



FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY POLICY MANUAL

Policy 209	Title: Protection of Lands and Facilities
Date Approved: 6/26/2013	Last reviewed: 3/26/2008
Objective: Ensure the long-term protection, preservation and sustainability of natural, cultural and park resources in accordance with adopted park standards and adherence with natural and heritage resource management guidelines and County-wide Policy Plan obligations.	

Purpose: The Park Authority shall resist by all appropriate means, including legal action, any attempt to destroy or encroach upon any park, historical site, nature preserve or recreational facility under its control. The Park Authority considers its responsibilities to the citizens of Fairfax County to be in the nature of a public trust, requiring commitment to the preservation and protection of natural, cultural, horticultural and recreational resources located on parklands.

Policy Statement: An encroachment by definition shall include, but not be limited to, the act of unauthorized mowing or clearing of land; the planting, tilling, or pruning of vegetation; the deposition of debris or refuse in a park; an extension of a use by adjacent property owner; an installation which impedes public access; the construction of any facility or structure; the installation or maintenance of equipment and/or utilities on parkland without the express written permission or permit of the Park Authority unless permissions are inherently granted in accordance with the terms of an existing easement running with the land and duly recorded in the land records of Fairfax County.

The Park Authority shall strive to be a good neighbor to adjacent property owners, with the expectation of the same in return, by working in good faith to remedy encroachment conditions on parkland within the parameters of Park Authority policy, regulations, and standard operating procedures. The Park Authority shall not sell land, grant easements, nor exchange land in order to remedy conditions resulting from encroachment onto parkland.

This policy shall not prevent individuals or groups from (1) performing community service activities on parkland including, but not limited to, the removal of invasive plants or the construction of trails; or (2) adopting a park. Approval of these community service activities require expressed written permission from the Director of the Park Authority.

Policy 209 Protection of Lands and Facilities (continuation)

Supporting Documentation:

1. §1.15 Protection of Park Property, Park Authority Regulations
[Links\Park Regulations.doc](#)
2. Encroachment Prevention
<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/resources/archives/encroachment.htm>