

PS COMMITTEE #1  
April 27, 2015

Worksession

MEMORANDUM

April 23, 2015

TO: Public Safety Committee

FROM: Susan J. Farag, Legislative Analyst *SJF*

SUBJECT: Worksession: FY16 Operating Budget – M-NCPPC Park Police

*Those expected for this worksession:*

*From Park Police:*

Acting Park Police Chief Darin Uhrig  
Captain George Coleman  
Park Police Budget Manager Trish McCourt

*From the Parks Department:*

Mike Riley, Director, M-NCPPC Parks Department  
Mitra Pedoeem, Acting Deputy Director of Administration  
John Nissel, Deputy Director of Operations  
Karen Warnick, Chief, Management Services, Planning Department  
Trish Swann, Acting Departmental Budget Manager  
John Hench, Chief, Park Planning & Stewardship

**Overview**

For FY16, M-NCPPC request for Park Police is \$14,171,739 and 119 workyears (budget excerpt ©1). Proposed funding represents a 0.9% decrease from the approved FY15 operating budget. Four new positions are requested. Park Police will be required to achieve 8.0 workyears of lapse; slightly more than what was required in FY15.

	<i>FY14 Actual</i>	<i>FY15 Adopted</i>	<i>FY16 Proposed</i>	<i>% Change FY15 - FY16</i>
<i>Expenditures by Type</i>				
Personnel	\$11,897,283	\$13,474,608	\$13,306,919	-1.2%
Operating Costs	\$1,176,430	\$832,740	\$864,820	3.9%
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$13,073,713</b>	<b>\$14,307,348</b>	<b>\$14,171,739</b>	<b>-0.9%</b>

## Crime Statistics/Goals and Performance Measures

The annual crime statistic report for Park Police is attached at ©3-6 and the Goals and Performance Measures reported in the M-NCPPC budget document are attached at ©7-8. In 2014, Part 1 Crimes were down by almost 11%, and Part 2 Crimes were down by almost 16%, for an overall reduction of 14.7%. In terms of Part 1 Crimes, many of the actual numbers of offenses are relatively small, so large percentage changes can occur from small number changes. No murders and two rapes were reported in 2014, but the number of first degree assaults increased from four in 2013 to 13 in 2014. The most reported Part 1 Crime continues to be theft. Juvenile physical arrests have decreased significantly over the past year, from 39 in 2013 to just six in 2014. *The Committee may wish to ask if any potential causes for this reduction have been identified (i.e. related to decriminalization of marijuana possession?).*

M-NCPPC Park Police						
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	%Change 2013-2014
<b>Part 1 Offenses</b>						
Murder	0	0	0	0	0	-
Rape	2	0	3	0	2	-
Robbery	15	6	7	16	9	-43.8%
1st Degree Assault	2	3	8	4	13	225.0%
Burglary	9	19	11	13	13	0.0%
Thefts	164	154	133	169	145	-14.2%
Auto Thefts	3	4	2	2	0	-100.0%
<b>TOTAL PART 1</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>204</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>-10.8%</b>
<b>Part 2 Offenses</b>						
Destruction/Vandalism	174	206	175	135	147	8.9%
Sex Offense	8	7	17	9	6	-33.3%
Narcotic Drug Law	199	220	289	270	222	-17.8%
Littering/Dumping	56	68	60	43	46	7.0%
2nd Degree Assault	51	23	42	47	22	-53.2%
Other Part 2	359	222	203	243	186	-23.5%
<b>TOTAL PART 2</b>	<b>847</b>	<b>746</b>	<b>786</b>	<b>747</b>	<b>629</b>	<b>-15.8%</b>
<b>TOTAL OFFENSES</b>	<b>1,042</b>	<b>932</b>	<b>950</b>	<b>951</b>	<b>811</b>	<b>-14.7%</b>
<b>Physical Arrests:</b>						
Adult Arrests	172	171	124	130	74	-43.1%
Juvenile Arrests	62	61	65	39	6	-84.6%
<b>Arrest by Citation/Warrant</b>						
Adult Criminal Citations	346	285	434	473	404	-14.6%
Juvenile Criminal Citations	185	182	249	174	170	-2.3%
Outstanding Warrant	149	85	97	69	59	-14.5%
<b>TOTAL ARRESTS</b>	<b>914</b>	<b>784</b>	<b>969</b>	<b>885</b>	<b>713</b>	<b>-19.4%</b>
<b>Total Civil/Traffic/State Citations</b>	<b>10,926</b>	<b>14,750</b>	<b>16,599</b>	<b>18,638</b>	<b>17,545</b>	<b>-5.9%</b>

## **Expansion of the Deer Management Program (\$262,208)**

The FY16 budget request includes funding for three police officers (\$207,208) and a one-time capital outlay for a truck, trailer, and utility vehicle (\$55,000) to expand the on-going direct reduction deer management efforts (i.e. managed hunting and sharp-shooting) on M-NCPPC parkland. The expansion will provide deer population management into eight additional parcels of parkland (1,500 acres) and provide for the additional harvest of deer on existing parkland within the Park Police-based Sharpshooting Program.

This item was placed on M-NCPPC's Tier 2 of Non-Recommended Reductions to meet the Executive's recommended budget. The Planning, Housing & Economic Development Committee (PHED) met on April 20 to review the entire M-NCPPC FY16 operating budget. At that time, the Committee did not recommend that Tier 2 be included on the Reconciliation List. However the Committee did recommend to the Public Safety Committee to add this as a separate item to the Reconciliation List.

It should be noted that the total funding for the Tier 2 non-recommended reduction was \$412,742 for four positions and five workyears. It also included funding for the one-time capital outlay of \$55,000. A portion of this funding is likely in a different Division.

## **New Information Technology (IT) Position**

The FY16 budget request also includes one full-time career position as a System Administrator to manage the Division's databases. The Division has hired a contractual Information Technology Systems Manager. The incumbent oversees the administration and integration of various systems that are applied to law enforcement, enterprise security, and life safety. Some of the systems overseen include Police Mapping/Auto Vehicle Locator systems, State/CJIS/NCIC interfaces, Electronic Ticketing systems, Automated Crash Reporting systems, In-Car Enforcement Video System, Fire Alarms, Emergency Call Stations, Security Operations, and other related systems. The current salary as a term-contract employee for 1,950 hours is \$80,000. The proposed annual salary for a full-time employee is \$82,800 plus benefits.

## **Council Staff Recommendation**

Council staff believes the deer overpopulation poses a serious safety, health, and economy risk, and that additional resources should be approved to further expand the sharpshooting program. **Council staff recommends that the Committee add \$262,208 to the Reconciliation List to address the new sites.**

### **This packet contains**

Proposed Budget Detail FY16	1
Park Police Organizational Structure	2
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Park Police Overview, including Goals and Performance Measures	7-8
Park Police Budget Responses	9-11

**Montgomery County  
Department of Parks - Park Police**

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**BUDGET AT A GLANCE**

**Summary of Division Budget**

		<b>FY15 Adopted</b>	<b>FY16 Proposed</b>	<b>% Change</b>
<b>Budget</b>	Expenditures	\$14,307,348	\$14,171,739	-0.9%
<b>Staffing</b>	Funded Career Positions	115.00	119.00	3.5%
	Funded Workyears	111.30	114.90	3.2%

**HIGHLIGHTS AND MAJOR CHANGES IN FY16 PROPOSED BUDGET**

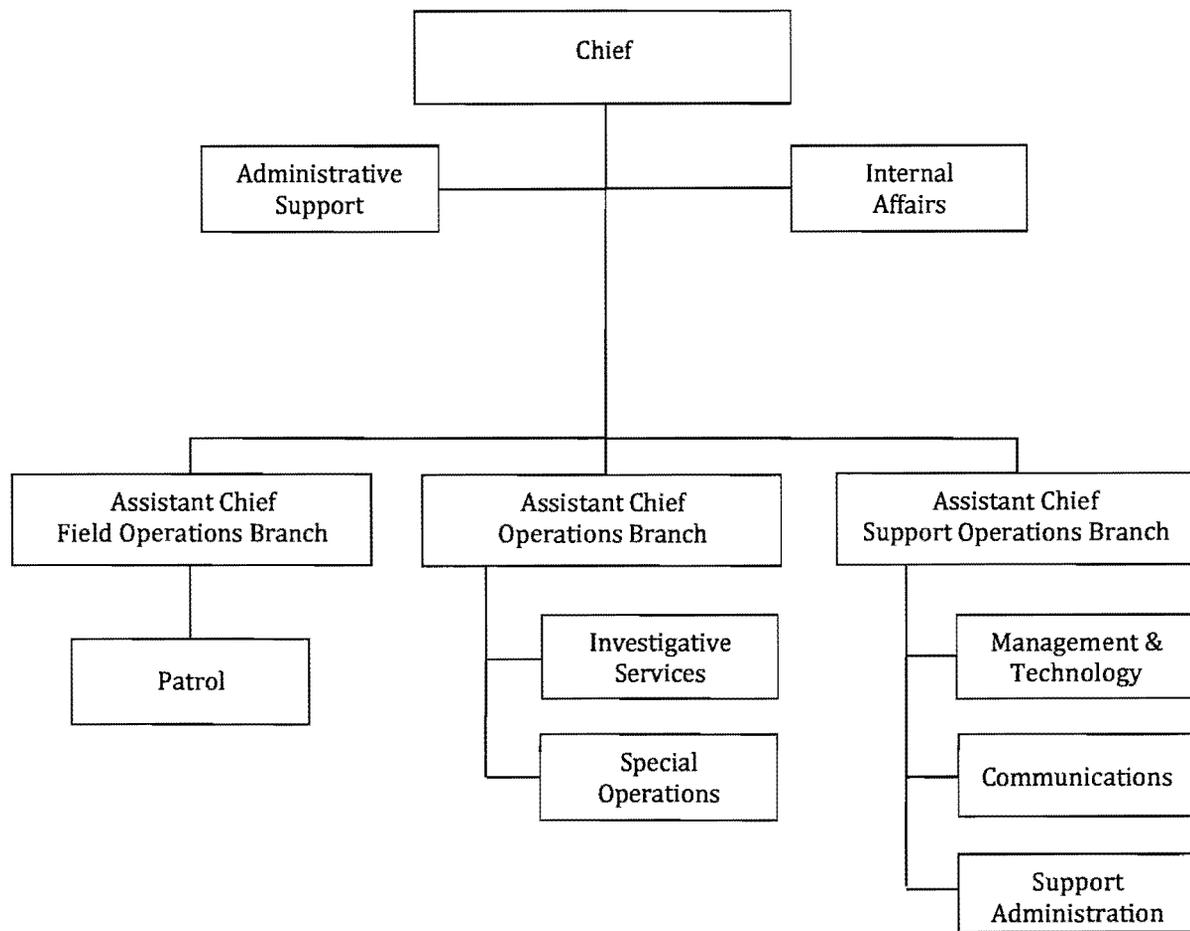
- Includes one (1) full time career and one (1) WY and funding for a system administrator to manage the division's databases and disparate computer systems effecting law enforcement and security.
- Includes three (3) full time career and three (3) WYs to expand on-going direct reduction deer management efforts and to provide the man-power necessary to adequately patrol M-NCPPC's managed hunts, and facilitate the recovery of deer that expire on M-NCPPC parkland.
- Increases Other Services & Charges by \$32,080 for additional staff training, contractually obligated FOP uniforms, and other divisional needs.

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**Montgomery County  
Department of Parks - Park Police**

**ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE**



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**MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK POLICE  
MONTGOMERY COUNTY DIVISION  
2014 ANNUAL CRIME REPORT  
JANUARY - DECEMBER  
CRIME STATISTICS**

PART I OFFENSES						
CRIME	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	Change
MURDER	0	0	0	0	0	0
RAPE	2	0	3	0	2	2
ROBBERY	15	6	7	16	9	-7
1ST DEGREE ASSAULTS	2	3	8	4	13	9
Gun	0	1	2	0	7	7
Knife	2	0	5	2	6	4
Other	0	2	1	2	0	-2
BURGLARY	9	19	11	13	13	0
Force	6	15	10	7	12	5
No Force	2	3	1	4	1	-3
Attempts	1	1	0	2	0	-2
THEFTS	164	154	133	169	145	-24
AUTO THEFTS	3	4	2	2	0	-2
<b>PART I TOTALS</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>204</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>-22</b>

PART II OFFENSES						
OFFENSE	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	Change
DESTRUCTION	174	206	175	135	147	12
Vandalism	47	65	63	59	85	26
Hate/Violence	6	5	6	2	3	1
Graffiti	121	136	106	74	59	-15
SEX OFFENSES	8	7	17	9	6	-3
NARCOTIC DRUG LAWS	199	220	289	270	222	-48
LITTERING/DUMPING	56	68	60	43	46	3
2ND DEGREE ASSAULTS	51	23	42	47	22	-25
OTHER PART II	359	222	203	243	186	-57
<b>PART II TOTAL</b>	<b>847</b>	<b>746</b>	<b>786</b>	<b>747</b>	<b>629</b>	<b>-118</b>
<b>TOTAL OFFENSES</b>	<b>1042</b>	<b>932</b>	<b>950</b>	<b>951</b>	<b>811</b>	<b>-140</b>

\* "Change" is difference between 2013 and 2014 figures only

**2014 ANNUAL CRIME REPORT  
JANUARY - DECEMBER  
CRIME STATISTICS (CONTINUED)**

ARRESTS	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	CHANGE
Adult Physical Arrests	172	171	124	130	74	-56
Juvenile Physical Arrests	62	61	65	39	6	-33
Adult Criminal Citations	346	285	434	473	404	-69
Juvenile Criminal Citations	185	182	249	174	170	-4
Outstanding Warrant Arrests	149	85	97	69	59	-10
<b>TOTAL ARRESTS</b>	<b>914</b>	<b>784</b>	<b>969</b>	<b>885</b>	<b>713</b>	<b>-172</b>

CITATIONS	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	CHANGE
Civil	940	996	1143	801	677	-124
Civil Warnings	1116	1692	1944	1706	1944	238
Parking	1034	887	533	748	1081	333
State	5074	5072	3918	4668	3,342	-1,326
State Warnings	2013	5212	7980	8892	8,654	-238
DNR	24	48	82	88	28	-60
SERO	467	574	669	1412	1177	-235
Field Contacts	258	269	330	323	642	319
<b>TOTAL CITATIONS</b>	<b>10,926</b>	<b>14,750</b>	<b>16,599</b>	<b>18,638</b>	<b>17,545</b>	<b>-1,093</b>

ACCIDENTS	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	CHANGE
Fatal	0	0	0	0	0	0
Injury	23	18	31	32	28	-4
Property Damage	63	65	59	59	71	12
Hit and Run	9	6	7	4	9	5
<b>TOTAL ACCIDENTS</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>13</b>

POLICE ACTIVITIES	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	CHANGE
Self Initiated Calls	75,655	76,689	76,621	71,205	83,496	12,291
Total Calls for Service	82,096	82,833	77,252	76,598	89,510	12,912
<b>REPORTS WRITTEN</b>	<b>1996</b>	<b>1730</b>	<b>1709</b>	<b>1586</b>	<b>1449</b>	<b>-137</b>

\* "Change" is difference between 2013 and 2014 figures only

**MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK POLICE  
MONTGOMERY COUNTY DIVISION  
2015 FIRST QUARTER REPORT  
JANUARY - MARCH  
CRIME STATISTICS**

PART I OFFENSES						
CRIME	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	CHANGE
MURDER	0	0	0	0	0	0
RAPE	0	0	0	0	0	0
ROBBERY	2	4	4	0	1	1
1ST DEGREE ASSAULTS	0	1	0	0	0	0
Gun	0	0	0	0	0	0
Knife	0	1	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0
BURGLARY	4	0	1	3	1	-2
Force	2	0	0	2	0	-2
No Force	2	0	0	1	1	0
Attempts	0	0	1	0	0	0
THEFTS	25	29	42	36	16	-20
AUTO THEFTS	1	0	0	0	0	0
<b>PART I TOTALS</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>-21</b>

PART II OFFENSES						
OFFENSE	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	CHANGE
DESTRUCTION	44	54	31	36	19	-17
Vandalism	13	21	14	25	8	-17
Hate/Violence	0	1	1	1	0	-1
Graffiti	31	32	16	10	11	1
SEX OFFENSES	1	3	2	0	0	0
NARCOTIC DRUG LAWS	43	56	55	77	13	-64
LITTERING/DUMPING	18	12	10	6	10	4
2ND DEGREE ASSAULTS	4	6	9	1	3	2
OTHER PART II	72	54	48	29	18	-11
<b>PART II TOTAL</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>-86</b>
<b>TOTAL OFFENSES</b>	<b>214</b>	<b>219</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>-107</b>

"Change" column denotes difference in crime between 2014 and 2015 ONLY.

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**2015 FIRST QUARTER REPORT  
JANUARY - MARCH  
CRIME STATISTICS (CONTINUED)**

ARRESTS	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	CHANGE
Adult Physical Arrests	55	26	22	21	16	-5
Juvenile Physical Arrests	5	10	7	1	0	-1
Adult Criminal Citations	52	89	90	108	10	-98
Juv. Criminal Citations/J.Pet	30	60	19	43	21	-22
Outstanding Warrant Arrests	42	26	22	10	10	0
<b>TOTAL ARRESTS</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>211</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>-126</b>

CITATIONS	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	CHANGE
Civil	131	223	117	109	189	80
Civil Warnings	327	469	359	292	577	285
Parking	151	89	111	178	199	21
State	1078	1160	1251	1040	1141	101
State Warnings	621	2315	3071	2522	3628	1106
DNR	3	10	3	3	0	-3
SERO	157	179	541	423	642	219
Field Contacts	92	102	39	164	184	20
<b>TOTAL CITATIONS</b>	<b>2,560</b>	<b>4,547</b>	<b>5,492</b>	<b>4,731</b>	<b>6,560</b>	<b>1829</b>

ACCIDENTS	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	CHANGE
Fatal	0	0	0	0	0	0
Injury	0	6	8	3	3	0
Property Damage	17	16	14	10	19	9
Hit and Run	2	1	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL ACCIDENTS</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>9</b>

POLICE ACTIVITIES	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	CHANGE
Self Initiated Calls	19,094	18,427	18,898	22,909	49,052	26,143
Total Calls for Service	20,264	19,760	19,741	21,856	51,141	29,285
<b>REPORTS WRITTEN</b>	<b>412</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>361</b>	<b>301</b>	<b>229</b>	<b>-72</b>

"Change" column denotes difference in crime between 2014 and 2015 ONLY.

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# Montgomery County

## Department of Parks - Park Police

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### OVERVIEW

The division is committed to providing professional public safety services with a focus on crime prevention and detection through statistical analysis of citizen based calls for service and officer observations to ensure a safe park system.

The park land is diverse in its terrain. The use of bicycles, ATVs, marine, canine, motorcycle and horse-mounted officers demonstrate the unique resources the Park Police deploy to ensure that all areas of the park system are patrolled.

The Park Police division is divided into three operational branches and an Administrative Section. The operational components are the **Field Operations** branch comprised of Patrol Services; the **Support Operations** branch comprised of Community Services, Management and Technology, Communications and Support Administration; and the **Operations Branch** comprised of Investigative Services and Special Operations. The **Administrative Section** includes the Office of the Division Chief and Internal Affairs. The division's personnel compliment is augmented by approximately 40 volunteers.

### MISSION

To provide public safety services to protect the properties, resources, citizens and visitors within the Montgomery County park system.

### PROGRAMS AND SERVICES PROVIDED

- Proactive Patrols
- Undercover Investigations
- Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design
- Community Involvement
- Property and Evidence
- Radio System Management
- Media Relations
- Special Event Planning
- Background Investigations
- Crime Scene Management
- Public Safety Education
- Wildlife Management
- Fleet Management
- Mobile Data Network
- Computer Aided Dispatch
- Strategic Planning
- Recruitment
- Park Facility Assessments

### ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Completed a project to consolidate both Montgomery County Park Police and Prince George's County Park Police computer software into one shared and comprehensive Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD), Records Management (RMS), and Real-Time GPS Mapping system to facilitate Intelligence-Led Policing.
- Collaborated with Prince George's County Park Police to launch electronic field report writing, allowing our crime data to be more accurately and expeditiously shared within our agency and with allied law enforcement agencies.
- Investigated and made multiple arrests in three separate organized theft rings. These arrests have caused significant disruption to the organized thefts on park property and for numerous other jurisdictions in the region.

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**Montgomery County  
Department of Parks - Park Police**

- Participated in the Soccerplex Mass Casualty Exercise designed to test multiple agency operability during a mass casualty incident.
- Hosted a canine controlled dangerous substance school for our canine units.
- Park Rangers developed two new education programs for kids, Going Green and Urban Wildlife.
- Two Park Police Officers performed at the 30th Annual National Mounted Police Colloquium held in Lexington, Kentucky. One officer was invited as a guest instructor, an extreme honor, only afforded to the most respected Mounted instructors. Another officer competed and won several awards in a number of categories.
- One Park Police Officer was recognized by the Maryland Police and Correctional Training Commissions as Non-Academy Instructor of the Year.
- Two Park Police Officers were honored by the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce with a Bronze Medal of Valor and the Chief Donald A. Deering Community Service Award.
- Park Police Park Police Mounted Unit won 1st Place Team at the North American Police Equestrian Championship in New Castle, Delaware.

**GOALS AND PERFORMANCE MEASURES**

<b>Goal</b>	<b>Provide proactive patrols to protect and preserve properties, resources and activities of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission</b>			
<b>Objective</b>	Proactively patrol parks to keep parks safe.			
<b>Program Indicator</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>FY14 Actuals</b>	<b>FY15 Estimated</b>	<b>FY16 Proposed</b>
Annual Park Checks	62,050	62,560	56,000	58,500
Average per Day	170	171.4	153.4	160.2
<b>Objective</b>	Investigate and solve crimes.			
<b>Program Indicator</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>FY14 Actuals</b>	<b>FY15 Estimated</b>	<b>FY16 Proposed</b>
% of closed investigations/cases (National Average is 22%)	22%	28%	22%	22%
<b>Objective</b>	Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) Studies on alarmed buildings to improve security and safety			
<b>Program Indicator</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>FY14 Actuals</b>	<b>FY15 Estimated</b>	<b>FY16 Proposed</b>
Systematic study of each alarmed building on Park Property meets the target of 2 officers completing 12 studies per year	24 per year	45 per year	24 per year	24 per year

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### **Park Police Budget Questions (FY16):**

**1. The proposed budget includes one full time career staff and three sworn Park Police Officers to further expand deer management in the Down County area. Please describe the proposed expansion, and include personnel costs and any associated operating costs.**

The County's deer management program has been in place for over 18 years. Despite a very successful record, deer populations continue to expand into areas not currently under management. This is particularly true in more developed portions of the county. This initiative will greatly expand the capacity of the program to address these specific areas.

This initiative was developed in response to requests from the County Council to expand deer management efforts in the County. It will provide the natural resource and Park Police staffing and equipment required to create one additional sharpshooting team, expand the sharpshooting operations by three to four days per year, cover butcher processing costs for the additional deer harvested and develop and implement a proposed pilot archery program for parkland where other management options are not practicable.

This past spring, the Montgomery County Council requested that the Department of Parks continue to expand on-going direct reduction deer management efforts (i.e., managed hunting and sharp-shooting) on M-NCPPC parkland. In addition, the Council recently reduced the safety zone associated with archery hunting from 150 yards to 100 yards (adjacent to occupied structures) in order to provide additional deer hunting opportunities on private land. This later action will likely increase calls for Park Police service associated with tracking and recovery of deer that are shot on private property (with archery equipment) that then move onto adjacent parkland before expiring.

This expansion will provide deer population management into 8 additional parcels of parkland (1500 acres) and additional harvest of deer on existing parkland within the Park Police-based Sharpshooting Program.

This request includes funding for three police officers totaling \$117,837, and \$55,000 in one-time funding capital outlay for a truck, trailer and utility vehicle.

**2. The proposed budget includes one full time career position for a system administrator to manage the division's databases. Please describe the position and duties, including personnel costs and any associated operating costs.**

The Division has hired a contract Information Technology Systems Manager. This law enforcement technology expert is tasked with overseeing the administration and integration of numerous systems that are applied to law enforcement, enterprise security and life safety. A snapshot of some of the systems overseen include Police Mapping/Auto Vehicle Locator systems, State/CJIS/NCIC Interfaces, Electronic Ticketing systems, Automated Crash Reporting systems, In-Car Enforcement Video System, Fire Alarms, Emergency Call Stations, Security Operations and more. Current Annual Salary as Term-Contract Employee is for 1950 hours at a salary of \$80,000. The proposed annual salary for a full time employee is \$82,800 plus benefits.

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**3. The proposed budget addresses “new initiatives” that includes two full time career positions to provide systems administration for security software and databases, and to address the increasing demand for security cameras. Is this funded under Park Police? If not, does it still impact Park Police operations in any way?**

One of the two positions is described in Question #2 above. The Park Police are responsible for monitoring and responding to alarm/security calls.

**3. Please provide an updated staffing chart.**

M-NCPPC Park Police		
	Proposed FY16	Current Vacancies
<b>SWORN</b>		
Chief	1	0
Captain	3	0
Lieutenant	8	0
Sergeant	14	0
Police Officers	71	8
<b>SUBTOTAL SWORN</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>NON-SWORN</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Proposed Lapse</b>	<b>8</b>	

**4. Please provide crime data for calendar 2015.**

See attachment.

**5. Please provide a status update of your mobile report writing program that was to start July 1, 2014.**

In July of 2014, the Park Police began an extensive project to modernize our Report Management System (RMS). This project included consolidating our existing RMS from both the Montgomery County and the Prince George’s County Divisions of the Park Police. In addition to the consolidation, we introduced mobile report writing, allowing our officers to complete their reports electronically from the field.

As of April 2015, the project is approximately 90% complete. All the existing data from both Divisions’ RMS has been consolidated and any errors found within the data have been corrected. The officers are completing reports from the field electronically (incident/crime reports, supplement reports, arrest reports, property records, field interviews and vehicle tow reports). Additionally, supervisors now approve reports

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electronically; as a result our reports are being completed and approved faster. We have reduced the amount of paper we use for our reports and we are obtaining more accurate crime/incident data.

In the next fiscal year, we are planning to continue to expand the system by creating "dashboards" that will have almost real time crime/incident data that will be updated daily. The "dashboards" will include the use of charts and graphs so any officer can obtain a visual of the events happening on a daily basis at a glance. We plan to add the ability to complete parking tickets and written warnings utilizing the mobile client.

**6. Please list (including cost) what identified upgrades, replacements, and/or new IT needs the Police Department currently has for FY16.**

The Division needs to replace 48 Panasonic Arbitrators (in-car video systems) in patrol vehicles and add 15 Panasonic Arbitrators to our Special Operations vehicles. The Arbitrators being replaced are first generation and Panasonic is no longer supporting these camera systems. The cost to replace 63 in-car video systems is \$378,000 (\$6,000 each).

Radios - 18 Motorola APX Mobile radios (\$4,841.19 each) totaling \$87,141.42. These radios are to replace 15 mobile radios that have not been updated to the new APX radios that are currently in Park Police vehicles and 3 spare radios.

10 Motorola APX portable radios (\$4,893.86 each) totaling \$48,938.60. At current staffing levels we have one spare mobile radio. This purchase will provide 8 spare radios. The Division's radio needs total \$136,080.02.

PS COMMITTEE #1  
April 27, 2015

**ADDENDUM**

**WORKSESSION**

**MEMORANDUM**

April 24, 2015

TO: Public Safety Committee

FROM: Linda McMillan, Senior Legislative Analyst 

SUBJECT: M-NCPPC Park Police – Parks Department Deer Management Program

The following is additional detail regarding the proposal for expansion of the Parks Department's deer management program, including the planned new areas for management.

***Staff for the expansion:***

1 career Natural Resources Specialist, Park Planning and Stewardship  
1 seasonal employee, Park Planning and Stewardship  
3 sworn Park Police Officers

Also included are an expansion of deer processing (so meat can be donated), deer density surveillance, and a truck, trailer, and utility vehicle.

***Site/Service additions:***

The list of public land with current or proposed deer management is attached at © 1. The requested funds will allow:

Expansion of Park Police Sharpshooting into Muddy Branch Stream Valley Park, Unit 1 (Darnestown) and Rock Creek Stream Valley Park, Unit 2 (north of the Beltway near Kensington).

Implementation of a pilot archery program in Great Seneca Stream Valley Park, Unit 1 (Germantown) and Watts Branch Stream Valley Park, Units 1&2 (Potomac). Archery program would occur from September through January.

Formation of a 4<sup>th</sup> Park Police-based sharpshooting team (1 Natural Resources Specialist and two Park Police Officers) and four additional dates for Park Police-based sharpshooting directed to down-county parks.

### 2014-2015 Deer Season Results

The Department of Natural Resources has not yet issued its full report but has issued the total number of deer harvested in the 2014-2015 season (©2-3). Statewide, there was a 9.4% decrease in the number of deer killed (86,883 compared to 95,863 for the 2013-14 season). The DNR press release notes that a strong harvest and abundant acorn crop reduce deer movement. Weather can also impact the number of hunters who are out on any given day in the season.

In Montgomery County, DNR reports 5,410 deer were harvested, an 8.1% decrease from the 2013-14 season. These numbers do not include deer harvested through sharpshooting and under deer management permits.

#### Montgomery County

Season	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
	5,571	5,598	5,889	5,410

Last October, when the Council received an update on deer management it discussed the information from Park and Planning on the amount of parkland versus non-parkland and the limitations to expand deer management if only County parkland is included. Attached at ©4 is a memo from Council President Leventhal to Department of General Services Director Dise asking that DGS provide the Council with a plan for deer hunting on County-owned land by September 1<sup>st</sup> so it can be considered for the 2015-2016 season.

The information on ©1 notes the need for deer management on the C&O Canal National Park Goldmine Tract and Park staff has discussed with the PS Committee and Council the need to have a deer management plan for the C&O Canal. The National Park Service requested comments on proposals for deer management for the C&O Canal and Harper's Ferry. The newsletter is attached at © 5-12. Council President Leventhal provided comments which are attached at © 13. They highlight the previous discussions with the C&O Canal Superintendent about the need for a plan. The NPS newsletter says that a plan will be published for public review in Fall 2015/Winter2016.

**Table 3. Public Land with Current or Proposed Deer Population Management Programs – See Map 2**

	Park Area	FY initiated	Recommended Action/Comment
1	Patuxent River State Park	Prior to 1994	Continue population mgt
2	McKee-beshers Wildlife Mgt Area	Prior to 1994	Continue population mgt
3	Dickerson Conservation Park	Prior to 1994	Continue population mgt
4	Nat Institute of Standards and Tech.	1994	Continue population mgt
5	Seneca Creek State Park	1997	Continue population mgt
6	Little Bennett Reg. Park	1997	Continue population mgt
7	Ag/History Farm Park	1997	Continue population mgt
8	WSSC Reservoirs	1999	Continue population mgt
9	Black Hill Regional Park	2001	Continue population mgt
10	Northbranch SVP	2001	Continue population mgt
11	Rachel Carson Cons. Park	2002	Continue population mgt
12	Rock Creek Regional Park	2002	Continue population mgt
13	Goshen Recreational Park	2002	Continue population mgt
14	Rock Creek Golf Course	2002 to '06; 2011	Continue population mgt
15	Blockhouse Point Cons. Park	2003	Continue population mgt
16	NW Branch Recreation Park	2004	Continue population mgt
17	Bucklodge Forest Cons Park	2004	Continue population mgt
18	Hoyles Mill Cons. Park	2004	Continue population mgt
19	White Oak Federal Facility*	2004	Continue lethal population mgt/ Monitor contraceptive results.
20	Woodlawn Special Park	2004	Continue population mgt
21	Northwest Branch Golf Course	2004 to '06; 2011	Continue population mgt
22	Woodstock Special Park	2005	Continue population mgt
23	Little Seneca SVP unit 1	2005	Continue population mgt
24	North Germantown Greenway Park	2006	Continue population mgt
25	Great Seneca Stream Valley Unit 2	2006	Continue population mgt
26	Wheaton Regional Park	2006	Continue population mgt
27	Rock Creek Stream Valley Unit 7	2008	Continue population mgt
28	DSWS Property in Dickerson	2011	Continue population mgt
29	North Branch Stream Valley Unit 4	2011	Continue population mgt
30	Sligo Creek Stream Valley Unit 4,5	2012	Continue population mgt
31	Rock Creek Stream Valley Unit 2	2013	Continue population mgt
32	Cabin John Regional and SV parks	2014	Continue population mgt
33	Schaefer Rd Expansion of Hoyles Mill CP	Initiate in FY15	Initiate in FY15
34	Red Door Special Park	Initiate in FY15	Initiate in FY15
35	Paint Branch Stream Valley Units 5&6, including: Pilgrim Hills Local Park, Tamarack Neighborhood Park, Valley Mill Special Park, and Paint Branch Neighborhood Park	Initiate in FY15	Initiate in FY15
36	Martin Luther King Recreational Park	Initiate in FY15	Initiate in FY15
37	Muddy Branch Stream Valley Park	Future	Investigate for future mgt
38	Serpentine Barrens Conservation Park	Future	Investigate for future mgt
39	Upper Paint Branch Stream Valley Pk	Future	Investigate for future mgt
40	C&O Canal NP Goldmine Tract	Future	NPS is investigating methods and funding for the environmental assessments required as part of the decision making process for deer population mgt. in a national park.

1



For Immediate Release

# NEWS

410.260.8020

[dnrnews@dnr.state.md.us](mailto:dnrnews@dnr.state.md.us)

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[Karis.King@maryland.gov](mailto:Karis.King@maryland.gov)

## 2014-15 Deer Season Results Released

Maryland hunters harvested 86,883 deer during the archery, muzzleloader and firearm seasons combined (September 5, 2014 through January 31, 2015). The harvest shows a 9 percent decrease from last year's total of 95,863. Biologists attribute the lower numbers primarily to a reduced deer population after last year's strong harvest, and an abundant acorn crop this year that resulted in reduced deer movements for much of the season.

"The decline in the harvest this year was similar to the decline two years ago and can be expected whenever there is a healthy acorn crop," said Brian Eyler, Maryland Department of Natural Resources deer project leader. "Our counties that are made up largely of oak forests saw much more of a decline than other counties, including the Eastern Shore. We also had the fifth highest harvest on record last year, so there were no doubt fewer deer on the landscape this year."

The 2014-2015 statewide harvest includes:

27,053 antlered and 56,802 antlerless white-tailed deer  
1,228 antlered and 1,800 antlerless sika deer

The harvest in deer management Region A (Garrett, Allegany and western Washington counties) decreased 5 percent from 9,176 deer last year, to 8,740 deer this year. Region A hunters reported 4,930 antlered and 3,810 antlerless deer.

Deer hunters in Region B (the remainder of the State) harvested 78,143, down 10 percent from last year's 86,687 deer. The Region B harvest was comprised of 23,351 antlered and 54,792 antlerless deer.

Hunters harvested 7,192 deer on the Sundays open for deer hunting. Archery hunters harvested 1,146 deer on Sundays, firearm hunters reported 5,936, and 110 deer were harvested with muzzleloaders.

Frederick County led the harvest totals again this year with 7,272 deer, followed by Carroll County with 5,464 and Baltimore County at 5,413. Montgomery and Washington counties rounded out the top five with 5,410 and 5,087 deer, respectively.

Keep up to date with DNR's Wildlife & Heritage Service on Facebook and Twitter @MDDNRWildlife

Hunters with any questions may contact the Wildlife & Heritage Service at 410-260-8540.

Results by county are available below.

###

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources is the state agency responsible for providing natural and living resource-related services to citizens and visitors. DNR manages nearly one-half million acres of public lands and 17,000 miles of waterways, along with Maryland's forests, fisheries and wildlife for maximum environmental, economic and quality of life benefits. A national leader in land conservation, DNR-managed parks and natural, historic and cultural resources attract 11 million visitors annually. DNR is the lead agency in Maryland's effort to restore the Chesapeake Bay, the state's number one environmental priority. Learn more at [www.DNR.Maryland.gov](http://www.DNR.Maryland.gov).

**Maryland Reported Antlered and Antlerless Deer Harvest for the 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 Hunting Seasons**

County	Antlered			Antlerless			Total		
	2013-14	2014-15	% Change	2013-14	2014-15	% Change	2013-14	2014-15	% Change
Allegany	2,021	1,731	-14.3	1,615	1,320	-18.3	3,636	3,051	-16.1
Anne Arundel	1,032	817	-20.8	2,462	2,075	-15.7	3,494	2,892	-17.2
Baltimore	1,787	1,502	-15.9	4,549	3,911	-14.0	6,336	5,413	-14.6
Calvert	752	470	-37.5	1,689	1,101	-34.8	2,441	1,571	-35.6
Caroline									
<i>whitetail</i>	728	734	0.8	1,795	1,704	-5.1	2,523	2,438	-3.4
<i>sika</i>	1	1	*	2	1	*	3	2	*
Carroll	1,946	1,634	-16.0	3,969	3,830	-3.5	5,915	5,464	-7.6
Cecil	1,100	1,005	-8.6	2,512	2,455	-2.3	3,612	3,460	-4.2
Charles	1,466	1,132	-22.8	3,040	2,392	-21.3	4,506	3,524	-21.8
Dorchester									
<i>whitetail</i>	907	774	-14.7	1,852	1,865	0.7	2,759	2,639	-4.3
<i>sika</i>	1,058	1,140	7.8	1,497	1,707	14.0	2,555	2,847	11.4
Frederick	2,738	2,346	-14.3	5,302	4,926	-7.1	8,040	7,272	-9.6
Garrett	2,133	2,486	16.5	1,735	1,967	13.4	3,868	4,453	15.1
Harford	1,085	917	-15.5	2,677	2,374	-11.3	3,762	3,291	-12.5
Aberdeen Prv. Grds.	178	121	*	414	286	*	592	407	*
Howard	878	682	-22.3	2,221	1,899	-14.5	3,099	2,581	-16.7
Kent	1,148	1,052	-8.4	2,232	2,268	1.6	3,380	3,320	-1.8
Montgomery	1,705	1,520	-10.9	4,184	3,890	-7.0	5,889	5,410	-8.1
Prince George's	1,018	820	-19.4	2,219	1,848	-16.7	3,237	2,668	-17.6
Queen Anne's	1,201	1,096	-8.7	2,657	2,731	2.8	3,858	3,827	-0.8
Saint Mary's	1,116	848	-24.0	2,487	1,929	-22.4	3,603	2,777	-22.9
Somerset									
<i>whitetail</i>	679	665	-2.1	1,754	1,826	4.1	2,433	2,491	2.4
<i>sika</i>	4	1	*	6	6	*	10	7	*
Talbot	872	774	-11.2	2,036	2,087	2.5	2,908	2,861	-1.6
Washington	2,673	2,026	-24.2	3,703	3,061	-17.3	6,376	5,087	-20.2
Wicomico									
<i>whitetail</i>	878	886	0.9	2,301	2,248	-2.3	3,179	3,134	-1.4
<i>sika</i>	36	62	*	40	50	*	76	112	*
Worcester			0			0			0
<i>whitetail</i>	957	1,015	6.1	2,759	2,809	1.8	3,716	3,824	2.9
<i>sika</i>	17	24	*	40	36	*	57	60	*
<b>Total</b>	<b>32,114</b>	<b>28,281</b>	<b>-11.9</b>	<b>63,749</b>	<b>58,602</b>	<b>-8.1</b>	<b>95,863</b>	<b>86,883</b>	<b>-9.4</b>

\*Small sample size



MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL  
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND

OFFICE OF THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT

**MEMORANDUM**

April 7, 2015

TO: David Dise, Director, Department of General Services

FROM: George Leventhal, Council President *George Leventhal*

SUBJECT: **Deer Hunting on County-Owned Land**

The Council is extremely concerned about the growing deer population and interested in finding ways to address it. I have received correspondence from residents who ask why there cannot be bow-hunting or police sharp-shooting efforts on County-owned land. For many years, M-NCPPC has been implementing deer reduction efforts both through managed hunts and, in our down-county areas, through police sharpshooting. Last fall, the Council was updated on these efforts. While there is a great deal of parkland in the County, most property is privately owned or owned by other public entities.

I am asking that the Department of General Services provide the Council with a plan to expand the land that is available for hunting. This would include both large and smaller parcels and could include bow-hunting. In particular, an 8 acre property in the 2600 block of Briggs Road has been suggested as one that would be appropriate. I recognize that the County must meet all safety zone requirements.

I am sure that Parks will be willing to work with you on design of such a plan. They are often asked about hunting on parcels that are not parkland and so they have no jurisdiction.

I would appreciate your response by September 1<sup>st</sup> so that we can know whether there will be new efforts during the 2015-16 hunting season.

C: Councilmembers  
Mike Riley, Director, Montgomery County Parks  
Robb Gibbs, Montgomery County Parks



# White-tailed Deer Management Plan

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

*Public Scoping Meetings 2015*

*You're invited!  
Your participation will help shape this plan.*

The National Park Service (NPS) is requesting your input in developing a White-tailed Deer Management Plan and Environmental Assessment (plan/EA) for Chesapeake and Ohio Canal (C&O Canal) and Harpers Ferry National Historical Parks (NHP). This plan/EA is being developed for both parks because they face similar issues relating to the high densities of deer within their boundaries and the effects that deer are having on forests and cultural landscapes. Your participation is vital to the planning process. There are a number of ways to be involved, including attending one of the public scoping meetings or submitting electronic or written comments (see the last page of this newsletter for more information about how to submit comments).

## **PUBLIC SCOPING MEETINGS**

Scoping is the first step to involve the public in the planning process. Scoping includes holding meetings and providing opportunities for the public to comment so their concerns are identified early in the plan/EA process and the analysis is focused on important issues. Because the plan/EA will analyze many ecological, cultural, and social issues, your participation is encouraged and needed.

Each meeting will be an open house format that will begin with a short introduction. NPS staff will be on hand to visit with you, answer questions, and solicit your input. Attendees may also submit comments online, on written forms available at the meeting, or by mail as described in this newsletter. Directions to the meetings can be found on the project's website, <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/NHPdeermanagement>.

### **PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING TIMES & LOCATIONS**

*Tuesday, February 24, 2015*

6:00 pm–8:00 pm  
Upper Classroom  
Mather Training Center  
Mather Place  
Harpers Ferry, West Virginia  
25425

*Wednesday, February 25, 2015*

6:00 pm–8:00 pm  
Headquarters, C&O Canal NHP  
1850 Dual Highway  
Hagerstown, MD  
21740

*Thursday, February 26, 2015*

6:00 pm–8:00 pm  
Brooke Hall and Great Falls Room  
Rockwood Manor  
11001 MacArthur Blvd.  
Potomac, MD  
20854

## PROTECTING NATURAL & CULTURAL LANDSCAPES THROUGH WHITE-TAILED DEER MANAGEMENT

The National Park Service is preparing a White-tailed Deer Management Plan and EA for C&O Canal and Harpers Ferry NHPs. This plan/EA will analyze environmental impacts of several alternatives for managing white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) to reduce impacts on native vegetation, forest regeneration, and the cultural landscapes of the parks. The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), along with NPS policy and related regulations, will guide the plan/EA.

### LANDSCAPES AND DEER MANAGEMENT

Within eastern national park units, landscapes have been managed to allow for the preservation and rehabilitation of natural, scenic, and historic lands, resulting in a landscape that provides excellent habitat for white-tailed deer. Because deer harvest has not traditionally been a component of management activities in the majority of park units, including the two parks in this plan/EA, the population of deer has greatly increased over the years. Scientists have established that high deer numbers can have negative effects on plant and other animal species.

Although ideal deer density will change with the landscape composition, researchers with the US Forest Service have estimated that a healthy deer density in Maryland's forests is approximately 20 deer per square mile (Horsley et al. 2003). NPS biologists agree that a deer density of about 20 per square mile is a sustainable density that allows for adequate forest regeneration; however, monitoring results show that this density has been substantially exceeded in both parks for many years.

The parks have monitored deer density since 1998—C&O Canal NHP has focused on the Goldmine Tract in Great Falls, Harpers Ferry NHP has monitored all parts of the park, although they have focused on Maryland Heights. The parks have also assessed other related parameters such as herd health, vegetation condition, and forest regeneration. Deer density at the parks has varied from year to year, but remains consistently high. Deer densities (in deer per square mile) have ranged from 60 to 141 at the Goldmine Tract at C&O Canal NHP and from 69 to 152 in Maryland Heights at Harpers Ferry NHP.

The parks also conduct occasional opportunistic sampling for chronic wasting disease (CWD)—a transmissible neurological disease of deer that produces small lesions in brains of infected animals—from deer found as road kill or that died naturally. CWD has been found in deer approximately 2 miles from C&O Canal NHP and 45 miles from Harpers Ferry NHP.



Cornfield at Chic Farm

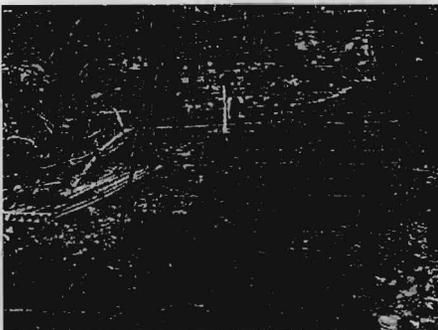
## VEGETATION IMPACTS AND PARK MONITORING

Seedlings and saplings are both young trees. **Seedlings** are very young trees that are greater than 15 centimeters (6 inches) tall and less than 1 centimeter diameter at breast height (4.5 feet above the ground).

**Saplings** are young trees that are between 1 centimeter and 10 centimeters diameter at breast height.



Bolivar Heights



Vegetation monitoring plot



Multiple deer browsing in the early morning

Browsing of vegetation by white-tailed deer has greatly impacted the species composition and density of the parks' forests, limiting the establishment and growth of many native trees such as those in the ash, maple, and oak families. To understand the effects of deer browse on other vegetation, random plots were placed in the parks in 2006. Each plot contained a variety of woody and non-woody vegetation, and was sampled once every four years. Data provided by these plots are used to calculate forest regeneration information. Pawpaw (*Asimina triloba*) is abundant in both parks due in part to excessive deer browsing of other vegetation, and outcompetes other tree species. The high density of pawpaw with few other woody species correlates to high deer density.

Excessive browse in these parks needs to be controlled for the success of ash, maple, oak, and other native vegetation. In parks where deer management has occurred, seedling densities have risen significantly.

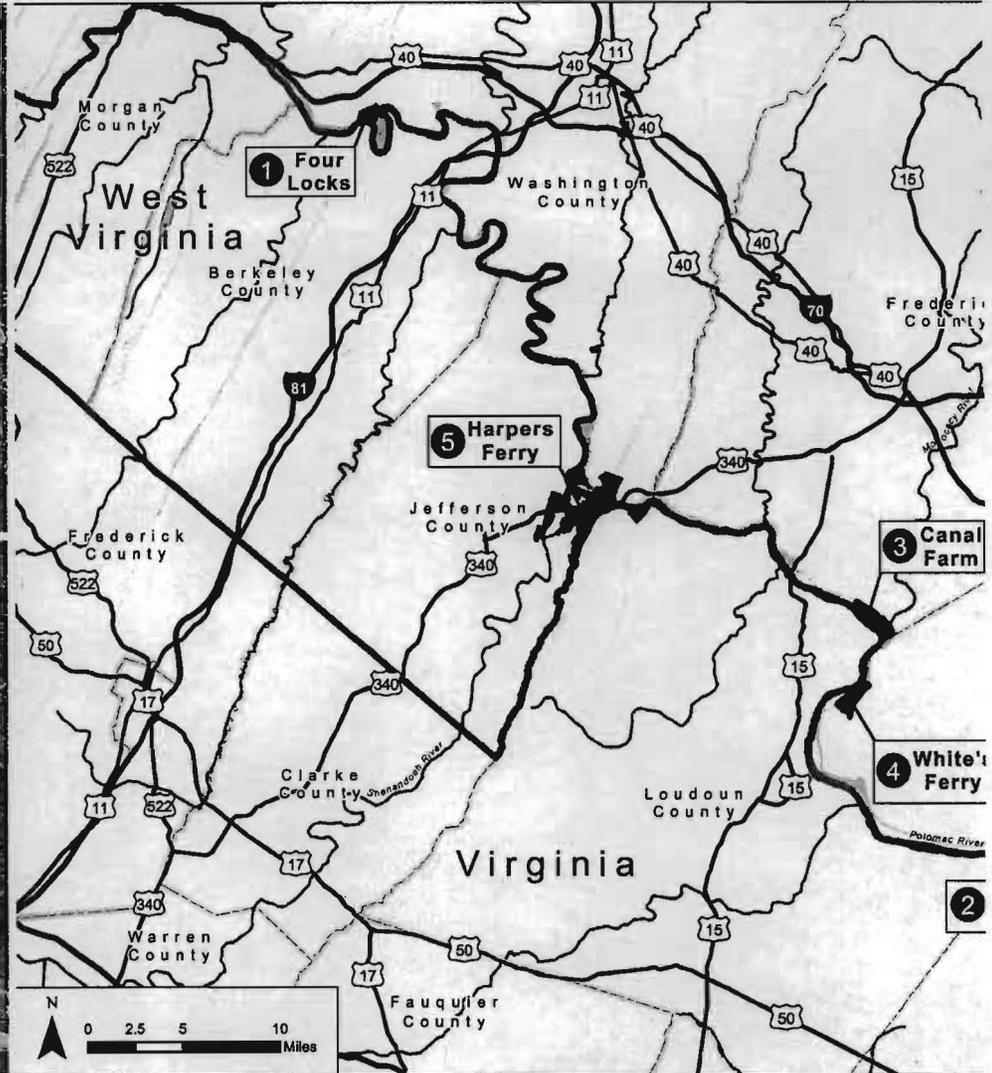
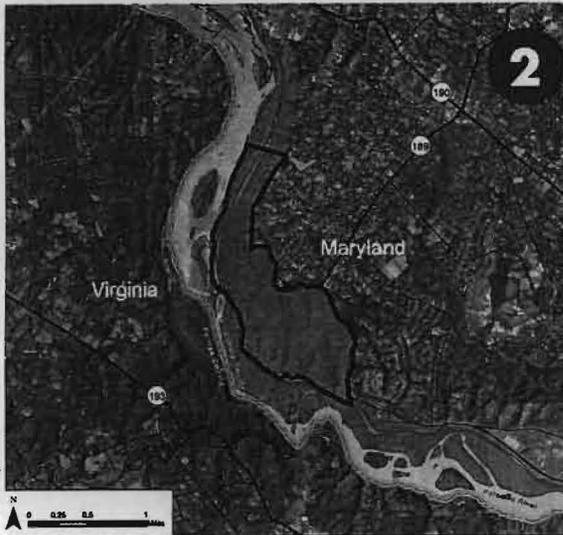
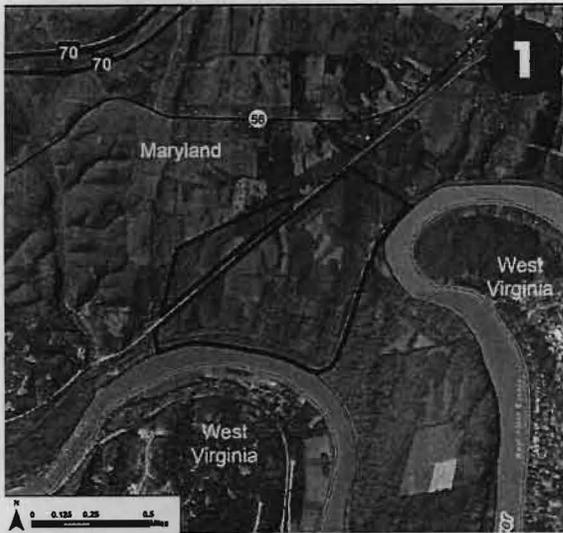
The success of forest regeneration can be assessed using a quantitative measurement of forest abundance, height, and geographic distribution of seedlings and calculation of a seedling "stocking rate" that indicates if forest regeneration is sufficient. A park is considered to have sufficient forest regeneration if 67 percent of its vegetation plots are adequately stocked with native tree species. C&O Canal and Harpers Ferry NHPs both have less than 20 percent of their vegetation plots stocked adequately, and hence, do not have sufficient forest regeneration.

## PURPOSE OF AND NEED FOR ACTION

The purpose of the plan/EA is to develop a white-tailed deer management strategy that supports long-term protection, preservation, and restoration of native vegetation and other natural and cultural resources and landscapes in C&O Canal and Harpers Ferry NHPs.

A plan is needed because:

- An increasing number of deer in the parks has resulted in adverse effects on the natural distribution, abundance, and diversity of plant species in the two parks.
- Browsing and other damage to native seedlings, saplings, and understory vegetation by deer in the parks has prevented successful forest regeneration and restoration, and resulted in unacceptable changes to forest structure and composition.
- Attainment of the parks' cultural landscape preservation and restoration goals and mandates are compromised by the high density of deer in the parks.
- Opportunities exist to improve coordination with other nearby jurisdictional entities and other stakeholders currently implementing deer management actions.
- Chronic Wasting Disease has been identified in deer near the parks and represents an imminent threat to resources in the parks. There are opportunities to evaluate and plan responses to threats from CWD over the long term.



## CURRENTLY UNDER CONSIDERATION

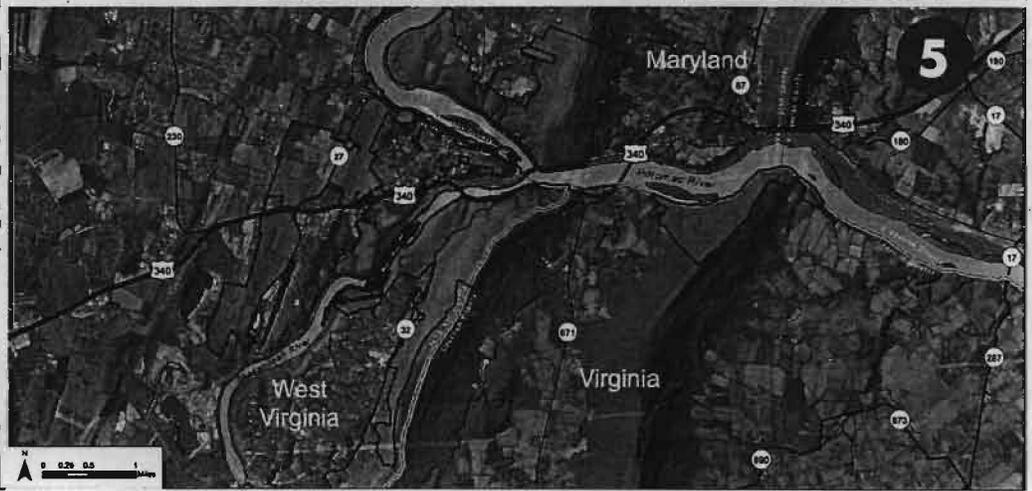
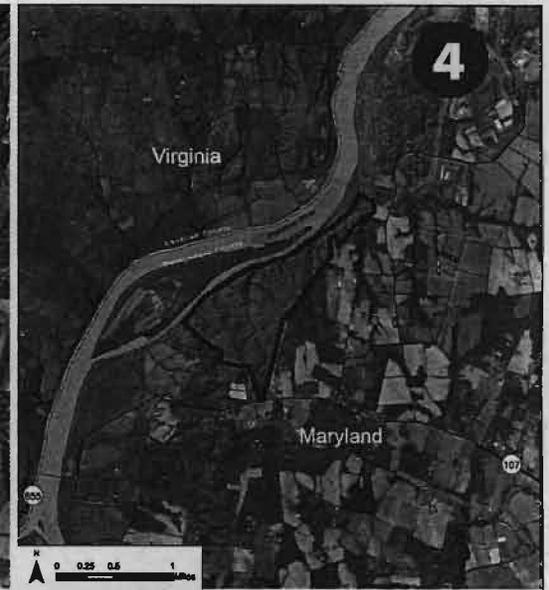
Preliminary draft alternatives for managing deer at the parks are being considered for detailed analysis by the National Park Service. Any alternative selected must address the project purpose and need and will be evaluated for its potential impacts on the environment and park resources and values. Upon conclusion of the decision-making process, the alternative that is selected will become the white-tailed deer management plan for the parks and will guide future actions. The following draft preliminary action alternatives are under consideration.

## ALTERNATIVE A: NO-ACTION (CONTINUATION OF CURRENT MANAGEMENT)

NEPA requires that a no-action alternative be analyzed. This alternative describes existing management and policies and establishes a baseline. Existing management activities at both parks include monitoring deer density and relative numbers; monitoring vegetation; and limited use of deer repellants to protect small landscaped areas.

## ALTERNATIVE B: NONLETHAL DEER MANAGEMENT

Alternative B would include all actions described under alternative A and may also include the use of: reproductive control agents to reduce deer density to a point at which vegetation can recover; small scale fencing and large scale exclosures to protect gardens, restoration areas, or agricultural landscapes; repellents for short-term situations or over growing seasons; and aversive conditioning in selected areas or at specific times. Reproductive control agents would need to meet NPS criteria for use of such agents.



**ALTERNATIVE C: LETHAL DEER MANAGEMENT**

Alternative C would include all actions described under alternative A and may also include: controlled harvest programs to reduce deer population to an acceptable range through the use of sharpshooting (firearms and/or archery) by park staff or contractors and limited capture and euthanasia only when sharpshooting would not be feasible due to safety concerns.

**ALTERNATIVE D: COMBINATION OF LETHAL AND NONLETHAL DEER MANAGEMENT**

Alternative D would include all actions described under alternative A with a primary focus of incorporating a combination of lethal and nonlethal deer management actions from alternatives B and C to address high deer density. Lethal actions (including sharpshooting, with very limited capture/ euthanasia if necessary) would be taken initially to reduce the deer herd numbers quickly. Population maintenance could be conducted via nonsurgical reproductive control methods if these are available and meet NPS criteria or by sharpshooting.

**RESPONSE TO CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE**

All action alternatives would include long-term management responses to occurrences of CWD. When CWD is detected within 5 miles of either park, park staff would work with state wildlife professional to determine if lethal removal of deer should occur within the park to substantially reduce the deer population density, given that high densities support greater rates of disease transmission, and have been positively correlated with prevalence of CWD. At C&O Canal NHP, actions would be taken in the park within a certain radius of the CWD occurrence, because the park is long and linear. That distance will be determined after the scoping process is complete and would be coordinated with the state to ensure actions were consistent with their.

## OPTIONS PRELIMINARILY DISMISSED FROM FURTHER ANALYSIS

Several other options were considered by the planning team, but were preliminarily dismissed from further analysis for the reasons listed in parentheses after each option. Public comment on these issues is also welcome. These include:

- Capture and relocation (there are disease concerns with CWD, issues with permits and quarantine, and there is a high rate of mortality of relocated deer due to stress)
- Surgical sterilization of does (very expensive and possibly a high mortality rate of deer)
- Fencing entire park(s) (this option would be very difficult to implement around the parks, because they are too fragmented or large; this option is maintenance intensive; fencing parks is counter to cultural landscape goals)
- Displacement (driving deer onto private property) and hunting (this method would prevent data collection; if the deer have CWD, then driving them off the park would not meet the purpose and need of the CWD plan; there may not be a viable method or place to drive them)
- Reintroduction/augmentation of predators such as coyotes, bears, wolves, and mountain lions as management tool (there is no evidence that coyotes or other predators would effectively manage the deer population; introduction or augmentation of predators may introduce additional issues given suburban development and population problems with predators)
- Managed hunt/public hunt (hunting is not sanctioned by Congress per NPS policies/regulations at either park)



Balivár Heights



Harpers Ferry



Evidence of buck rub



Monocacy Aqueduct

## PRELIMINARY ISSUES AND IMPACT TOPICS

Issues are topics/concerns that have been raised based on current conditions or on situations that could occur from implementing any of the proposed alternatives. With respect to this deer management plan/EA, the following preliminary issues have been identified:

### VEGETATION

- There is evidence that deer overabundance has affected forest regeneration at these parks, and there is a need to promote forest regeneration and restore the abundance, distribution, structure, and composition of native plant communities by reducing excessive deer impacts.

### WILDLIFE AND HABITAT

- NPS Management Policies 2006 directs the parks to protect all park resources. Therefore, there is a mandate to maintain a viable white-tailed deer population within the parks so that all park resources are protected. The current overabundance of white-tailed deer within the parks is affecting habitat within the parks, and there are indications there could be of possible effects on other wildlife over the long term.
- Chronic Wasting Disease, a transmissible neurological disease of deer, has been identified in white-tailed deer proximate to the parks, so early detection, and reduction of the probability of spread of CWD is a concern for both parks.

### CULTURAL RESOURCES

- It is important to protect the integrity and character of the parks' cultural landscapes, including the spatial patterns of open and forested land, contributing historic views, and the agricultural landscape.
- Deer overabundance could affect the long-term maintenance of cultural landscapes. Deer browse greatly reduces crop yield, impacting the farmers' decision on which crops to plant as well as the parks' ability to recruit agricultural program participants. Because the damage caused by white-tailed deer could affect crop yield, decisions about which crops are planted, or interest in participation in the parks' agricultural lease programs.

### VISITOR USE AND EXPERIENCE

- Public awareness and understanding of NPS resource and deer management issues, policies, and mandates can be improved.
- Through this process, the parks can help increase public understanding of the deer management process and address public concerns about high deer population densities.

## IMPACT TOPICS UNDER CONSIDERATION IN THE PLAN/EA

Based on this list of issues and other anticipated impacts, the following preliminary list of impact topics is under consideration for analysis in the plan/EA:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| • Vegetation (including consideration of invasive species) | • Cultural landscapes                   |
| • White-tailed deer  | • Socioeconomics                        |
| • Other wildlife and wildlife habitat                      | • Public and employee health and safety |
| • Special status species                                   | • Park management and operations        |



## HOW TO COMMENT

There are several ways to provide input on the plan/EA:

- Attend a public meeting.
- Submit comments electronically at:  
<http://parkplanning.nps.gov/NHPdeermanagement>.
- Submit written comments at your park's visitor center or by mail to the following central address for this project:

National Park Service  
C & O Canal and Harpers Ferry NHP Deer Plan/EA  
c/o Michelle Carter  
C & O Canal National Historical Park  
1850 Dual Highway, Suite 100, Hagerstown, MD  
21740-6620

The comment period will be open for 45 days, from February 2, 2015, to March 20, 2015.

*Please include your full name and address with the comments, so we may add you to our mailing list for future notices about this process. Because this plan/EA will address two parks, be sure to note if your comments apply to a specific park.*

*Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.*

## THE NEPA PROCESS & WHERE WE ARE

February 2015	Public scoping begins; public scoping meetings held during the week of February 23, 2015
March 2015	Public scoping period concludes  The National Park Service reviews public scoping comments and gathers data
Spring / Summer 2015	The National Park Service develop alternatives, analyzes impacts, and writes the plan/EA
Fall 2015 / Winter 2016	Publish plan/EA for public review
Spring 2016	The National Park Service reviews public comments and makes decisions
Summer 2016	NEPA process complete, and plan can be implemented

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park  
1850 Dual Highway, Suite 100  
Sharpsburg, MD 21740-6620

Thank you for requesting public input on plans for developing deer management for the C&O Canal National Historic Park. As the current President of the Montgomery County Council and as a Councilmember representing the residents of Montgomery County, I urge the National Park Service to work cooperatively with Montgomery County to control the deer population along the C&O Canal, particularly in the Goldmine Tract in Great Falls.

Montgomery County has been working since 1993 to find ways to try to control the overpopulation of deer throughout the County. As part of this effort, Montgomery County uses managed hunts and Park Police sharpshooting on County parkland. Park Police sharpshooting efforts are well planned, safe, and are undertaken in heavily used parks in our more urbanized areas. In the 2013-2014 hunting season, Montgomery County Park Police harvested over 470 deer through their sharpshooting program. Non-lethal control through injected drugs is not yet proven for deer that are not contained to a certain area and surgical sterilization is very expensive and traumatic to the deer. Fencing may protect certain landscapes but it does not reduce the deer population. Bow hunting has a very safe history in Montgomery County but is not as effective in areas where sharpshooting can be used. It should, however, be employed as needed.

The C&O Canal has been identified for many years as an area with a critical need for deer reduction and in 2012, the Council's Public Safety Committee invited C&O Canal Superintendent Brandt to discuss this problem and NPS' process for putting a deer management plan in place.

I urge NPS to focus on Alternative C for the C&O Goldmine Tract. This Alternative as described includes existing practices of monitoring deer density and using deer repellent (Alternative A) and controlled lethal deer reduction through sharpshooting and/or bow hunting by NPS staff or approved contractors.

In 2013, there were 2,146 deer-vehicle collisions in Montgomery County that were reported to the police and many hundreds more with no police report. I was fortunate to have survived a very serious deer-vehicle collision in 2007 but required several surgeries because of the significant injuries I sustained. Deer overpopulation is a serious public safety matter. While the C&O Canal Park is not a developed area, deer from the park travel to nearby neighborhoods, crossing roads, and causing collisions.

The Montgomery County Council looks forward to hearing from NPS on a plan for deer management.