



Virginia Master Naturalist Program Project Proposal Form

Project proposals should be completed by partner organizations or chapter members and submitted to the chapter's Board of Directors for review. Projects will be evaluated for relevance to program mission and objectives. Projects and activities implemented without approval are not considered Master Naturalist activities, do not count towards required service hours, and do not carry the liability shield.

Submitted to: The Board of Directors for the Historic Rivers Chapter of the Virginia Master Naturalist and the York County Parks and Recreation Department

Project Name *(For approval and recording purposes):*

New Quarter Park Native Plants Teaching Garden

Submitted by:

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Project Purpose and Value *(How will this project contribute to natural resource management, conservation, or education?):*

The New Quarter Park Native Plant teaching Garden will serve primarily as an educational tool for York County citizens and other visitors to the park. Because the designated trail is flat and easy to access most visitors to the park will be able to enjoy the plants and any educational materials that will be developed. This garden will serve as an avenue to convey the importance of natives to the health of the environment and the local wildlife.

Project Type *(Is this project education/outreach, citizen science/monitoring, stewardship, or administrative?):*

Education/outreach and stewardship

Project Description *(Describe what the project involves. What will participants actually do?):*

Members of the Historic Rivers Chapter of the Virginia Master Naturalists will contribute to the work of transplanting, weeding of invasive plant species, cleaning out of unsightly debris and then the ongoing maintenance of the garden. All plants to be featured in the project will come from the park itself. Plant markers, like others in the park, will be used to indicate areas of interest. Educational materials that would include a "fact sheet" would also be developed and made available to trail visitors. This informational sheet would be available in a weather proof box at the trail head.

Project Location *(Where will this project take place?):*

New Quarter Park in Upper York County, Virginia.
(Specifically, to be developed on Trail #1 in the park.)

Time Frame *(What, if any, is the time frame for this project? Be as specific as possible –What time does the volunteer need to be there and how late are they expected to stay? If it is seasonal, what are the approximate dates or appropriate weather conditions? Is this an on-going project or does it have a fixed end date? About how many hours can a volunteer expect to put into this project?):*

The initial planning and removal of debris and some invasive plants would occur this fall once approval of the project by both York County and the Historic Rivers Chapter of the VMN has happened. Transplanting of other plants will need to wait until spring of 2008.

Partner Contact *(If a partner is involved, who at that organization is the contact for this project?):*

Primary contact- Molly Nealer, Recreation Supervisor for York County and secondary contact Sara Lewis, Park Interpreter for New Quarter Park

Name: Organization:

York County Parks and Recreation Department
York County, Virginia

Phone number: Email:

Molly Nealer- 890-3513
nealerm@yorkcounty.gov

Sara Lewis- 220-2042
saraelewis@cox.net

Project Chair *(Who from the chapter is the contact person and organizer for this project):*

Laurie Houghland

What, if any, prior experience or expertise is required or preferred?

Master Naturalists who have a basic knowledge of native plants and their requirements would be preferred. Having some working knowledge of general gardening techniques and ability to use the required tools is also needed.

What training will be provided and by whom?

None necessary

Resources provided *(What equipment or other resources will be provided for the volunteer(s)?):*

The chapter will provide the plant markers like those used throughout the park or work with York County to supply said markers. All plants in the garden will come from the park itself so no plants will need to be purchased for the project. Volunteers will be responsible for providing their own gardening tools and gloves. Water is available in the park but a means to get it to the site will need to be devised.

Resources needed *(What will the volunteer(s) or chapter need to provide and how will these resources be acquired?):*

The chapter will need to provide the above mentioned plant markers and volunteer workers to develop and maintain the garden.

Safety hazards and protocols *(What will the volunteer(s) or chapter need to provide and how will these resources be acquired?):*

Because all work is done outside, common sense steps will need to be taken to remain safe. All volunteers should wear appropriate clothing including work boots or shoes. Also, hats, sunscreen, garden gloves and bug repellent should be used to protect against environmental hazards. The use of safe body mechanics will be important if equipment or large plants need to be moved.

Are minors involved? *(If yes, then all volunteers must be trained in working with youth and the Above Suspicion policy.)*

No

How will the project be evaluated during implementation and after completion?

Because this project will be ongoing, continual evaluation of the effectiveness of the teaching tools and the appearance of the garden will need to take place. Input from park employees and chapter members would be welcome.

How will the Virginia Master Naturalist Program be recognized?

The chapter will designate a marker in the garden that will recognize the work completed by its membership. Approval of this and all markers must come from New Quarter Park and its administrators.

For Chapter Board of Directors Only: Project approved?

Date of approval:

Comments and Evaluation by Board: