Overlay District
- ◆ Gateway
- ✱ Trailhead
- ✱ Deed Restricted Area



0 200 400 Feet