

Dear Mr. Wally Sansone,

I am writing to you to provide information on proposed plans for the Fairfax County Deer Management Program at Powhatan Hills Park. I've included information below for an upcoming meeting that will be held to discuss the proposed addition of the park with community members. A letter with the information below has been mailed to immediate neighbors surrounding Powhatan Hills Park but we wanted to share the information with the Franklin Area Citizens Association to reach additional neighbors that may be invested in this park. The park has not been added to the program at this time.

Each year, deer management is conducted in select Fairfax County parks. The purpose of the Deer Management Program is to reduce the deer population to more sustainable levels within Fairfax County to minimize the health and safety impacts of an overabundant deer population on residents and wildlife. These impacts include a high number of deer-vehicle collisions, potential spread of diseases, and decreased habitat quality that can negatively affect the ecosystem. The Deer Management Program is conducted by the Fairfax County Police Department in partnership with the Fairfax County Park Authority and NOVA Parks.

County staff are currently in the planning process for the Deer Management Program that will begin in fall 2018. Based on reports of overabundant deer in your community and requests from neighbors for deer population control, we are proposing the addition of Powhatan Hills Park to the Deer Management Program beginning next year. This property is a 7-acre, wooded parcel owned by Fairfax Water located along Powhatan St. near the intersection of Freedom Ln. (see attached map).

We wanted to first inform you of these proposed plans and to get feedback from you and your community members to determine the level of support for inclusion of Powhatan Hills Park in the Deer Management Program. As the property owner of Powhatan Hills Park, Fairfax Water would need to approve the proposed deer management activity prior to any actions taken. Your input will contribute greatly to the decision-making process on whether this property is approved for the Deer Management Program.

The Fairfax County Deer Management Program uses safe, effective, and sustainable deer management methods as permitted by the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, including the use of archery, managed hunts, and sharpshooting. For Powhatan Hills Park, archery has been selected as the most appropriate method of deer management if the park is approved for the program.

We invite community residents to join Dranesville District Supervisor John Foust and FCPD staff for an information meeting to learn more about the Deer Management Program, identify and discuss concerns related to the proposed plans, and provide your feedback to assist in the planning process for deer management at Powhatan Hills Park.

Powhatan Hills Park - Deer Management Community Meeting

Thursday, November 9, 2017

7:00pm – 8:00pm

Haycock Elementary School - Cafeteria

6616 Haycock Rd.

Falls Church, VA 22043

You can also visit the Fairfax County website for more information about the Fairfax County Deer Management Program at:

Deer Management: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/>

Archery: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/>

Sgt. Earit Powell and I are available for any questions you may have about the program. I can be reached at katherine.edwards@fairfaxcount or [703-246-6868](tel:703-246-6868). Sergeant Powell may also be reached at earit.powell@fairfaxcounty.gov or [\(703\) 324-0280](tel:703-324-0280).

Kind Regards,

Katherine Edwards, Ph.D., Certified Wildlife Biologist®

Wildlife Management Specialist

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