

# Northern Virginia Park Directors

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## **Presentation and Q&A On Parkland Needs and Potential Funding Sources**

Joint Subcommittee to Study Long-Term Funding Sources for Purchase  
of Development Rights to Preserve Open-Space and Farmland

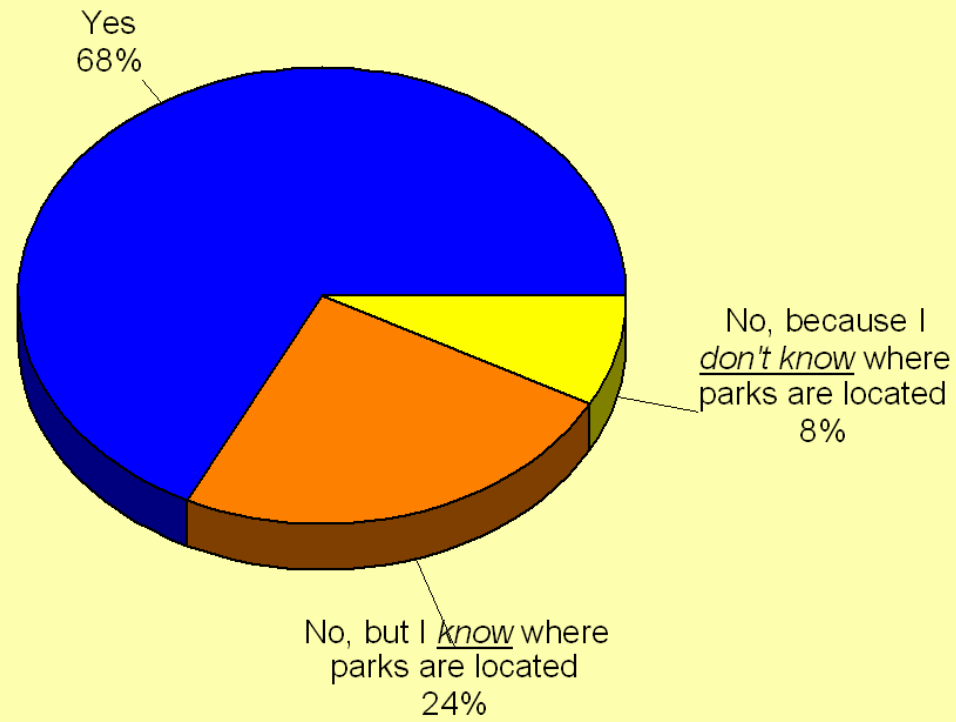
**August 30, 2007**

**Algonkian Regional Park**

# In May and June of 2007, 1,094 households were surveyed in Loudoun County, the City of Fairfax and the City of Falls Church.

## Q4. Have Respondent Households Visited Any Parks or Recreation Facilities in the Area During the Past Year

by percentage of respondents

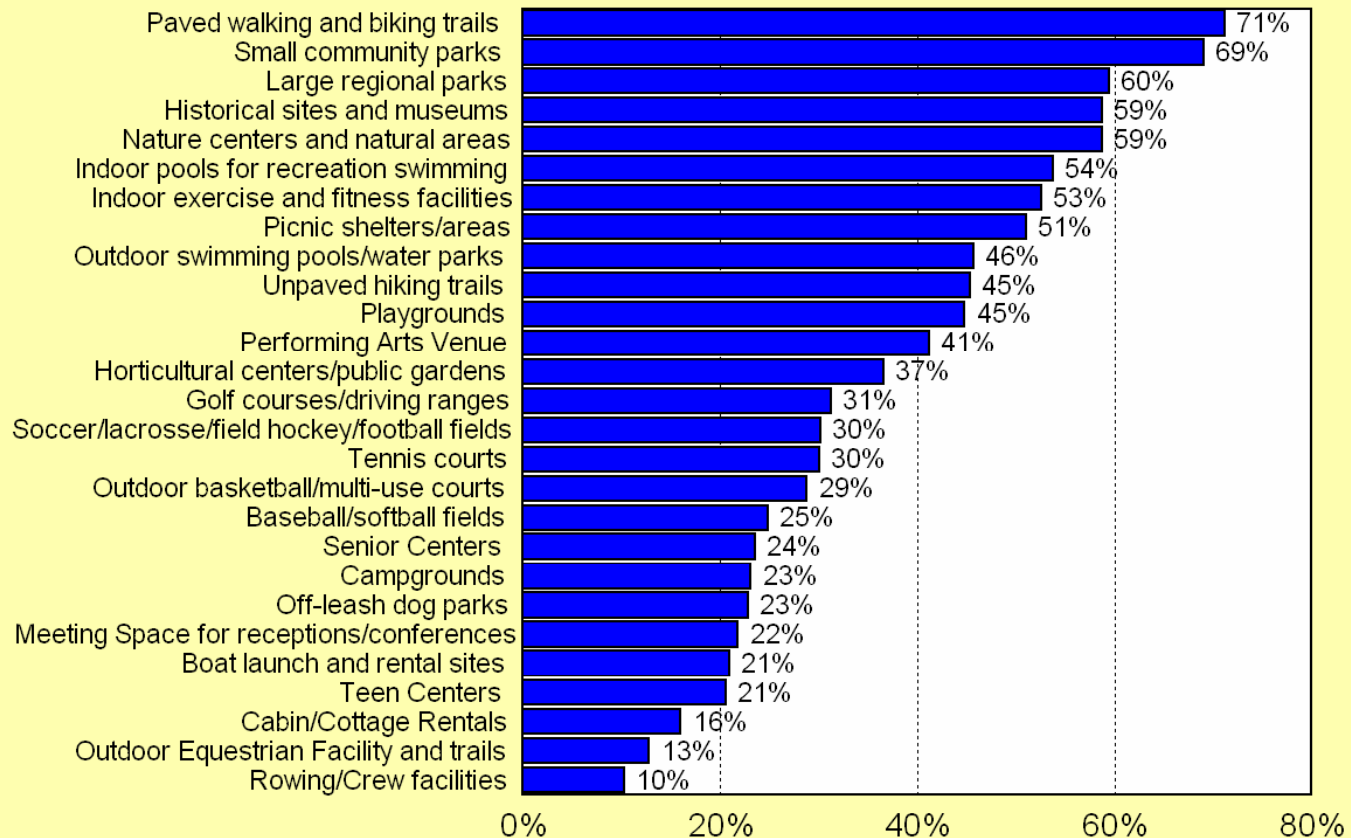




# What type of park facilities is the public most interested in?

## Q5. Respondent Households That Have a Need for Various Parks and Recreation Facilities

by percentage of respondents (multiple choices could be made)

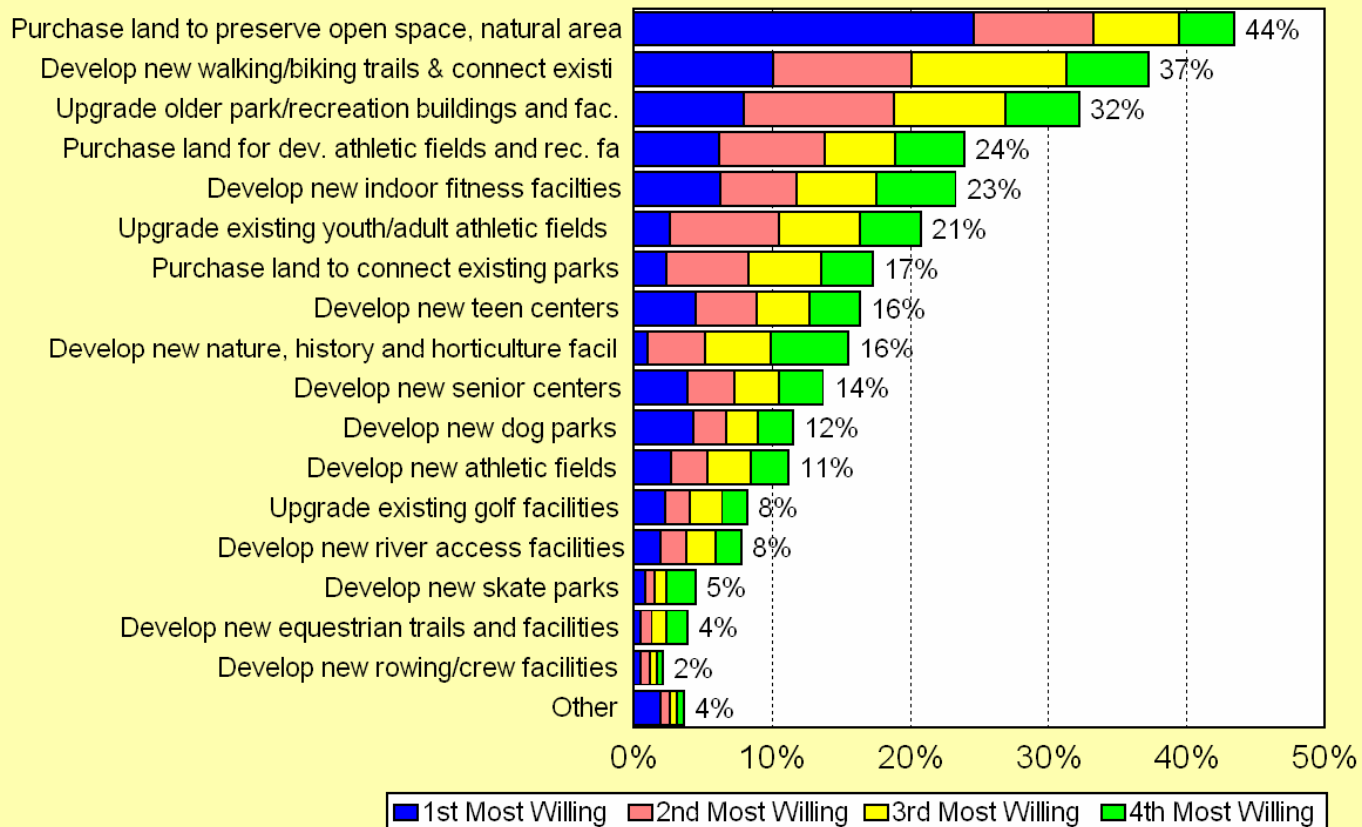


Source: Leisure Vision/ETC Institute (July 2007)

# Where the voters would like to see tax dollars spent

## Q14. Actions Respondents Would Be Most Willing to Fund With Their Tax Dollars

by percentage of respondents who selected the item as one of their top four choices



# Parkland Expansion and Currently Funded

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## National Parks

- NPS is not buying any new land.

## State Parks & Natural Areas

- 2002 State Park Bond is nearly depleted. New or expanded parks are unlikely without additional resources.

## Regional Park Authority

- Capital is formula driven from each member jurisdiction. Current capital is inadequate to buy much land. Donation and bargain sale are primary methods being pursued.

## Local Park Agencies

- Capital is supported by property taxes that have declined dramatically over the last year. Parks compete with schools and public safety for funding.

# State Efforts to Support Parkland Acquisition

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- **Virginia Land Conservation Foundation**
  - ¼ of funding goes to “Parks and Open Space.” This is the most competitive of the four categories. Funding for this program is very inconsistent.
- **Virginia Resource Authority**
  - GA added financing for parks and open space to the list of public uses that could use VRA bonding.
- **State Park & Open Space Bond**
  - 2002 Bond funding has been consumed. New funding would be needed to expand the State Park System.
- **Conservation Tax Credit**
  - Easements and bargain sales can be used to expand parkland. But there is no preference toward public lands.

# Northern Virginia has the Largest Deficit of State Parks per capita

**Table IX-3. Virginia State Parks Acreage Need Based on 10 Acres per 1,000 People**

Planning District	2010 Population	Acres Needed	Current Supply	Surplus / (Deficiency)
LENOWISCO (PD1)	90,700	907	1,103	196
Cumberland Plateau (PD2)	112,700	1,127	946	(181)
Mount Rogers (PD3)	194,100	1,941	8,087	6,146
New River Valley (PD4)	173,300	1,733	583	(1,150)
Roanoke Valley-Alleghany (PD5)	271,400	2,714	250	(2,464)
Central Shenandoah (PD6)	276,788	2,768	4,243	1,475
Northern Shenandoah Valley (PD7)	211,900	2,119	2,586	467
<u>Northern Virginia (PD8)</u>	<u>2,181,000</u>	<u>21,810</u>	<u>2,390</u>	<u>(19,420)</u>
Rappahannock-Rapidan (PD9)	160,600	1,606	1,860	254
Thomas Jefferson (PD10)	228,600	2,286	53	(2,233)
Virginia's Region 2000 (PD11)	242,399	2,424	1,053	(1,371)
West Piedmont (PD12)	251,200	2,512	4,537	2,025
Southside (PD13)	87,900	879	5,368	4,489
Commonwealth (PD14)	105,100	1,051	3,124	2,073
Richmond Regional (PD15)	989,500	9,895	9,483	(412)
George Washington (PD16)	318,800	3,188	6,448	3,260
Northern Neck (PD17)	53,500	535	2,127	1,592
Middle Peninsula (PD18)	91,800	918	431	(487)
Crater (PD19)	168,699	1,687	1,930	243
Accomack-Northampton (PD22)	53,700	537	536	(1)
Hampton Roads (PD23)	1,629,200	16,292	9,096	(7,196)
	<b>7,892,886</b>	<b>78,929</b>	<b>66,234</b>	<b>(12,695)</b>



# New State Park Bond

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Have a new State Park Bond, and dedicate some portion of it to a matching grant program to buy local and regional parks that meet priorities identified in the Virginia Outdoors Plan.

## **Benefits:**

- Expanded State Park System.
- New Model of Partnership with Local and Regional Park Systems.
- The Ability for the Commonwealth to Leverage its Resources.

# Tourism

Domestic travelers spent nearly \$16.5 billion in Virginia during 2005, up 9.6 percent from 2004.

The GA could dedicate some percentage of tourism-related tax revenues to be used for expansion and development of “destination parks,” like historic sites and other sites that would attract visitors from out-of-state, expanding Virginia’s role as a leader in tourism.



***Visiting historic sites ranked as the #2 recreational activity in the Virginia Outdoor Survey.***

# Modify Conservation Tax Credit

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Currently, landowners can get a 40% tax credit for the value of conservation easements, donation and/or bargain sales for conservation purposes. Public access is not required.

To provide an incentive for public trail connections and/or donation of land for public parkland, a higher credit of 60% might encourage the higher public benefit of trails and parkland.

# New Funding for Riparian Parkland

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In urban/suburban areas, local water and sewer agencies bill residents and businesses for water and sewer usage. The General Assembly could authorize such agencies and authorities to add a “watershed protection” fee that would be used to acquire public parkland along rivers and reservoirs that are public drinking water sources.

## **Benefits:**

- More parkland in the areas of high population density.
- Connect drinking water quality with parkland.
- Riparian areas are among the best for trail development.
- Chesapeake Bay protection.

65% of voters support “small increases in taxes” to fund land to “protect water quality, natural areas, lakes, rivers and beaches, neighborhood parks and wildlife habitat.”

# Fees and Taxes Previously Considered

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- State Authorization of local impact fees on development could create a new funding source for parkland expansion in addition to other infrastructure needs.
- Dedicate a percentage of the recordation tax.
- Per ton fee on out-of-state waste disposal.
- Taxes on cigarettes, alcohol or other items.

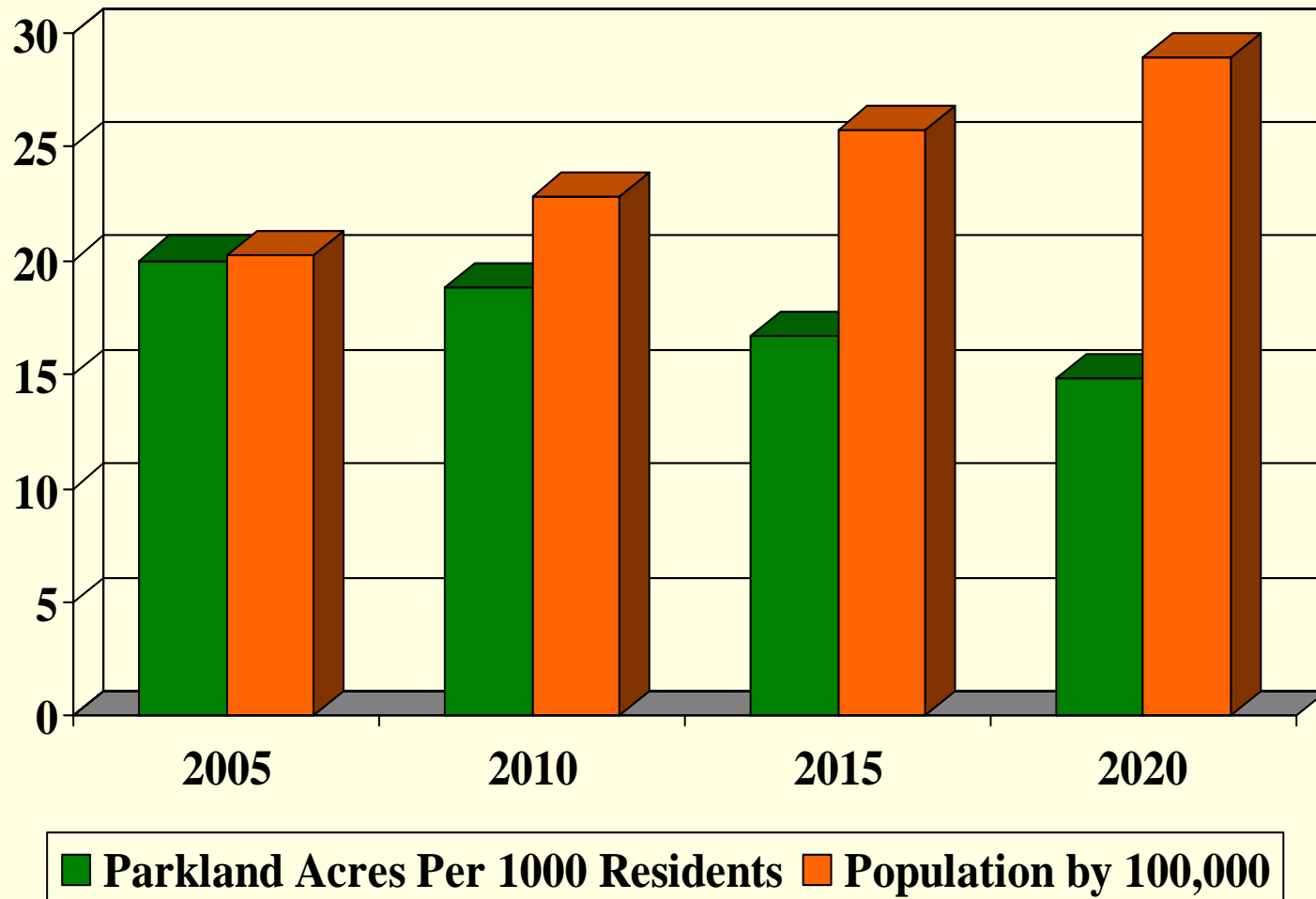
# Parkland Need

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Whatever the mix of funding options recommended by the Joint Subcommittee is, the need for more parkland in Northern Virginia is growing every year with the expansion of the fastest growing region of the Commonwealth.



# The Effect of a Growing Population and Static Parkland in Northern Virginia



Parkland is based on a combined Local/Regional/State number of 43,000 Acres. Population is based on a 2.54% Annual Growth.