



# Natural Resources Management in Arlington

By Alonso Abugattas

# **BACKGROUND**

## **2005 Public Spaces Master Plan Priority Recommendation**

*“Create a Natural Resource Inventory  
and develop a management strategy for  
natural resource protection.”*

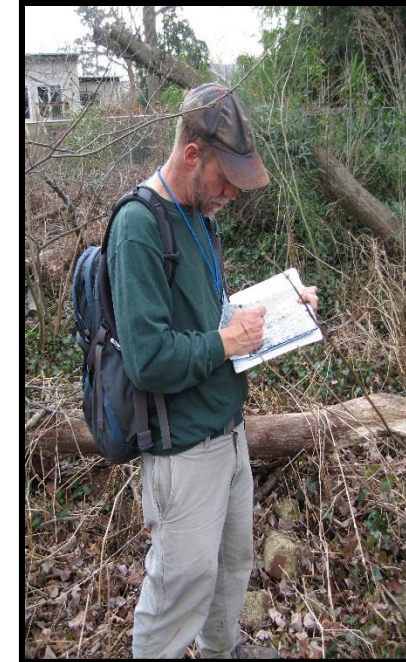




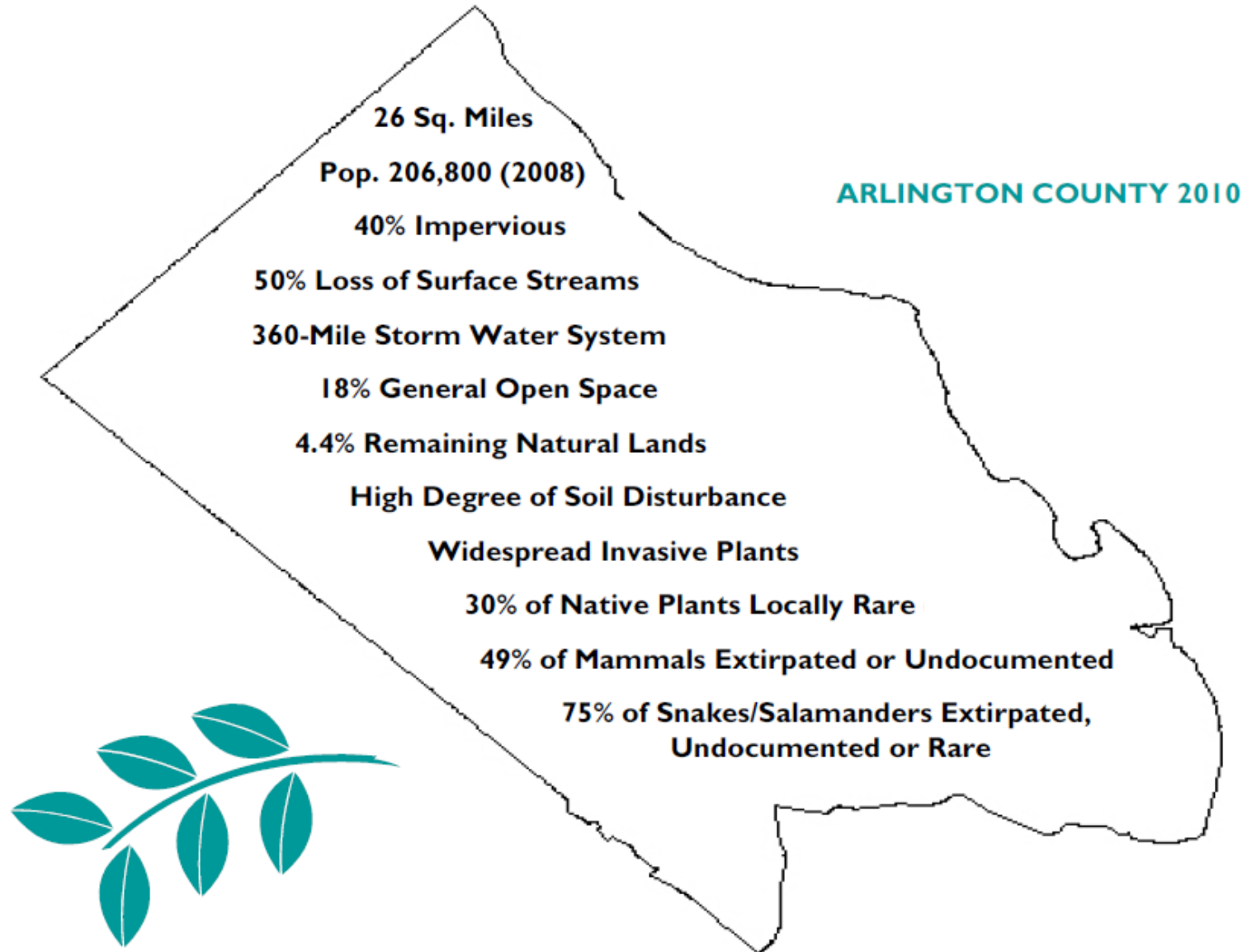
# NATURAL HERITAGE RESOURCE INVENTORY:

## *LAYING THE GROUNDWORK...2005-2008*

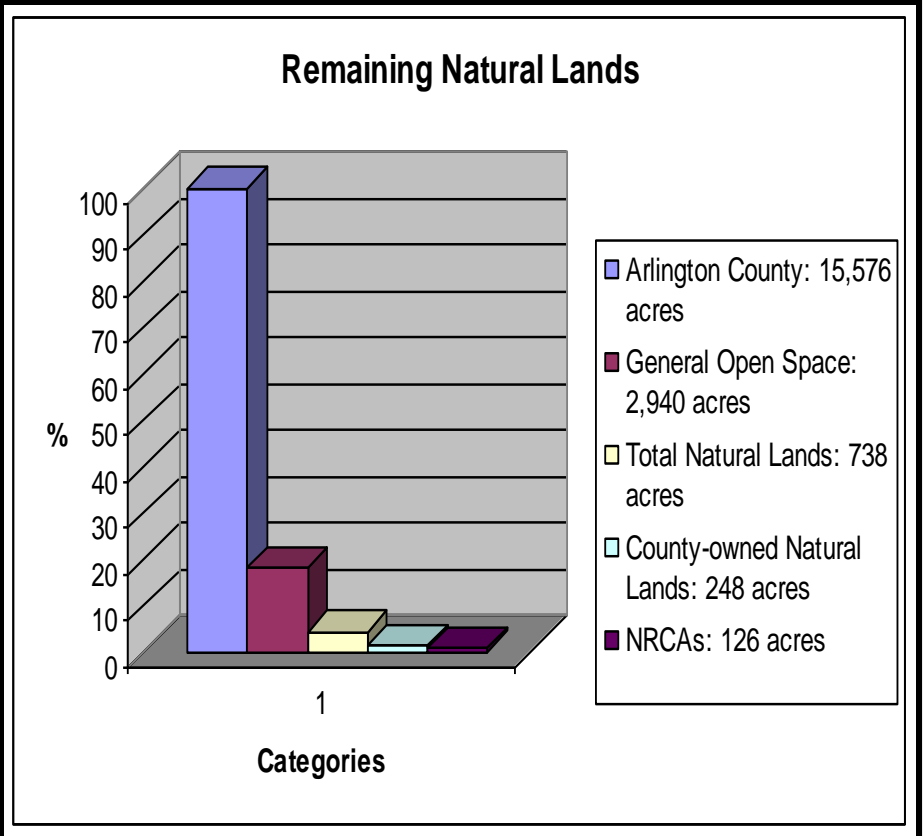
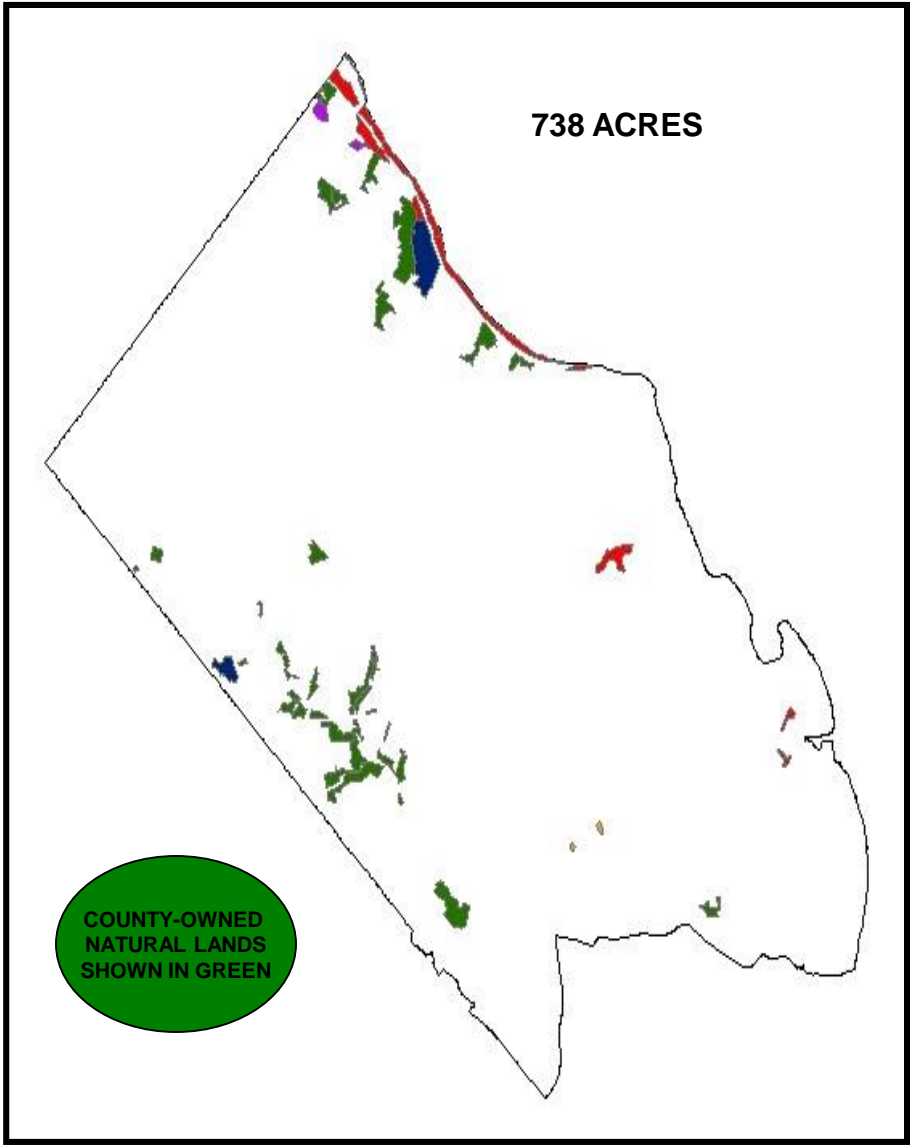
ARLINGTON'S FIRST COMPREHENSIVE NATURAL RESOURCE INVENTORY....



# Arlington Stats



# ARLINGTON'S REMAINING NATURAL LANDS



# Barcroft - a Natural Resource Conservation Area

- Globally Rare Magnolia Bog – less than 2 dozen exist in the world
- 18 separate freshwater springs
- 23 plant species are found no where else in Arlington
- 3 dozen other plants species have very limited occurrence and are locally rare
- Several Champion Trees: County Champion Green Ash, County Champion Poison Sumac, and second largest River Birch in Virginia
- Several Significant Trees: Sweetbay Magnolia, Swamp Chestnut, 4 hybrid oaks
- Needham's Skipper – uncommon dragonfly species is not documented elsewhere in Arlington and is uncommon anywhere
- Gray Fox – locally rare but documented in the park
- Little Wood Satyr – an uncommon butterfly was found to colonize the established meadow area and has not been documented anywhere else in Arlington.
- One of only four sites in Arlington we have found Spotted Salamanders to have laid eggs. Wood Frogs, Spring Peeper Treefrogs, and other amphibians are re-establishing themselves.
- Multiple sightings of American Woodcock, increasingly rare Rusty Blackbirds and other birds, including a County record Yellow-crowned Night-heron. Also Black-crowned Night-heron nesting.



# Natural Resources Management Plan





# Invasive Plant Management

“Invasive plant species represent the greatest and most immediate threat to the continued survival of Arlington’s natural lands and native plant communities.”



Combination of staff, volunteer and contractual services. Mechanical, herbicidal and other methods.

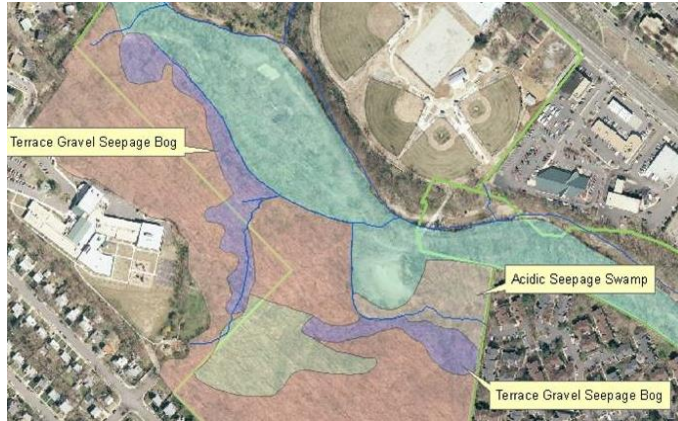
Goal: Protect Arlington’s remaining natural resources.





# Management Strategy

- Assessment



- Program Development



- Engagement



- Removal/Management (RiP sites, volunteers, contractors, staff).







Newly constructed Native  
Plant Nursery 3 years ago





Native Plant Nursery  
end of last year...





A County volunteer staff restoration planting at one of our nature centers.



Seed cleaning event, to prep seed for our nursery







Cleaning Common Milkweed seed to be used for our nursery and as a seed giveaway for the County's Monarch Pledge





# Mayor's Monarch Pledge

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- 92 Volunteers
- 19 teams
- 1245 Observations
- 468 Species
- 7 Parks: Barcroft, Long Branch/Glencarlin, Gulf Branch, Four Mile Run, Tuckahoe, Donaldson's Run, Potomac Overlook Regional Park

Part of the Arlington Bioblitz  
Team

Voice of  
America  
Steve  
Baragona

<https://www.voanews.com/a/3878744.html>







# Arlington Today...

- Inventories conducted in over 32 parks
- A Globally rare and several state rare communities
- 13 state rare listed plants
- Re-appearance of numerous plants and wildlife that had disappeared (These creatures include ravens, striped skunks, river otters, coyotes, gray fox, yellow-crowned night-herons, Mississippi kites, wild turkey, and little wood satyr butterflies)
- 24 Mammals, 30 Damselfly/Dragonflies, 32 Reptile/Amphibians, 42, Fungi, 54 Butterflies, 101 Moths, 197 Birds, and well over 600 native plants.
- Natural Resource Management Plan implemented (soon to be updated) calling for numerous recommendations that have been enacted (including native plant planting policies, NRCA designations, NRMU formation, zero net-loss of natural lands, etc.).
- Formation of a Cooperative Weed Management Area