

Getting the Job Done: Collaboration, Innovation and Partnerships



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Chairman's Message [^]

Thank you for taking a few moments to glance at our Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2014. We feel it is important to reflect on recent accomplishments and challenges and to share that information with you. As always, it has been a productive year and I am very proud of our staff and leadership. This year our efforts to focus on strengthening our partnerships in this community are helping our park system. In my six terms as Chairman of the Park Authority Board, I have worked hand-in-hand with individuals who understand the value of working together for the common betterment of the community

The commitment to our park system by our partners has made a significant difference in our ability to deal with these challenging budget times. Let me share some insights on how these partnerships and collaborations benefit all of us.

I was honored to be a recipient of the Tony Griffin Partnership Leader Award presented by the Office of Private Partnerships, affectionately known as OP3, this past May. It is a great honor to be recognized in this manner but I can hardly take credit for this accolade alone.

Each year individuals and organizations use the Mastenbrook Volunteer Matching Fund Grant program to help fund projects in the community such as batting cages, dog parks or playgrounds. This year, the Park Authority Board increased the maximum from \$10,000 to \$20,000, thus stretching those dollars even further and increasing the possibilities for community-driven improvements in our parks. It's a program that really works.



William Bouie

Other collaborations include working with the Department of Public Works and Environmental Services to resolve flooding issues in the Great Falls neighborhood during the conversion of a natural turf field to synthetic turf at Nike Park. This partnership used innovative under-drain technology to catch storm water runoff and reduce impacts to nearby streams, thus reducing neighborhood flooding. The project made use of storm water funding and park bonds to complete this important project for the county and the neighborhood. Numerous athletic fields throughout the community have been funded through creative partnerships between developers, Fairfax County and youth sports organizations. One of the best examples is the recently completed Sully Highlands complex in the west end of the county, a showplace of what is possible when everyone works together.

Whether it's environmental education programs with the public schools; contractors rebuilding the gazebo at Green Spring Gardens; or construction firms and energy companies helping to restore stream valley parks, provide scholarships for summer camp and fund our free summer concert series; we depend on these partnerships and welcome more in the future.

Another partner, the Fairfax County Park Foundation has a robust track record of success. It is well-earned. Through their efforts and the support of countless donors large and small, \$868,673.38 were provided in Fiscal Year 2014 in support of facilities, programs and events. So even though this year was fiscally lean, just as others have been over the past decade, we are able to leverage the commitment of our partners, depend on the largess and talent of our volunteers and harness the passion of our staff to overcome those potential shortfalls. Finding the way forward in challenging times is our goal.

I hope you enjoy these highlights of the past fiscal year. I can tell already that the next one is full of promise and bound to be exciting.

Warmest regards,
William G. Bouie, Chairman
Fairfax County Park Authority Board

Director's Message [^]

Welcome to our story! Our annual report takes a look at Park Authority success in Fiscal Year 2014.

There were great accomplishments and our collaboration and partnership with the community, continue to sustain our park system. With your help we increased our matching grant programs to leverage private donations and provided nearly one million dollars in scholarship and reduced rate opportunities to local families and individuals across the county.

The Park Authority success at Huntley Meadows Park, with the wetland restoration, has provided visitors with a new chance to see the many returning species to this beautiful wetland and park. One of the hallmarks of this project was the tremendous opportunity for public comment and collaboration as planners and ecologists studied the best approach to this issue over several years. Public meetings, informal walks with the park's manager and the chance to review draft plans as the project matured made this an especially inclusive and successful effort.



Kirk Kincannon

Across the nation and in Fairfax County, we are moving forward to save energy and reduce our carbon footprint. The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors endorsed energy conservation early

on and provided funding to jump start these vital environmental initiatives. The Park Authority's energy management program has already shown tangible results significantly reducing our energy costs, helping to brighten indoor spaces, cutting energy usage and setting the standard for other agencies following our lead.

Improving water quality and protecting our watershed begins in our stream valleys. Although the Park Authority owns many stream valley parks, the management and improvement of those areas takes cooperation and innovation most recently shared by the Park Authority and the Department of Public Works and Environmental Services. With just a few projects under our collective belts, this is an area ripe for greater participation and accomplishments.

Our planning team has been successfully engaged in the development of urban park standards and guidance for Tysons, an area of our community in transition. As this portion of the county grows, new guidelines and collaboration between developers, planners and the Park Authority will ensure green spaces exist and recreational opportunities are created for those who live or work there.

Our goal to provide you with an accessible and quality park system continues and we have numerous partners, volunteers, and partner agencies to thank for the great success achieved in FY 2014. Please take a few minutes to look through this report and share our excitement in the work accomplished in Fiscal Year 2014.

But most of all, I encourage you to get out and enjoy your parks and recreation facilities!

Kirk W. Kincannon, CPRP
Director, FCPA

The Fairfax County Park Authority Board [^]



Park Authority Board

The Fairfax County Park Authority Board is appointed by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. These 12 appointees are comprised of one representative from each of the nine magisterial districts, plus three at-large members. The board sets policy and establishes priorities for the park agency. The board holds public meetings on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month at 7:30 p.m. at park headquarters in the Herry Building, adjacent the Government Center Complex.

Board Officers are selected annually. 2014 Board officers include **Chairman William G. Bouie** serving his sixth term as Chairman and Providence District Representative **Ken Quincy** serving as **Vice Chairman**. At-large Member **Kala Leggett Quintana** currently serves as **Board Secretary** and Mason District Representative **Frank Vajda** is serving as **Treasurer**.

To find out more about your Park Authority Board members, visit online at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/board/>

People in Our Parks ^

Sealock Softball Complex: Recognizing Hard Work and Accomplishment



Sealock Softball Complex

Sharon Sealock's name is synonymous with adult softball in Fairfax County, and now her name is attached to the fields she helped create. On Friday, September 6, 2013, over 100 people gathered at Braddock Park in Centreville, Va., for a ceremony to rename the park's softball complex in Sealock's honor. Local dignitaries joined Sealock's friends, family, and former teammates to unveil two new signs located near the entrance.

The Fairfax County Park Authority Board voted in 2013 to rename the softball complex in honor of Sealock, a longtime player, volunteer, and Fairfax Adult Softball (FAS) employee who retired after 38 years with FAS. Sealock leaves a legacy of excellence. Her various softball-related volunteer posts included positions with Fairfax County Women's Slow Pitch Softball League (WSPSL), Fairfax County Adult Softball Council (FCASC), and first vice president, FAS. She became a full-time FAS employee in 1987.

In 1988, Sealock managed and played on the first Virginia team to win a national softball championship. As a twelve-time Woman's All Star selection in the metro District of Columbia area, Sealock is an elected-member of the Washington Metropolitan Slow Pitch Softball Hall of Fame and the FAS Hall of Fame.

Ben Peck: Local Preservationist, Longtime Farm Supporter Remembered

Frying Pan Farm Park and the Fairfax County Park Authority were saddened by the loss of a true friend, Howard Benjamin Peck. He passed in March 2014. In 1961, Ben, as his friends and family knew him, served as a founding member of the Frying Pan Park and Youth Supervisory Board, now the **Friends of Frying Pan Farm Park**. This hands-on group helped build stables, cut the grass, schedule events, and generally ran the park until paid staff was hired in the early 1970s.

More than one of the founding fathers for Frying Pan, Ben's decades as a local dairy farmer and his lifelong residence in the Floris Community made him an invaluable resource for local history. He is survived by his wife Margaret and two adult children. The couple shared the same kind spirit, giving nature and love of their community and generously provided information and photographs for the creation of the award-winning exhibit in the park's Visitor Center.



Ben Peck

Qua

lified and willing, Mr. Peck provided volunteer service and expertise to Frying Pan and the Park Authority for over 50 years. In recent years, Ben took daily walks on the park's trails, speaking to visitors, and reporting his findings to staff. Since the beginning of the park and the first meeting of the friends group, Ben has been instrumental in [Frying Pan Farm Park's](#) development, helping to lead the park to where it is today.



Nadar Por Vida

In May 2014 the Fairfax County Park Authority Board presented a resolution to Arthur Lopez, the founder of Nadar Por Vida (Swimming for Life) recognizing his good works. Lopez had partnered with the Park Authority for eight years, creating life-saving, learn-to-swim classes, and a competitive swimming program for minority children and their families. Following his retirement in 2014, Lopez decided to take the Nadar Por Vida program to Indiana where he can continue to oversee its development and possible expansion. Historically, minorities are significantly underrepresented in the sport of swimming at all levels. With drowning deaths in ethnic communities at nearly three times the national average, there is a national need for programs to promote water safety in minority communities and to introduce swimming as a regular part of a lifetime exercise routine.



Nadar por Vida – So That Children Can Swim

Nadar por Vida was a financially, self-sustaining public-private partnership that addressed a critical need in the Fairfax community. Together with a number of national and local business, school and community partners, the organizations developed weekly programs at Providence RECenter, and learn to swim lessons through the USA Swimming Foundation Make-A-Splash program. This unique partnership has brought national recognition to the Park Authority and in 2010 the partnership was honored with the Fairfax County Celebrate Community and Business Partnerships Blue Ribbon Partnership Award.

Working on a shoestring budget, Lopez gathered volunteers and provided donated swimsuits, caps and goggles for the students. More than 60 kids from nearby middle schools along with volunteer teachers, counselors, police, and coaches from local swim teams participated on Saturday evenings at Providence. Hundreds of children passed through this program in the past eight years.

Congressman Connolly Honored as CCT Becomes GCCCT

State legislators, Fairfax County officials, and trail enthusiasts joined friends and family of Congressman Gerry Connolly on Saturday, June 7, 2014, to rename the **Cross County Trail** (CCT) in his honor. Ceremonies were held at the scenic Giles Run Meadow Bridge at Laurel Hill Park in Lorton, Va.

During his tenure as chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, Connolly championed the creation of the 41.5-mile trail, working closely with advocacy groups to plan the route and overcome obstacles. The Fairfax County Park Authority Board voted at their June 12, 2013, meeting to change the trail's name to the Gerry Connolly Cross County Trail.

On May 25, 1999, the idea for a cross county trail was presented to the Park Authority by Fairfax Trails and Streams. The proposed route linked existing Park Authority trails together with other public lands owned by the National Park Service, Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority, the City of Fairfax, the town of Reston, and with public sidewalks through each supervisory district in Fairfax County to form a continuous pedestrian route from Great Falls National Park to Occoquan Regional Park.

Then Chairman Connolly was extremely supportive of Park Authority efforts to acquire the necessary links to complete the route. One of the last significant sections of trail to be acquired was the Laurel Hill Greenway, part of the former Lorton Prison located on the rail bed used to transport goods within the prison property. The Lorton property was acquired by the county from the federal government under Connolly's leadership as board chairman. He supported the amendment of the county Comprehensive Plan to protect the majority of Lorton as parkland, an action which allowed for the CCT to incorporate the Greenway at its southern terminus. With the Laurel Hill Greenway addition, continuous public right-of-way was established and the trail was officially completed in December of 2005.



Pictured from left to right are Christian Deschauer, director of government relations, Transurban; Tom Howe, trails liaison, M.O.R.E.; (not visible) Virginia Delegate Scott Surovell; Chairman Sharon Bulova, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors; Virginia Senator George Barker; Fairfax County Park Authority Director Kirk Kincannon; U.S. Congressman Gerry Connolly; Mount Vernon District Supervisor Gerry Hyland, BOS; Bill Niedringhaus, president, Potomac Heritage Trail Association; Tim White, former acting director, FCPA; Bill Bouie, chairman, Fairfax County Park Authority Board (PAB); Ken Quincy, Providence representative, PAB; Linwood Gorham, Mount Vernon representative, PAB; (not visible) Kala Quintana, at-large member, PAB; Frank Vajda, Mason District representative, PAB; Mary Cortina, at-large member, PAB; Nancy Wilson, trails advocate and donor; and (behind Wilson) Stella Koch, Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority Board. In front of the sign are Jack Howe and Bobbi Longworth, executive director, Fairfax County Park Foundation.

Chairman Bill Bouie Receives Anthony H. Griffin Award





Chairman Bill Bouie Receives Anthony H. Griffin Award

Park Authority Board Chairman **William G. Bouie** is an impassioned, persuasive advocate for parks. His leadership, consensus-building and ability to nurture partnerships leads to unparalleled success for organizations he supports. For those reasons he was honored by the Fairfax County Office of Public Private Partnerships at its Celebrate Partnerships Awards program.

More than 350 people packed the Mason Inn and Conference Center to hear the stories of how lives have been changed for the better by the contributions of partners. Schools, companies, nonprofit and civic organizations and individuals were honored for their work to make our community better.

Fairfax County Supervisor John Cook, who co-hosted the event, noted that “We partner more often, better and in so many different ways in Fairfax County. No one does it better.” (Include photo from event http://www.fairfaxcountypartnerships.org/news/celebrate_partnerships/2014/Anthony_Griffin_award.html)

Parks by the Numbers [^]

23,310 acres of parkland and open space

423 parks

Three lakefront parks

Nine RECenters

Two skate parks

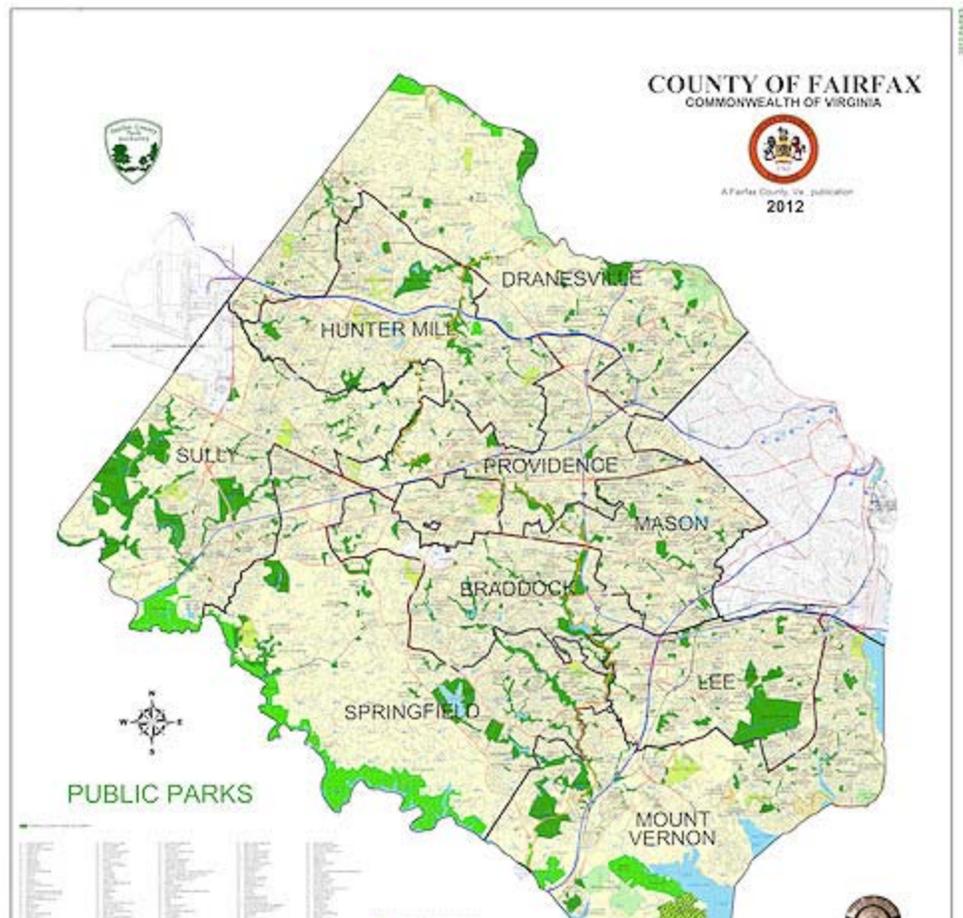
274 athletic fields

12,281 classes held in FY11 across the community; 12,925 in FY12

Eight off-leash dog parks

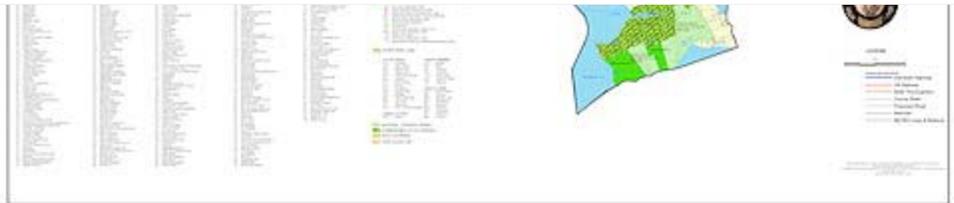
Eight golf courses

One ice skating rink



Five nature centers

Nine supervisory district weekly summer entertainment series featuring 194 culturally diverse performances at 12 venues and five drive-in movies in FY14



Three equestrian areas

10 historic sites

671 garden plots

Two fully-accessible playgrounds, one accessible carousel and the fully-accessible Our Special Harbor sprayground

Two fantastic waterparks – one indoors and the other under sunny skies!

Eight amphitheaters

One observatory park with sundial garden

323.6 miles of trails

Over three million archaeological artifacts and 5,600 museum objects

One working farm

2013 Elly Doyle Park Service Awards ^

In fall 2013, the agency took a trip down the yellow brick road to honor its cadre of “OZsome” volunteers, cultural stewards and financial supporters at a Wizard of Oz-themed award program. One doesn’t need brains to understand why parks are so important to our communities, but it does take heart and courage to protect them and make them the best in the nation. It’s no mystery who the wizard behind the curtain of our shared success is; it’s our volunteers and generous donors.

The Elly Doyle Park Service Award program was established by the Park Authority in 1988 in recognition of former board member and chair Ellamae Doyle’s years of outstanding service.



The “Parkettes”

The annual evening of recognition has grown to include the Park Foundation’s Eakin Philanthropy Awards, the Sally Ormsby Environmental Stewardship Award, and the Mayo Stuntz Cultural Stewardship Award. The eponymous Mayo Stuntz award was created in 2013 to honor the late, longtime historian, author, and chairman of the Sully Foundation. The award honors significant contributions toward the understanding, preservation, and education of history in Fairfax County.



Elly Doyle Winners

- Howard Albers
- Sarah Kirk
- Jim Hickey

Elly Doyle Special Recognition

- Lassine Doumbia
- Casto DeBiasi
- Friends of Green Spring Gardens Board of Directors
- Great Falls Trail Blazers
- Lynn Mulvey-McFerron
- Melina Tye

Student Honorees

- Monica Banghart
- Rohil Bhinge

Mayo Stuntz Cultural Stewardship Award Recipients

- Sully Foundation, Ltd.

Eakin Philanthropy Award Recipients

- ExxonMobil
- RZ Foundation

Accolades and Awards [^]

The Fairfax County Park Authority kept up its winning ways in FY 2014, receiving recognition from the National Recreation and Park Association, National Association of Government Communicators, the Learning Resources Network, and the Government Finance Officers Association.

The Park Authority's comprehensive annual financial reporting (CAFR) was once again recognized by the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) which awarded the Park Authority with its Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting. According to a press release from the GFOA, "It is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment." The GFOA is a non-profit professional association serving approximately 17,500 financial professionals nationwide.

The Park Authority was also honored by the Learning Resources Network (LERN) with a LERN International Award in the category of Best Management Practice for its Class and Summer Camp Summits.

The Class and Summer Camp Summits bring together over 60 agency staff and partners from across Fairfax County to make use of customer feedback to improve service. The summits draw from an online class evaluation system now in operation for its fourth year that has collected more than 20,000 customer responses evaluating over 700 program titles.

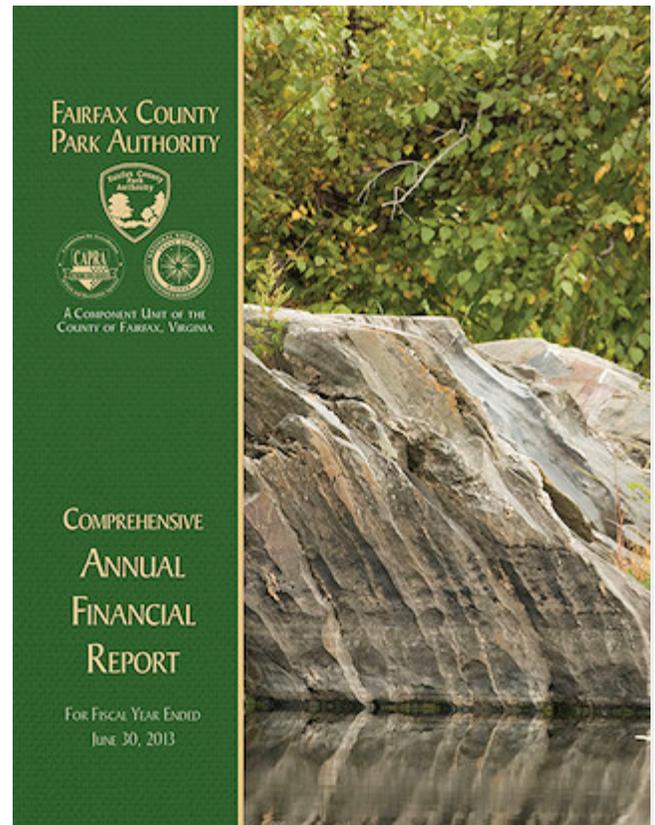
This is the second national award for the Park Authority's Class and Camp Summits. In November 2012, the summits were honored in Washington D.C. by the Learning Resources Network (LERN) with a 2013 LERN International Award in the category of Best Management Practice. LERN award-winning programs recognize cutting edge in the field of lifelong learning and award criteria include originality, innovation, appropriateness and adaptability and measurable outcomes.

Other efforts recognized in the FY 2014 included an inclusive playground, innovative marketing campaigns, a new fitness expo, engaging writing and a new mobile website.

- National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA)

Excellence in Inclusion Award

Our Special Harbor, Chessie's Big Backyard, Clemyjontri Park



Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR)



- NRPA

Kudos Marketing Award

Colvin Run Mill, Partners in Preservation (PiP) contest

- National Association of Government Communicators (NAGC)

Shoestring Budget

Black Friday Campaign

- NAGC

Article: Chessie's Big Backyard

- NAGC

Award of Excellence

Special Events: Healthy Strides Community 5K/10K & Fitness Expo

- NAGC

Award of Excellence

Mobile Application: Parktakes Mobile

- LERN International Award in the category of Best Management Practice

Class and Summer Camp Summits



Healthy Strides Expo

Smoke Free Parks

Clean, fresh and smoke-free air is the future for Fairfax County parks and recreational facilities. On April 23, 2014, the Park Authority Board approved a campaign that aims to reduce the amount of smoking in areas where children play. With this action, the Park Authority continues its mission of creating healthier and safer environments for all people to enjoy. Fairfax County Public Schools recently joined in this healthful effort, creating an influential partnership that is sure to make an impact.



Signs that say, "Tobacco-Free Play Zone – Thank you for your voluntary cooperation" were slated for placement near playgrounds, athletic fields, and skate parks during the fall. The Park Authority chose these areas for the initial phase because they are mostly used by children. Over time, the effort may expand to other park areas.

Some of the primary reasons for this campaign are the health and environmental consequences of tobacco smoke. In June 2011, a

report by the Partnership for a Healthier Fairfax found that 20% of Fairfax County residents listed tobacco use as the most important health-related issue for the community. Secondhand smoke can be damaging for all people, but health experts say that secondhand smoke is particularly harmful to still-developing lungs.



There are some who foresee an end of smoking as a new generation comes to recognize the consequences. Smoking increases the risk for disease, disability and death for smokers and those who are exposed to secondhand smoke. In addition, cigarette butts are detrimental to the environment. Reduction of cigarette butt litter will improve the health of local streams, lakes, and rivers into which they migrate. Cigarette butts contain carcinogenic materials that also pose a danger to wildlife which may ingest them.

The Tobacco-Free Play Zones constitute a voluntary ban on smoking. The campaign's premise is based on the hope and expectation that Fairfax County residents will comply out of respect for non-smoking neighbors and families.

The signs are partially funded by the Live Healthy Fairfax initiative funded by a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Community Transformation Grant.

Collaboration and Partnerships Work Now and In The Future





Pictured in the photo, from left to right with CYA baseball players, are: Kala Quintana, at-large member, Fairfax County Park Authority Board (PAB); Kirk Kincannon, director, Park Authority; Bill Minto, at-large member, CYA Board; Ken Quincy, Providence District representative, PAB; Bill Bouie, chairman, PAB; Mary Cortina, at-large member, PAB; Faisal Khan, at-large member, PAB; Mike Dingman, at-large member CYA Board; Hal Strickland, Sully District representative, PAB; Gary Flather, president, Southwestern Youth Association (SYA); Sully District Supervisor Michael Frey, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors (BOS); SYA representative; Ralph Wills, president, CYA; Sharon Bulova, chairman, BOS; Art Simcox, former CYA Board member; Mark Abbott, executive director, CYA; John Litzenberger, Jr., Planning Commission; Rob Fitzhugh, vice president, CYA; Tim Eakin Walsh, Fairfax County Park Foundation (FCPF) Board member; Delegate Jim LeMunyon, 67th District; and John Osborn, FCPF Board member.

If working together is the wave of the future, the future is already here. The Fairfax County Park Authority simply can't take care of all the recreational and stewardship needs in this community, nor can it meet the mandates of our full mission without the participation and collaboration of partners from all elements of the community.

The good news is that work by the [Park Foundation](#), adoption of a Financial Stability Plan by the Park Board; and through the provision of proffers by local developers as well as contributions made by organizations throughout Fairfax County, more successful partnerships are now in place. From synthetic turf fields and dog parks, to spray grounds and free concerts for the public, the benefits of improved partnerships, and increased collaboration is paying off.

In western Fairfax County, Sully Highlands Park combined donations from Chantilly Youth Association (CYA) and development proffers from Timber Ridge at Discovery Square, Inc. to develop a 17-acre sports complex. Collaborative work on this park resulted in a state-of-the-art park facility that saved taxpayers over \$6 million dollars. The park was developed with two side-by-side lighted synthetic rectangular fields with a cricket pitch between them, two lighted and irrigated 60-foot baseball diamonds, one lighted and irrigated 90-foot ball diamond, a trail system, and a 270-space parking lot. CYA contributed over \$120,000 to provide batting cages, a pitcher's warm up area, a playground and picnic tables. (Insert photos from opening and cutline to identify folks at ribbon cutting)

Your park system depends on donations and partnerships to ensure that tax dollars are leveraged to provide as much as possible to our community. That's one of the roles of the [Fairfax County Park Foundation](#). In Fiscal Year 2014 Park Foundation efforts were successful on many fronts including sponsorship of the Summer Entertainment Series, summer camp scholarship, invasive plant management programs, as well as conversion of turf to synthetic turf fields. Find out more about their success in FY 2014 at [LINK](#).

Telecom Dollars Will Fund Stewardship Projects Next Year



Frying Pan Meeting House

The benefits of telecom dollars have been felt in parks for many years. Cell towers on parkland have sometimes stirred controversy yet they provide vital communications coverage for the region as well as revenues for park improvement, often reaching \$1 million a year through lease agreements. The fact of the matter is that a new project or park improvement may have been funded through this non-traditional revenue stream.

The Park Authority's Fiscal Sustainability Plan, adopted in December 2011, envisioned the examination of all agency revenue streams and an analysis of their use. Park staff reviewed cell tower revenues in 2013 and recommended that rather than apply these dollars only to the particular park or

district in which the cell tower is located, greater strategic benefits could be found by using funds countywide on stewardship projects in Fairfax County.

This past spring, the Park Authority Board agreed to dedicate 20 percent of future telecommunications revenues towards projects that strategically support the Cultural Resource Management Plan (CRMP) and Natural Resource Management Plan (NRMP). This is an important step towards funding these numerous environmental and stewardship projects that in many cases have not been able to proceed due to limited funding.

This Board action provided over \$311,000 in additional stewardship support during FY 2014. This new support adds to existing funding from proffers and the Board of Supervisors Environmental Improvement Program.

With this funding, projects that protect forest land and open space, as well as historic sites and other cultural amenities, will continue to progress. Programs at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park in Chantilly aimed at protecting our natural capital are one example, as well as the protection of natural and cultural resources at Old Colchester Park and Preserve, the site of extensive archaeological activities in Mason Neck.

Park Authority Board Chairman Bill Bouie noted that without this new approach stewardship projects might languish for lack of dedicated funding. "It may be a relatively small step forward, but we know we are clearly heading in the right direction," he added.

A list of projects recommended for funding for countywide CRMP and NRMP projects and districtwide projects will be developed annually. The proposed project list will be formalized each May by the agency director and presented to the Park Board for approval each July.

For those dollars not assigned to environmental tasks, the Park Authority endeavors to fund a host of projects that improve the customer's experience at park facilities and include projects selected for reasons associated with safety, service or revenue. Here are some of the projects that are funded by telecom dollars not allocated for stewardship projects:

Braddock District projects include dock repairs at Lake Accotink Park and the replacement of fitness equipment at Audrey Moore RECenter.

Dranesville District projects include playground apparatus repairs at Clemyjontri Park, improvements at Olney Park, repairs at the Pimmit Barn and the purchase of furniture and equipment for the new roll top observatory building at Turner Farm.

The Hunter Mill District telecom dollars will fund the replacement sand volleyball court at Stratton Woods Park, purchase new lifejackets, funbrellas, and chairs for the Water Mine as well as provide for an analysis of the historic Meeting House at Frying Pan Farm Park.

In Lee District, anticipate installation of additional fencing at the Lee District synthetic turf field, upgrades to several security cameras and the purchase of new water rowers for Lee District RECenter.

Mount Vernon District funding includes painting and weatherproofing of the barn at Grist Mill Park, maintenance and preservation work at the Nike Site at Laurel Hill Park as well as turf cleaning equipment installation at Laurel Hill Golf Club.

The Springfield District funding will also pay to install turf cleaning equipment at Twin Lakes Golf Course, upgrade security cameras at South Run RECenters, provide funding towards the replacement of the existing playground at Rolling Valley West Park and provide for pothole repairs at Burke Lake Park.

Telecom dollars will provide Sully District with improvements at Sully Highlands Park.

Contributions from several monopolies will fund the purchase of a grader and roller to support the Park Authority Mobile Crew.

Concerts on the Ellipse

In a busy county with over 1.1 million residents, it can be hard to get to know your neighbors. The Park Authority's Summer Entertainment Series provides free events at parks throughout the county where friends and neighbors come together to enjoy concerts and cultural performances. In 2013, Evenings on the Ellipse was introduced at the Fairfax County Government Center, a beautiful community hub. The grassy field located behind the Government Center and bordered by forest where concerts are held is known as "the backyard," which is an appropriate name for a place where fun summer get-togethers take place.



Evenings on the Ellipse

Evenings on the Ellipse fosters a strong and vibrant sense of community by bringing together musicians, dancers, co-workers, neighbors, couples, and families every Thursday evening throughout July and August to enjoy great music and each other's company. Concerts start at 5:30 p.m., which gives employees and neighbors a chance to unwind and mingle and avoid traffic before heading home. If the weather is inclement, the concerts move indoors to the spacious atrium.

The Thursday performances include something for everyone, including military bands, blues, rock, Zydeco, folk, R&B, swing, and West African music. The 2014 schedule featured jazz, Big Band, pop, Motown, and Latin pop.

Concerts are free thanks to generous corporate sponsors and community supporters. In May 2014, the Government Center complex welcomed a new farmers market that is held in the parking lot every Thursday afternoon. This, along with the addition of visiting food trucks on select Thursdays, has enhanced the community atmosphere envisioned by Evenings on the Ellipse.

Contact Us [^]

Park Authority Information Is Just A Click Away

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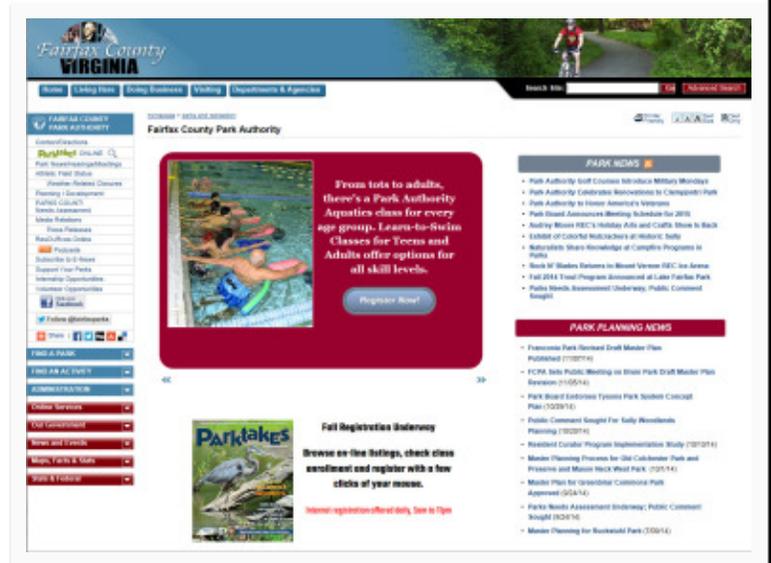
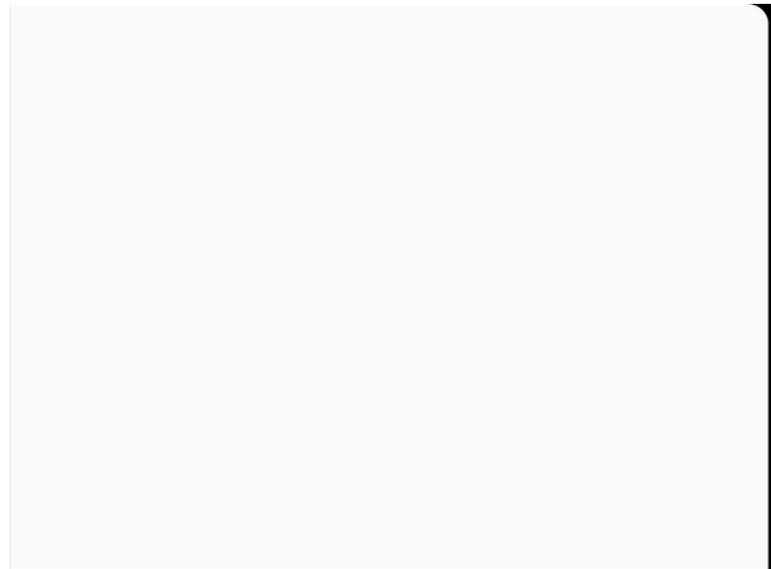
[Synthetic Turf Fields](#)

[Picnic Areas](#)

[Lakefront Parks](#)

[Summer Concerts](#)

[Summer Camps](#)



[Major Parks](#)

[Water Mine Family Swimmin' Hole](#)

[Farmers Markets](#)

[Our Special Harbor](#)

[Park Foundation](#)

[Park Planning](#)

[Mount Vernon Ice Rink](#)

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Getting the Job Done: Collaboration, Innovation and Partnerships



QUICK JUMP

- [Nautical Cove Opens at Chessie's BIG Backyard Playground](#)
- [White Gazebo Gets Spruced Up By Generous Business Partners](#)
- [Sony Employees Give Back](#)
- [Summer Entertainment Series is Better Than Ever](#)

The [Fairfax County Park Foundation](#) supports the Fairfax County Park Authority by raising private funds, obtaining grants, and creating partnerships that supplement tax dollars to meet our community's needs for park land, facilities, and services.

The Park Foundation is a nonprofit charitable organization under Section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code. The Foundation is led by a volunteer Board of Directors and staffed by an Executive Director with a lean and efficient staff. The Board is comprised of community and business leaders and holds regularly scheduled meetings.

Fiscal Year 2014 was an especially good year with generous support from many donors, an active and involved Foundation Board, and cooperation and collaboration with Park Authority staff. Highlights include these notable gifts and the projects they benefit:

- Chantilly Youth Association contributed \$120,000 for the Sully Highlands Field Complex. This donation will fund batting cages, a pitcher's warm-up area, a playground and picnic tables.
- More than 44 corporations, including TD Bank, ExxonMobil, Cox Communications, Dominion, and Transurban-Flour contributed \$129,779 in support of the popular Summer Entertainment Series.
- The Lt. Col. Gary F. Smith Memorial Field turf conversion project at Grist Mill Park received a financial boost with a significant contribution from Ann Smith and friends and family. To date, over \$208, 000 has been contributed in his memory.
- Contributions towards class scholarships totaled \$46,248 in FY 2014. These donations often come from FCPA class enrollees who contribute remaining account balances.
- Donors provided \$45,651 to complete the two-to-five-year-olds play area in Nautical Cove at Chessie's Big Back Yard. The playground is located in Lee District Park.
- More than \$35,240 was received from various donors to support the Rec-PAC summer camp program.
- Contributors supported the Park Authority's Open Space Land Preservation efforts providing \$28,000 in donations.
- PNC Bank led the way as donors provided over \$22,000 to support the popular Arts in the Parks program.



- Supporting healthy lifestyles was at the core of support for the Take 12/Steps For Health program and the Healthy Strides Community 5k/10k run and expo. Cigna and others donated over \$15,000 towards this program.
- The Claude Moore Charitable Foundation, Volkswagen North America, and others provided nearly \$14,000 in support of the PACT program which provides summer camp for children in homeless shelters and supportive housing.
- REI and other donors supported the Invasive Management Area program. More than \$11,000 was contributed.

In Fiscal Year 2014, the Park Foundation distributed more than \$868,673 to the Park Authority for park improvements and program support.

Nautical Cove Opens at Chessie's BIG Backyard Playground [^]



From left to right are children and their parents, in front Rohil Bhinge who raised \$3,500 towards the playground; Roberta Longworth, executive director, Park Foundation; Susan Syron, representing the Kelley Syron Sunshine Fund; Lee District Supervisor Jeff McKay; Kala Quintana, at-large member, Fairfax County Park Authority Board; Park Foundation Board Director Dr. Cynthia Jacobs Carter; David Bowden, director of the Park Planning Division; Director David Johnson (center), Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation; John Osborn, Park Foundation Board Director; Edward Batten, Lee District Rep; Fairfax County Park Authority Board; Linwood Gorham, Mount Vernon Rep; Fairfax County Park Authority Board; Tammy Derenak Kaufax, vice chairman, Fairfax County School Board; Heather Lynch project manager; Frank Vajda, Mason District Rep; Fairfax County Park Authority Board and Tony Vellucci, Braddock District Rep, Fairfax County Park Authority Board.

Despite chilly weather, lots of children, members of the community, and officials gathered at the [Lee District Family Recreation Area](#) in Franconia to dedicate the newest section of Chessie's BIG Backyard. The addition is known as Nautical Cove and features a lighthouse, sea monster, and pirate ship. This improvement is the second phase of a fully accessible playground that includes Chessie the Monster, a Pirate Ship, Lighthouse and Sand Castle, and fully accessible rubber surfacing. Sound effects and visual elements are embedded in the equipment and surfacing to enhance play value. Nautical Cove is perfect for children ages two to five.

This unique multi-phased project is a public-private partnership between the Fairfax County Park Authority and several other entities. Site facilities are funded in part through Park Bonds, grants from Virginia's Land Water Conservation Fund, Lowe's, and the Sugarman Family Foundation. Additional funding was received through the Kelley Syron Sunshine Fund, the Joey Pizzano Memorial Fund, and the Fairfax County Park Foundation. Craig and Belinda Stevens, Rohil Bhinge, and numerous individuals throughout the community generously supported this project.

Future phases of park development will include a family picnic pavilion and fully accessible carousel. The Park Foundation has spearheaded the effort to raise funds for this facility.

White Gazebo Gets Spruced Up By Generous Business Partners [^]

In September 2013 workers replaced a roof as volunteers painted and installed new decking at the White Gazebo located within [Green Spring Gardens](#). The structure, originally built with community support in 1987, was in dire need of refurbishment for it to continue to serve as a backdrop for wedding photos and prom pictures, as well as a stage for events and concerts.

Phase two of the project will include replacing and expanding the patio, redesigning the ADA accessibility ramp, the installation of steps facing the lawn and redesign of the gardens to include a fountain or statue. Project partners included Clark Construction, the Friends of Green Spring Gardens, The Roof Center, Valentino's Pizza, Concepts and Contours, Inc., and the Fairfax County Park Foundation.



White Gazebo at Green Spring Gardens



Sony Employees Give Back [^]

Without volunteers or corporate support, the Park Authority would struggle to meet its goals and accomplish its mission. Volunteers from the private sector are often looking for group activities that make a difference in their community. That was the case when 19 Sony employees spent a day mulching trails, painting a fence, and cleaning and painting horse jumps at [Frying Pan Farm Park](#). They did a wonderful job and had a great time as well. The farm welcomes corporate volunteer groups up to 40 people.

Summer Entertainment Series is Better Than Ever [^]

In 2014, the [Summer Entertainment Series](#) became larger and better than ever.

Fairfax County parks were packed with musical favorites from years past and new big name performers. The summer of 2014 was a season bursting with music, laughter, and family fun.



Over 190 culturally diverse performances filled the 12 venues throughout the summer. The Fairfax County Park Authority brought back popular performances including American political satire group Capitol Steps, Irish rock band Scythian, bluegrass ensemble Seldom Scene, and Grammy award winner Tom Paxton. In addition, several internationally acclaimed bands played for the first time in the Summer Entertainment Series. SOLAS, an Irish-American group performed at Mason District Park Amphitheater during their US tour. Also on his US tour, Kayhan Kalhor, a three-time Grammy nominee and an Iranian Kamancheh player, performed at this same venue. All of these

concerts added to the program's dedication to musical diversity.

Not only were the performances new and exciting, the Park Authority was celebrating the 10th anniversary of the Starlight Cinema Series. To kick off this anniversary, Starlight Cinema premiered the classic film *Casablanca* before showcasing popular children's movies including *Despicable Me 2*, *Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs 2*, *Frozen*, and *The Lego Movie*.

The 2014 Summer Entertainment Series expansion has revived the program's musical variety and continued the tradition of building stronger communities through music and recreational activities. The concert series will continue with a full slate of performances in 2014-2015.

These concerts were supported by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, the Park Foundation and its benevolent donors, as well as local and corporate business entities that generously invest in Fairfax County's award-winning parks.



Starlight Cinema

Getting the Job Done: Collaboration, Innovation and Partnerships



QUICK JUMP

- 25th Annual Cardboard Boat Regatta Brings Out A Crowd
- Ceremony Marks Start of Project to Expand Water Mine
- Run For Your Health
- Mobile Food Vendors
- Partying All Night Long – Safely
- Fishing Derby Is Just Right For Kids
- Getting the Job Done – Devil's in the Details
- Saying Thanks Those Who Serve
- Jump Onboard the Ghost Train

25th Annual Cardboard Boat Regatta Brings Out A Crowd ^

The 25th Annual Cardboard Boat Regatta was held at [Lake Accotink Park](#) on June 1 as part of Springfield Days festivities. Boats were judged in categories including Pride of the Regatta, Best Costume, Team Spirit, Titanic, and Best Buoyant Beginning. Nearly 400 people in about 50 boats competed in the contest, with several hundred more people watching from the shore. Staff and volunteers from Fairfax County School-Age Child Care (Department of Family Services) continued their partnership with the Park Authority, enabling countless schoolchildren to be part of this event in which they might not otherwise have a way to participate.



Cardboard Boat Regatta at Lake Accotink Park

Next year's running of the Cardboard Boat Regatta is slated for Sunday, May 31, 2015. Until then, gather your crewmates and come out for a ride on a pedal boat or pontoon tour boat. Don't worry—they're not made of cardboard.

Ceremony Marks Start of Project to Expand Water Mine ^



Hunter Mill District Supervisor Catherine Hudgins joined Fairfax County Park Authority leadership and staff at Lake Fairfax Park on Saturday, June 12, 2014, to mark the start of a project to expand the [Water Mine Family Swimmin' Hole](#). Patrons and their families enjoyed free hot dogs, popsicles, and a raffle for gift bags.



The \$5 million project will substantially increase the size of the popular water park, adding a 3,000-square-foot, tot spray pad with spray features, a 5,300-square-foot active spray pad with spray features, a slide tower with three flume water slides and an

interactive play structure. Other project elements include a 1,000-square-foot restroom and mechanical building, improvements to the pool deck, relocation of shade structures, new shade structures and related utility and site work. The project is scheduled to be completed in late summer 2015.

Pictured from left to right are Dave Bowden, director of planning and development, Fairfax County Park Authority; Josh Schmidt, aquatics director, Water Mine; Sara Baldwin, deputy director, FCPA; Kirk Kincannon, director, FCPA; Bill Bouie, Fairfax County Park Authority Board chairman and Hunter Mill District Representative; Hunter Mill District Supervisor Catherine Hudgins, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors; and (far right) Ninette Heiligh, operating manager, Lake Fairfax Park.



Run For Your Health ^

The [Healthy Strides Community 5k/10k](#) drew a crowd at Burke Lake in April as record numbers of participants came out for the annual event. The 5k takes a path through the woods. The 10k run follows a wooded path and takes runners around the lake. The scenic path, refreshing spring weather and the desire to participate in a healthful activity all contributed to the event's success.

Mobile Food Vendors ^

Hot dogs! Tacos! Soda! Mobile food vendors have taken to Fairfax County Parks and these popular food trucks may be here to stay.

Mobile food vendors offer a new dining experience. Instead of bringing your plain PB&J sandwich to a soccer game at the park, you can now pick up some hot, fresh, delicious food from one of the many mobile food vendors available! Want

something exotic? Grab a falafel at Oak Marr Park. Or desire something more traditionally American? Enjoy a hamburger with fries at Wakefield Park.

There are 11 vendor locations in total. Parks were selected based on their features including: athletic fields, multi-use structures (i.e. RECenter), and proximity to businesses. According to Central Services Coordinator Emilie Shumate, the food vendor program began because the Park Authority found that food trucks were operating in parks without proper permits. “[The Park Authority] knew that because [the food vendors] were in the parks that there was a need and that the business to sustain their presence in the parks existed,” she said. Since its beginnings in summer 2013, the program has been popular and successful.

From Spanish to Greek food, there are a variety of diverse food options available. Consider authentic Spanish burrito bowls at Lake Fairfax Park. Or enjoy a little part of Greece by having a gyro sandwich at Baron Cameron Park. The mobile food vendors reflect the diversity of this community with each vendor bringing food products that are culturally unique and vibrant.

Mobile food vendors are not a trend. Local residents desire different, tasty, and quick food from food trucks and the Park Authority will continue to respond to this growing popularity. To learn more about the program, go to <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/mobile-vending.htm>.

Partying All Night Long – Safely ^

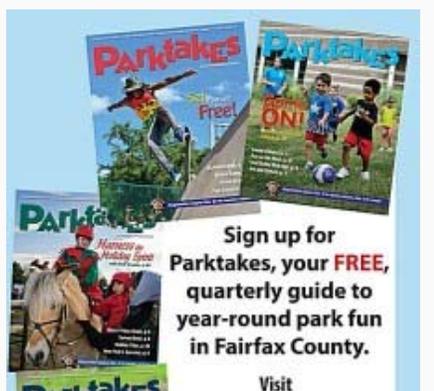
This past year marked the 27th time working in partnership with Project Graduation, a series of all night graduation parties held at RECenters for graduating class members and their guests. The goal is to keep them safe! Since this program began in 1987 there have been no alcohol related traffic accidents or deaths in Northern Virginia on graduation night!

This year the Park Authority hosted 11 all night parties for Fairfax County Public Schools working closely with the school Parent Teacher Associations. By waiving the facility rental fees and costs associated with staffing, the parties are affordable. These Park Authority contributions of in-kind services are valued at over \$70,000. In addition to providing great locations and activities, staff provides insight and historical knowledge useful in planning these gatherings.

Fishing Derby Is Just Right For Kids ^

Lake Fairfax Park hosted the New Horizon Bass Anglers Youth Foundation’s youth fishing derbies. The derbies attracted children up to age 15 and served as an introduction to sports fishing as well as caring for our natural resources. A short seminar on these subjects was conducted prior to the award presentations and professional guides and anglers were available to answer fishing questions.

Getting the Job Done – Devil’s in the Details ^



The Park Services Division manages a wide variety of programs and facilities. The day-to-day management of those is not as exciting as expansion of a RECenter or the opening of a new facility. However, these actions and decisions often represent the cornerstone of our success and impact our customers and program participants in many ways. Consider these FY 2014 actions and accomplishments:

Rec-PAC, our popular and affordable, school-based, summer camp program serves a diverse population. Park staff met with Penny McConnell, Director of Fairfax County Public School’s Food and Nutrition Services, to plan the



summer USDA feeding program. Rec-PAC will be offering free breakfast and lunch at 16 schools who have 50% or more of their enrollment eligible for free or reduced price meals. The meeting resulted in fewer responsibilities for Rec-PAC staff in food service, an agreement on site security for non-Rec-PAC program participants who come to the school seeking meals, and better opportunities for less food waste and flexibility in children making use of extra

food.

If you are like most residents in Fairfax County you either receive a [Parktakes magazine](#) in the mail or use our online version for deciding for which camps or programs to sign up. Parktakes is our most popular information resource and the Summer Parktakes had 176,000 more subscribers than the year before.

The Park Authority employs many seasonal workers and getting them trained is always a challenge. Youth Services completed the first phase of converting a significant portion of its camp staff training to online learning, creating a hybrid learning module for summer staff training. The first phase allowed staff to complete most training online prior to meeting together in-person for demonstration of skills, testing and group activities.

As dam owner/operators we are responsible for the daily monitoring of our dams, especially Lake Accotink dam which requires a conditional permit. During times of weather events we play a critical role in relaying information to the Emergency Operations Center.

Saying Thanks Those Who Serve [^]

The Park Authority's nine RECenters and three lakefront parks honored all branches of the armed forces on Memorial Day by providing complimentary admission to personnel and their families. The cost of this program was offset by contributions from the Fairfax County Park Foundation.

In February, Lake Fairfax Park hosted a Warrior Bridge Fishing Day at the park. Warrior Bridge is a national initiative serving wounded veterans. This program serves as a vital connection to resources and supports wounded veterans as they return to civilian life, seek employment, self-sufficiency and a high quality of life. Warrior Bridge fishing day was simple relaxation that featured fishing for veterans and active duty personnel with a variety and wide range of disabilities.

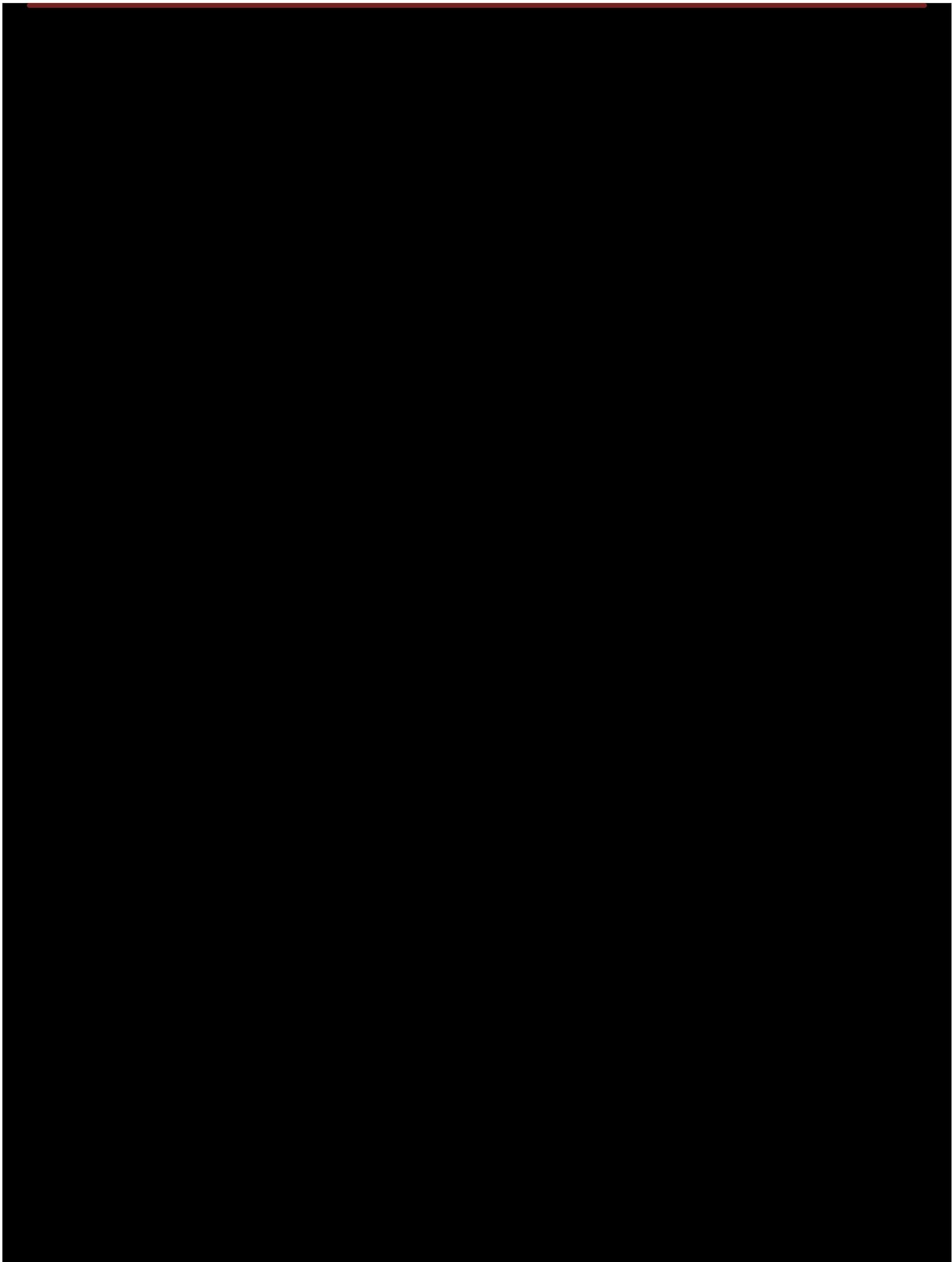
Jump Onboard the Ghost Train [^]

[Burke Lake Park](#) and the Northern Virginia Community College hosted the 34th annual Ghost Train community event in October.

Other Halloween events included Lake Fairfax Park's annual Pumpkins in the Park event for pre-schoolers. The event featured pumpkin painting, face painting and a puppet show.



Ghost Train at Burke Lake



Getting the Job Done: Collaboration, Innovation and Partnerships



QUICK JUMP

- Expanded Oaks Room Opens at Twin Lakes Golf Course
- Combo Classic: One of a Kind East Coast Tournament

Expanded Oaks Room Opens at Twin Lakes Golf Course [^]

A ribbon cutting ceremony to mark the completion of a project that expanded the Oaks Room at [Twin Lakes Golf Course](#) was held Saturday, May 10, 2014. The event space can now accommodate up to 200 people, which opens up possibilities for booking larger tournaments and social functions. This \$1.2 million project was funded by the Park Authority's capital improvement bond program, which was authorized by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors and approved by voters.

This greatly anticipated facility improvement is one of several revenue producing projects contained in the Financial Sustainability Plan recently approved by the Fairfax County Park Authority Board. Expansion of the Oaks Room at Twin Lakes Golf Course was approved as part of the Financial Stability Plan to meet current and future demand for full-size golf outings and rentals which were not possible in the past due to limited seating capacity. The project added approximately 3,100 square feet to the existing Oak Room as well as an enlarged kitchen, mechanical/storage room, and entrance porches.



Pictured from left to right are Mary Cortina, member-at-large, Fairfax County Park Authority Board; Peter Furey, Golf Enterprises Manager, Fairfax County Park Authority; Dave Bowden, Planning and Development Division Director, FCPA; Eric Sohn, president, J. Roberts, Inc.; Mike Thompson, Springfield District representative, PAB; Springfield District Supervisor Pat Herrity, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors; Eric Inman, project manager, FCPA; Barbara Cosgrove, Twin Lake Golf Course Manager; Kala Quintana, member-at-large, PAB; Eric Kulczycky, National Sales Manager, Visit Fairfax; and Bill Bouie, chairman, Fairfax County Park Authority Board.

Combo Classic: One of a Kind East Coast Tournament [^]

The 24th Annual Combo Classic was held at **Twin Lakes Golf Course** on June 6-7. This unique tournament pairs golfers with a disability and those without and is the only one of its kind on the East Coast. Friday's play was on the Oaks Course and Saturday's play on the Lakes Course. Friday's welcome reception and Saturday's awards banquet were held in the newly renovated Oaks Room Banquet Hall.

Proceeds from the tournament will help cover the tournament expenses and help fund the new FCPA Accessible Golf Instructional Program for individuals with physical and cognitive disabilities. The program will consist of future clinics geared toward those with physical disabilities and those with cognitive disabilities. These clinics will include instruction on the major game components (i.e. driving, irons, putting and chipping), followed by lunch and then additional use of the practice facilities and limited on-course play to familiarize participants with the golf course.

The Combo Classic was made possible by a partnership with the Fairfax County Park Foundation, the Office of Public, Private Partnerships, and the generosity of many corporate sponsors.



24th Annual Combo Classic at Twin Lakes Golf Course

Getting the Job Done: Collaboration, Innovation and Partnerships



QUICK JUMP

- [Bad Weather Brings Out The Best In Us](#)
- [Park Authority Board Action Raises Mastenbrook Grant Amount](#)
- [Energy Management Programs Reduce Carbon Footprint and Costs](#)
- [Tournaments For Turf: Unique Approach Proves Popular](#)

Bad Weather Brings Out The Best In Us [^]

It seems that the days of well-known weather phenomena have passed. Nowadays, thunder storms take a back seat to derrechos, and frosty conditions are attributable to the polar vortex. Fairfax County was brought to a standstill when a fast-moving winter storm barreled into the area on Tuesday, January 21. As county leadership made the decision to close all government operations for the afternoon, Park Operations staff staged snowplows and sanding trucks and prepared to dig out Park Authority properties to allow our customers and staff access.

Mobile Crew Manager Matt Devor said, “When the county closes, Mobile Crew still reports. We are emergency personnel and my guys know to keep their phones close by during snow events.”

Mobile Crew helped clear and treat the parking lot at Oak Marr RECenter and cleared the entrance roads at Sully Historic Site and Cabell’s Mill.

Area 1 Manager Ed Busenlehner’s crew stocked up supplies ahead of time and arrived at the shop at 3 a.m. Wednesday morning to get to work. Area 2 staff made sure Audrey Moore RECenter and Hidden Oaks Nature Center could open on time. Along with the staffed sites, the crew plowed and treated parking areas at Clarke House and Wakefield Chapel and cleared sidewalks at Mason District Park.

Park Authority sites weren’t the only ones helped by Park Operations staff. When a truck belonging to the Department of Public Works and Environmental Services got stuck at the bottom of an access road at Huntsman Lake, Area 4 crew members Rafael Barreto and Allen Hartman were there to help. Mike Jones, an engineering technician for the Maintenance and Stormwater Management Division said, “I got down there fine but didn’t even think about coming back up without a four-wheel drive truck. Rafael and Allen went way above the call of duty to help me get my truck out.”

Jones captured the can-do spirit of Park Ops staff when he wrote, “Just a great example of going the extra mile to help out other agencies!”



Park Authority Board Action Raises Mastenbrook Grant Amount ^

Improving Fairfax County parks just got easier. Volunteers wishing to create new park improvement projects will be pleased to know that the Fairfax County Park Authority Board increased the maximum amount of a Mastenbrook grant.

The **Mastenbrook Volunteer Matching Fund Grant Program** provides matching funds for volunteer projects that improve county parks. Previously, volunteer projects could only receive a maximum amount of \$10,000. However, on March 12, 2014, the Park Authority Board increased the maximum amount of a Mastenbrook grant to \$20,000. The Park Authority Board also decided to allow more than one project per fiscal year for individuals or groups as long as the combined amounts of grant funding does not exceed the \$20,000 annual limit.



Laurel Hill Equestrian Center

In Fiscal Year 2014, six Mastenbrook matching grant projects were approved worth over \$340,000 in park improvements. These include the following initiatives:

- Fairfax4Horses contributed toward the purchase of amenities for the equestrian center at Laurel Hill Park.
- The Northern Virginia Radio Control group contributed toward the improvement of the roadway at Poplar Ford Park. The improved roadway will increase accessibility to the park.
- The Friends of Green Spring Gardens contributed toward the renovation of the gazebo and patio at Green Spring Gardens. The improvements will provide improved accessibility that will allow the gardens to accommodate larger and more diverse groups from the community.
- West Springfield Little League contributed toward the purchase and installation of a baseball scoreboard for Field #2 at Byron Avenue Park.
- Chantilly Youth Association contributed toward several park improvements including two batting cages, a fenced pitcher's warm up area, a new playground, and picnic tables with concrete pads at Sully Highlands.
- Fort Hunt Youth Athletic Association contributed toward the purchase and installation of baseball scoreboards for Field #1 and Field #2 at Hollin Hall Park. The scoreboards will make it possible for all spectators, especially those with disabilities, to observe the game at a distance.

For more information on how you can apply for a Mastenbrook Grant, visit online at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/mastenbrookgrant.htm>

Energy Management Programs Reduce Carbon Footprint and Costs ^



Outdoor athletic courts and everything in between, new technologies are being deployed by the Fairfax County Park Authority to reduce energy consumption and save money on utilities. The Park Authority Board adopted the county's energy policy in 2013, confirming the agency's commitment to promoting energy efficiency and conservation practices at park sites and among employees and residents.

Financial support for the energy management program comes from different funding sources, including the Park Authority's capital bond program, grants from the county's Environment Improvement Program (EIP), and revenue generated from telecommunications and proffers. Energy Cap, a system to manage, monitor and analyze energy data and utility bills, continues to identify areas in which the Park Authority can save money, and it is being expanded to capture water usage data.

Monitoring data and renegotiating utilities contracts is important in reducing energy costs; however, newly installed equipment and updated amenities are most visible to the public. In the last year, more efficient lighting was installed at Lee District Park's tennis and volleyball courts. Audrey Moore RECenter's natatorium received a new lighting and control system, and the RECenter's racquetball courts received a new lighting system. Tennis players at Nottoway Park may have noticed new LED lights on two courts. The improved illumination offered by the new lighting systems was dramatic, visibly brightening indoor and outdoor facilities.

However, the energy savings generated by the new lighting systems was even more impressive, as evidenced by the 67 percent savings in Audrey Moore's natatorium and 70 percent savings in its racquetball courts. Lee District's tennis courts are saving nearly 54 percent, and Nottoway Park's tennis courts are saving 70 percent! The combined energy savings total from these projects is 64 percent!

To expand energy efficiency and conservation upgrades, more projects to improve efficiency in facilities' mechanical systems are coming. Completion of more energy-saving projects will continue to reduce the Park Authority's carbon footprint and save money on utilities throughout the system.



Twin Lakes Weather Station

Smart Weather Station Saves Time and Money, Protects Course and Equipment

Weather stations are a great way to get the most out of irrigation systems and the less water a golf course purchases the greater the savings. Not to mention the environmental benefits of saving water. This station is located at Twin Lakes Golf Course. With this station park staff now has yet another tool to wisely make course watering decisions.

The station allows staff to suspend use of the irrigation system if it rains or if there is excessive wind. The Humidity and Evaporation Transpiration (ET) readings are good tools for the golf course superintendent to use to determine if watering is really needed for that day. Already, the Park Authority has enjoyed substantial savings during the hottest months of the year when they did not have to replenish water in July and August.

Energy savings are also enjoyed when irrigation pumps don't run. The less time running, the less wear and tear on irrigation pumps. We also experience few staff call-backs and rarely need to close the entire course

due to wet conditions.

Progressive water-saving and climate-sensitive automation features including weather tracking and automatic ET provide the ultimate in scientific turf management. The multi-functional weather display shows temperature, wind speed and direction, barometric pressure, rainfall and ET. The information is used by Surveyor to schedule irrigation runtimes by application amounts or percentages of ET. Adjustments can be targeted to the entire course, specific plant types, holes, areas and even individual sprinklers.

Tournaments For Turf: Unique Approach Proves Popular ^



The Fairfax County Park Authority is dedicated to providing superior recreational opportunities for an ever-changing community of over 1.1 million residents with diverse backgrounds and interests. A 2004 Needs Assessment clearly identified a deficit of 95 rectangular athletic fields in the county. In response to these findings, the Park Authority invested in the conversion of dozens of natural grass fields to synthetic turf fields. This bond-funded program has significantly increased access and field capacity, improved playing conditions for user groups, and reduced maintenance requirements and costs.

The Park Authority committed to providing and maintaining these fields, yet there is limited funding available to do so. In 2013, **Tournaments for Turf** was introduced as an innovative way to raise funds for replacing synthetic turf field surfaces. The tournaments and contests are held in collaboration with community partners and include events like flag football, soccer, mini-golf, and softball tournaments, and even a popular Lego design contest.



Getting the Job Done: Collaboration, Innovation and Partnerships



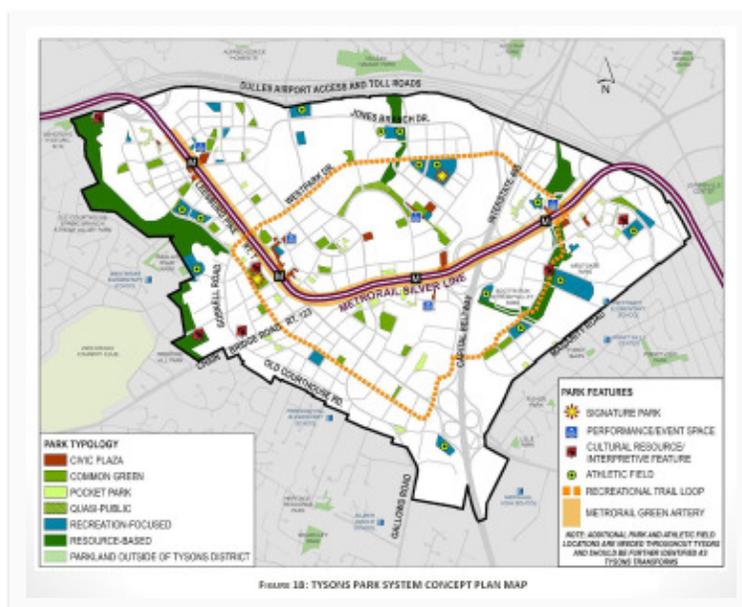
QUICK JUMP

- Tysons Park System Concept Plan
- Oak Marr RECenter Expands
- Synthetic Turf Fields Open at Lewinsville Park
- Growing Our Park System
- E.C. Lawrence Conversion Complete
- Ceremony Marks Beginning of Spring Hill RECenter Expansion
- Board Approves Master Plans
- CCT Improvements: Pohick Stream Valley to Laurel Hill Greenway
- South Run Parking Lot Improvements Ease Crunch
- New Trail Section, Crossing in Place

Tysons Park System Concept Plan [^]

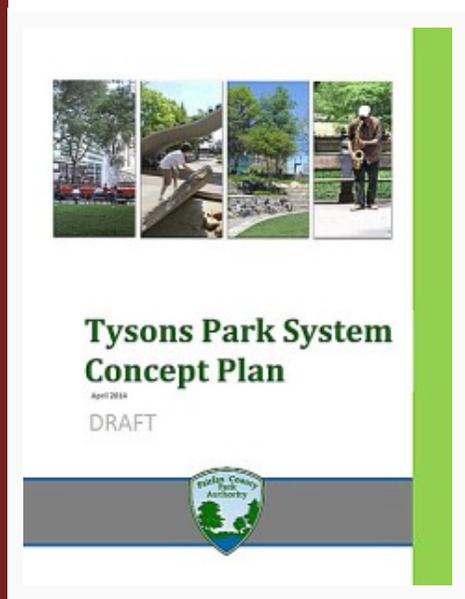
The Park Authority has been diligently working to plan for current and anticipated growth at Tysons. As Tysons transforms from a suburban commercial center to a major regional urban center, a connected network of urban parks will help to distinguish Tysons from other urban areas and bring benefits to the local economy and quality of life. To help ensure that happens, the Park Authority has embarked upon an effort to develop a comprehensive park system concept plan for Tysons that will complement and refine the existing [Tysons Urban Center Plan](#).

Most residents of Tysons will live in high-rise buildings and may have different park and recreation needs from those who live in traditional suburban neighborhoods. Without yards, these residents will have a greater need for common open space. In addition, the increased employment population will require new park spaces to serve recreation and leisure needs before and after work hours as well as during lunch and other breaks.



Tysons Park System Concept Plan

In 2014, there are about 89 acres of public parkland within Tysons, located primarily at the lower density edges of Tysons. The existing stream valleys at the western and eastern edges provide a much-needed respite from the business of urban life and serve a valuable resource protection function. With no existing park spaces in the transit-oriented core of Tysons, it is important that redevelopment projects include new public urban park spaces that will be near park users.



The **Tysons Park System Concept Plan** will guide future park development by the public, private, and non-profit sectors to serve Tysons' residents, employees, and visitors well into the future.

In 2012, an interagency staff team met to discuss the many needed elements of a park system plan for Tysons. Discussions were informed by rezoning applications under review and lessons learned from evaluating them. In 2013, an Advisory Group of citizens and park planning and design professionals met to provide feedback and guidance on the refined Conceptual Park System Map and the many issues involved in implementation of a park system plan.

During an extensive public outreach process, the Park Authority received many comments on the draft Tysons Park System Concept Plan. Outreach efforts included focused stakeholder discussions with the Tysons Partnership, Town of Vienna, McLean Citizens Association, Fairfax County Athletic Council, and individual Tysons landowners. The draft plan document was posted to the project web page on April 16, 2014, and the general public was invited to provide written comments over a 60-day period. The public input process culminated with the Annual Tysons Community Open House on May 19, a daytime Tysons Parks Open House meeting on May 29, and a Park Authority table at the Tysons Farmers Market grand opening on June 1.

The Tysons Park System Concept Plan will be used to inform Phase 3 of the Tysons Urban Center Plan Amendment. Possible changes to the Tysons Comprehensive Plan pertaining to parks and recreation will be discussed at public meetings held by the Planning Commission's Tysons Committee throughout the fall and winter of 2014.

Oak Marr RECenter Expands [^]

Oak Marr RECenter has seen significant transformations since opening in 1988, but none as sweeping as the yearlong renovation and expansion project completed in summer 2014. After a year of construction, the staff was excited to showcase the improvements. New facilities include upper and lower fitness rooms with new equipment, a hardwood fitness studio for additional programming, a spin studio with a projector and pull-down screen, a child care room to encourage family fitness and a new vibrant and welcoming lobby and sitting room.

The finished project includes:

- A new, two-story, 5,500 square-foot fitness center with state-of-the-art equipment
- A dedicated stretching area in the fitness center
- Three new multipurpose rooms for fitness classes and other activities
- An expanded fitness center entry area with cubbies



Oak Marr Dedication

- A 700-square-foot babysitting area with a restroom
- A new entrance to improve facility access and security

Synthetic Turf Fields Open at Lewinsville Park [^]



Pictured from left to right are: Jane Scott-Jones, MYS; Paul Jansen, Neighborhood and Community Services; Louise Waxler, MYS; Park Authority Board Member Mike Thompson, Springfield District; Park Authority Board Chairman Bill Bouie; David Bowden, Director of Park Planning and Development; Ed Busenlehner, Area Manager; Jack Hannon, President, West Lewinsville Heights Citizens Association; Bill Gray, MYS; Dranesville District Supervisor John Foust; Craig Carinci, Director, Stormwater Planning Division, DPWES; Peter Freire, Chair, McLean Youth Soccer; Desmond O'Rourke, West Lewinsville Heights Citizens Association; and Betsy Smith, Stormwater Planning Division, DPWES.

In October 2013, local officials, members of the community, agency representatives, Park Authority Board members, Athletic Council members, and McLean Youth Soccer representatives gathered with young soccer players to mark the official opening of two new synthetic turf fields at Lewinsville Park.

Dranesville District Supervisor John Foust noted that this project required cooperation and strong partnerships in order to become a reality. He congratulated the many project participants for their outstanding efforts and willingness to work together. The project began earlier in the summer and was funded through park bonds, the Department of Neighborhood and Community Services mini-grant program, and a partnership with McLean Youth Soccer/McLean Youth Football.

Growing Our Park System [^]

The Park Authority acquired 49 acres of land in Fiscal Year 2014 for a total of 23,310 acres. This equates to over 9.2 percent of the



land mass of Fairfax County. There were eight land acquisition activities during this period. Six parcels were acquired through property investigation and negotiation with the owners. These include a half-acre addition to Historic Centreville Park, a 25-acre addition to Lincoln Lewis Vannoy Park, and a five-acre addition to Lake Fairfax Park. Two properties were acquired through the development plan review process, transfer dedications and proffered dedications included a dedication of approximately 0.8 acres in the Little Difficult Run Stream Valley Park and the proffered, 17-acre, fully developed Sully Highlands Park.



E.C. Lawrence Conversion Complete ^

Field #3 at Elanor C. Lawrence Park was converted from an existing natural surface field to a 210 by 360 foot synthetic turf field. The project cost \$825,000 and met all general guidelines and standards established under the synthetic turf program.

Field #2 at E.C. Lawrence Park was a replacement project. The original synthetic turf was installed in 2004 with a warranted life expectancy of eight years. Due to the worn condition of the turf, maintenance of the field's shock absorbency was not meeting required current standards. New synthetic turf and infill was installed over the existing gravel base and drainage system. Project cost was \$453,000.



Ceremony Marks Beginning of Spring Hill RECenter Expansion ^



Pictured in the photo from left to right are Mark Crosnicker, Hughes Group; Richard "Rip" Sullivan, Jr., Dranesville District representative, Fairfax County Park Authority Board; Armand Weiss; Irv Auerbach, McLean Citizens Association; Lynn Rita, Hughes Group; Chairman Sharon Bulova, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors; Dranesville District Supervisor John Foust, Board of Supervisors; Acting Director Cindy Messinger, Fairfax County Park Authority; a representative from McLean Youth Athletics; Joel Stillman, president, McLean Youth Athletics; Kala Quintana, At-large member, Park Authority Board;

A ceremony was held Saturday, September 21, 2013, to mark the start of a \$10-million project to expand Spring Hill RECenter in McLean. Elected officials from the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors and Park Authority Board members joined staff members and youth sports boosters for the celebration. The new gym and fitness center are slated to open in December 2014, and renovations to the existing fitness area will be completed in February 2015.

The expansion, funded by the 2008 and 2012 park bond programs, will provide a two-story fitness center, a gymnasium with an elevated running track, new office space, and utility upgrades. Renovations to the locker room area include upgrades to the current showers and the construction of five family cabanas. A new administration desk will improve site security and customer service. The building will also get new floors, a fresh coat of paint, and new multi-purpose rooms. **Spring Hill RECenter** opened in 1988. The coming capital improvements will help meet the changing interests of county residents.

and Marcellous Cooper, Spring Hill RECenter manager.



Board Approves Master Plans ^

The Park Board approved three master plans/master plan revisions during the past fiscal year for Baron Cameron, McLean Central, and Westgrove Parks. The Great Parks, Great Communities comprehensive park plan adopted in 2011 creates a series of district based park plans. This plan provides a comprehensive planning framework for parks within each district, applying countywide service level standards, trail plans and resource management initiatives.

CCT Improvements: Pohick Stream Valley to Laurel Hill Greenway ^

Major flooding in 2011 caused the Pohick Stream Valley to Laurel Hill Greenway area to significantly degrade, extensively damaging the existing gravel trail surface and resulting in substantial erosion. Repairs to the gravel trail were completed by the Park Authority Mobile Crew, but the trail remained susceptible to future flooding.

The project work included the replacement of a culvert crossing and the installation of asphalt and concrete surfaces on the recently repaired areas.

These firmer surfaces will stabilize this portion of the trail preventing further erosion. The completed trail provides a safe and sustainable route for park patrons along with improved maintenance access on this portion of the CCT. The project costs were approximately \$153,000 and the project was completed in December 2013.



South Run Parking Lot Improvements Ease Crunch ^

It used to be that parking at South Run Park was really difficult during peak usage times. A recent capital project consisted of the design and construction of 144 new parking spaces and renovation of 122 existing spaces for a total of 265 spaces serving the athletic fields. Storm water management facilities, trails, landscaping and other supporting infrastructure were provided as part of the project.

The Department of Public Works and Environmental Services (DPWES) partnered with the Park Authority on this project and funded the design and construction of new and retrofitted LID storm water management facilities. Project costs were \$1.6 million and the project was completed in December 2013.

New Trail Section, Crossing in Place ^

South Run Stream Valley Trail and Lake Mercer Loop improvements consisted of the installation of approximately 2,340 linear feet of eight-foot wide asphalt trail, new culverts, and a 40-foot fiberglass bridge in the South Run Stream Valley Park. Project costs were \$412,000 and the project was completed in December 2013.



Getting the Job Done: Collaboration, Innovation and Partnerships



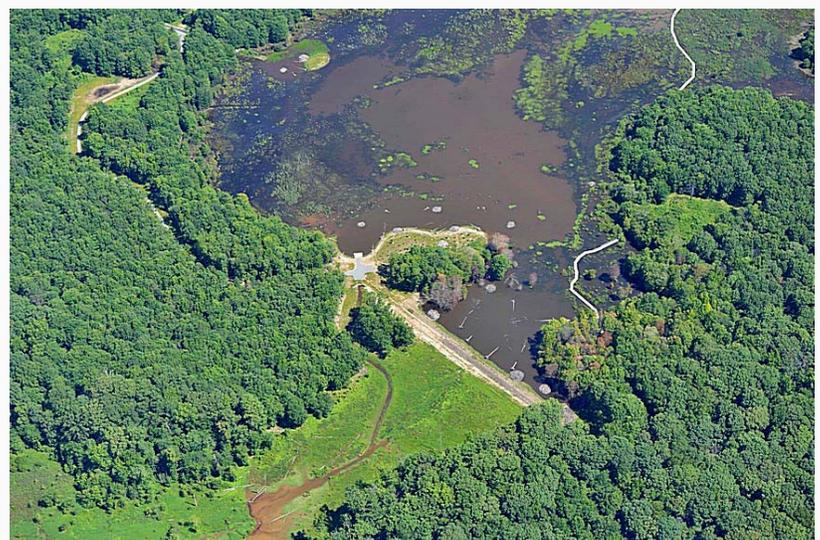
QUICK JUMP

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- [Ceremony Celebrates Restored Wetland at Huntley Meadows](#)
- [Colchester Archaeological Research Team Investigates Site](#)
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Huntley Meadows Restoration Heralds Return of Wildlife, Plants and Water



This extraordinary project included design and construction of an impoundment structure to return the central wetland back to hemi-march and expand the footprint of the wetland. Constructed features include a water containment structure, water control structure, access road and pedestrian trail, habitat pools, wetland plantings and related site work. The water controls put in place make it possible to double the wetland footprint to 46 acres creating valuable wetland habitat.



Huntley Meadows Wetlands Restoration

Ceremony Celebrates Restored Wetland at Huntley Meadows [^]

After 22 years of planning, 60 public meetings, and a cutting-edge construction project, the wetland at [Huntley Meadows Park](#) in Alexandria, Va., was restored. The Fairfax County Park Authority hosted a grand opening at the park on Saturday, May 10, 2014. County officials joined people involved with the project and members of the local community to cut the ribbon on the completed \$3 million wetland restoration project.

The changes have been remarkable. We encourage you to read about the changes by visiting: [Our Stories and Perspectives](#) blog.



To restore the wetland to its 1980s condition and provide long-term habitat for a community of locally rare plants and animals, the Fairfax County Park Authority engaged in wetland restoration. Construction started in April 2013 and was primarily completed in December 2013, with the celebration held in April 2014. The project was funded by park bonds and grants and managed by Fairfax County Park Authority staff.

The five primary aspects of the project were:

1. An earthen berm to hold back and raise water
2. A water control structure to manage seasonally fluctuating water levels
3. Expansion of the wetland into the surrounding forest
4. Five deeper habitat pools to provide year-round aquatic wildlife habitat
5. Numerous brush shelters and basking logs to provide additional wildlife habitat

Colchester Archaeological Research Team Investigates Site [^]

During FY 2014, the Colchester Archaeological Research Team (CART) was primarily engaged in the management of archaeological sites on the Old Colchester Park and Preserve (OCP). The beginning of this period found the team conducting investigations at the Enyedi Property portion of the park. Among other things, CART found stone foundations from structures depicted in the map drawn for the Comte de Rochambeau in 1781 as he passed through the town of Colchester on his way to assist George Washington at the Battle of Yorktown.



Colchester Archaeological Research Team (CART)

CART's work demonstrated that this site, along with another colonial period site, and the archaeological remains of the town of Colchester, are of national-level historic significance. Subsequent to finishing work at the Enyedi Property, CART has been working in areas of the park that witnessed extensive use by Native American hunter-gatherers and agriculturalists from approximately 3,500 years ago until approximately 500 years ago.

The CART field team also coordinated with Planning and Development to draft a master plan for the park and with Natural Resources Management and Protection Branch for the construction of man-made vernal pools.

The field only represents one part of CART's work. The lab has substantially updated processes to maximize use of modern data management and Geographic Information System (GIS) tools. The CART lab created an updated artifact database to manage all data recovered from the field. Although informed by past catalog systems, the new database features an improved interface to inventory any item created, altered, or manipulated by human hands, from 10,000-year-old Native American stone tools through plastic toys from Cracker Jacks boxes (things actually found at the OCPP). This system allows an archaeologist to query the data and discover how the park was peopled across time. Among the most important features of the database was the ability to immediately translate data into a spatial, GIS environment. This information is being used by Park Authority archaeologists to learn about the past and by planners for the responsible development of the park. In November 2013, the county GIS department awarded the CART GIS specialist an award for her 3D creation of Colonial Colchester. CART plans on using this information for the enjoyment of the public through online interpretations such as web maps.

CART/CRMPB support organizations, the Friends of Fairfax County Archaeology and Cultural Resources (FOFA) and the Archaeological Society of Virginia-Northern Virginia Chapter (NVC), have been invaluable by providing financial, outreach, and volunteer support. FOFA has sponsored open houses and provided funding for necessary CRMPB functions.

The majority of the more than 1,000 volunteer hours donated in FY 2014 to CART in the lab and field were provided by NVC members. In addition, CART hosted several university-level interns and participated in archaeology youth summer camps sponsored by Riverbend and Huntley Meadows Parks. CART members have assisted in smaller projects across the county, represented CRMPB, RMD, and the FCPA in numerous public events, and led a week-long youth archaeology experience co-sponsored by Ellanor C. Lawrence Park.

Historic Sites Renew and Seek National Accreditation [^]

Several entities within the Park Authority are in the process of seeking accreditation from the American Alliance of Museums (AAM), a national organization that develops standards and best practices for museums and historic sites. [Sully Historic Site](#) and [Colvin Run Mill](#) were the first county museums to be accredited by the AAM in 1979, and they retain their accreditation today. [Historic Green Spring](#) is also accredited by the AAM.



Colvin Run Mill

Those three sites are currently developing and producing the materials required for AAM re-accreditation, which is required every ten years. This time around, when the agency submits its application in late 2015 for accreditation in 2016, the Fairfax County Park Authority also will be seeking AAM accreditation for [Frying Pan Farm Park](#), [Museum Collections](#) and its Archaeology Artifacts and Collections.

AAM accreditation is a mark of distinction and peer-based validation of Park Authority responsibilities. It assures residents of the agency's high standards for collections, ethics, and best practices, and it helps the agency in grant writing and in the hiring of top talent within the field.

Warm Up With Lakefront Campfires [^]

Campfire programs at Hidden Pond Park have become very popular, so much so that the park began offering campfire programs offsite in 2013. Kyle Hughes Segroves, a naturalist at



[Hidden Pond Nature Center](#), proposed holding programs at Royal Lake where participants could explore the woodlands and lakefront spots where wildlife hides and resides. His idea was expanded to include [Lake Accotink](#) and other parks may be added in the future, such as [Burke Lake](#), [South Run](#), and [Laurel Hill](#). The popular programs, which are run by Hidden Pond's merit and seasonal staff, are reaching new patrons and have created another source of revenue. Families continue to gather along the shore in the evenings to eat s'mores and learn about the moon, flying squirrels, insects, and other nocturnal creatures.



Sully Antique Car Show Drives Family Fun ^



The 40th Annual Antique Car Show at [Sully Historic Site](#) was held on Father's Day. Beautiful weather brought out over 3,400 visitors to enjoy almost 400 antique and classic cars, a Car Corral, flea market, tours, food, and music by Jumpin' Jupiter and The New Old Time String Band. Exhibit vehicles included Model A Fords in many shapes, colors and sizes, military vehicles, and cars of every era of the 20th century. A children's tent featured historic games and a Model A Coloring contest. Each year the Sully staff chooses a favorite car and the winner this year was a 1919 Delivery Hack. The trophy included a ruby indicating the 40th anniversary of the show. FCPA co-hosts the Antique Car Show with the George Washington Chapter of the Model A Ford Club.

Colvin Run Mill Restoration Continues ^



When [Colvin Run Mill Historic Site](#) first opened to the public in 1972, it was the culmination of over four years of exhausting preservation, and restoration efforts. Thanks to the hard work and craftsmanship of many individuals, the mill proudly featured an operational pair of millstones capable of grinding grains. Now, some 42 years after that date, the rest of the mill is being restored.

Based on the designs of the mechanical genius Oliver Evans, the Colvin Run Mill Restoration Project will complete the work started during the Nixon administration. With functioning grain elevators, wooden line shafts, grain cleaners, and product sifters, the fully restored mill will stand as living testament to America's industrial

infancy, all the while producing wheat flour and cornmeal as it did over 200 years ago. The massive oak timbers and hand-crafted gears of the mill will once again provide a working link between the past, present, and future of Fairfax County.

Leading the team on this monumental project is Ben Hassett, America's only classically trained millwright (mill restoration specialist). Together with miller Mason Maddox and the rest of the mill's professional and volunteer staff, this expert assemblage has but one common goal – to make Colvin Run Mill the finest working example of federal period technology anywhere.



Funded in part by a Partners in Preservation grant from American Express and the National Trust for Historic Preservation, this exciting work started in January and has an anticipated completion date of November 2014.



Virginia Indian Fest Held [^]

Arrows were loosed, drums were beaten, and dancers stomped and twirled at [Riverbend Park's](#) annual Virginia Indian Festival in Great Falls. Members of eight tribes gathered on the banks of the Potomac River to share and celebrate their culture. Park visitors enjoyed hands-on activities and live demonstrations including storytelling, shooting bow and arrows, throwing spears, and making stone stools. The popular Rappahannock dancers and drummers performed traditional dances while dressed in colorful native costumes. Visitors explored a longhouse and helped build a dugout canoe. Crafts, pottery, and jewelry were available for purchase in the marketplace.



Huntley Meadows Marks 26th Annual Wetlands Awareness Day [^]

In May 2014, Huntley Meadows Park celebrated the 26th anniversary of Wetlands Awareness Day. This family-friendly event was free to attend and featured live animal presentations, nature activities, and other hands-on learning stations. Attendees learned about wetland ecology and local natural history.

Wetlands Awareness Day helps raise awareness about wetlands in general and the 1,500-acre park more specifically. Wetlands have one of the highest levels of biodiversity of any habitat and they are also one of the most imperiled – over 50 percent of the wetlands in the U.S. have disappeared since Europeans first arrived. This event was co-sponsored by the [Friends of Huntley Meadows Park](#).



Visitors listened to naturalists wading in the wetland, played games, and met some of the park's critters at various activity stations located along the boardwalk and trails. Information about raptors, native plant gardening, and the wetland restoration project was shared.

Resources Railroad On Track [^]



Fairfax County is thriving on innovation. Some of the biggest corporations in the United States are located in this county and are regularly transforming how people view technology, ideas, and the world around them. The Fairfax County Park Authority is no exception. The Park Authority's challenge is to not only provide parks and recreational facilities that meet the needs of the county's changing population but to also engage and connect individuals with the natural world. The Park Authority's newest



innovation takes visitors off the regularly charted path into trails, meadows, and other natural or culturally enriched areas. Engine #62 of the Resources Railroad is changing how visitors see and

experience our parks, historic sites, and open spaces.

With four different colored cars, 16 wheels, and 12 passenger seats, the trackless train is a bright and bold new addition to the parks stewardship efforts. Engine #62 operates in several different parks including Lake Fairfax Park, Green Spring Gardens, and Clemyjontri Park, so far. Not only is train riding a unique way to explore the parks, Engine #62 provides a variety of interpretive programs for park goers to enjoy.

The train's first appearance of the 2014 fiscal year was at the Fourth of July celebration at Lake Fairfax Park. At this event, train riders got to travel across the dam and through the woods while they learned about plant and animal life in lakes and forests. During the past holiday season, Engine #62 became a more festive train. In November 2013, visitors embarked on the Turkey Train, hearing the story of the first Thanksgiving as they traveled around Lake Fairfax Park. The train changed its colors to red and green in December 2013, as Lake Fairfax Park turned into a winter wonderland. Visitors got to ride the Santa Train, stopping at various destinations to visit Santa and to decorate shrubs to take home.

Engine #62 promotes both recreation and education. It's really a lot of fun. The train is used for special events but also for camp programs, teaching children about parks and nature. For one historical program, the train was a main attraction. During February 2014, the train participated in Black History Month education and informed train riders about two important black men – American Jazz trumpeter Louis Armstrong and inventor Granville T. Woods who earned more than 50 patents and was likened to Thomas Edison.

The world is filled with innovators. Engine #62 is just one of the Park Authority's many innovations that positively enrich the lives of its visitors.

Annual Children's Naturalization Ceremony Held at Sully [^]

Twenty-six children from 16 countries became official United States citizens during a ceremony at [Sully Historic Site](#) on Friday, July 26, 2013. The children recited the oath of citizenship and received certificates during the annual U.S. Citizen and Immigration Services (USCIS) children's naturalization event. Over 100 visitors were present to celebrate with the children as they received their certificates.

Inspirational remarks and congratulations were delivered by Sully District Supervisor Michael Frey, Fairfax County Park Authority Board Chairman Bill Bouie, and Hal Strickland, the Sully District representative to the Park Authority Board. A highlight of the ceremony was when the six-year-old daughter of one of the staff from USCIS played "America the Beautiful" on her violin.



The 16 countries of origin included Bangladesh, Bolivia, Egypt, El Salvador, Honduras, Iran, Canada, Iraq, Latvia, Mexico, Pakistan, Philippines, Romania, Sudan, Syria, Vietnam, and Yemen.

Partnership Between IMA and REI Celebrated at Nottoway Park [^]





Pictured among volunteers are (front row, left) Erin Stocksclaeder, IMA coordinator, FCPA; (front row, right) Justin Roberson, natural resource specialist, FCPA; (second row, right) Ken Quincy, Park Authority Board member, Providence District; (to Quincy's right) Vivian Morgan-Mendez, IMA site coordinator; (behind Quincy) Margaret Thaxton, director of development, Fairfax County Park Foundation; (center right, black fleece) Rhonda Krafchin, sales, REI; and (to Krafchin's left) Kyle Wakayama, outdoor programs and outreach coordinator, REI).

Employees from REI (Recreation Equipment, Inc.) stores in Fairfax and Tysons joined **Invasive Management Area (IMA)** program site leaders and Fairfax County Park Authority staff at Nottoway Park on April 2, 2014, to mark the start of the Park Authority's Take Back the Forest initiative. Kyle Wakayama, outdoor programs and outreach coordinator at REI, was presented with a t-shirt featuring the new Take Back the Forest logo designed by a Fairfax County student. Volunteers then planted native plants rescued from a stream restoration project in Annandale. IMA volunteers have been restoring parkland at Nottoway for eight years.

This celebratory workday marks the third year of a productive three-year partnership between REI and the Fairfax County Park Authority. The outdoor equipment retailer has been an ardent supporter of the agency's Take Back the Forest program, an annual surge of volunteer manpower each spring aimed at restoring parkland to its natural state.

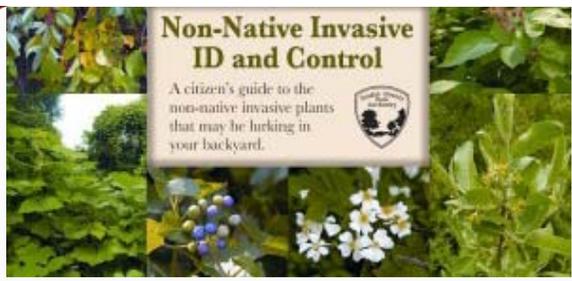
Over the past three years REI has awarded the Fairfax County Park Foundation a total of \$35,000 in grants for the IMA program. A new \$10,000 grant from REI will help fund boot brush stations (kiosks where trail users can remove hitchhiking seeds from their shoes and socks before entering or leaving a trail) and volunteer outreach and appreciation programs. Ten boot brush stations were installed in 2013, and ten more are being installed by volunteers this year.

The third annual Take Back the Forest event ran from April 1 through May 31, 2014, and included 831 volunteers who logged 2,442 volunteer hours at 78 workday events.

So Much More Than Pulling Weeds



The **Invasive Management Area (IMA)** Volunteer Program is a community-based project designed to reduce invasive plants on our parklands. This unique, volunteer-led program gives residents



an opportunity to connect with people while taking care of the natural resources around us. IMA enables community members to help protect the plants and wildlife of Fairfax County's forests while spending time outdoors, meeting new people, and restoring natural habitats.

IMA is more than just pulling weeds. Key components of this program are habitat restoration and a long-term commitment to

the park. Invasive plant species are difficult to remove and control, but with the help of IMA volunteers, undesirable non-native, invasive plants are removed manually and native plants returned to the habitat. The job of volunteers doesn't end once the invasive plants are removed; often it is necessary to plant native species. Native plantings take place in the spring and fall.

The IMA project began in 2006 with just 20 sites. Since then, over 35 acres have come under IMA management and there are 40 active IMA sites. Many more acres have been treated and restored by contractors and staff.

During Fiscal Year 2014 IMA drew 1,933 volunteers who worked 225 days. They gave 5,932 hours of volunteer service. More than 600 plants were planted.

Funding for this highly successful program comes in part from Board of Supervisors Environmental Improvement Program. That funding totaled \$100,000 in FY 2014. IMA also received a \$10,000 Market Grant from REI during calendar year 2014 which will fund activities in 2015. REI has been a steady source of support and funding. IMA is also supported through miscellaneous donations from the Park Foundation, individuals and Friends groups.

Sully Visitors Experience History First Hand ^

History is alive at [Sully Historic Site](#). Visitors to the 1794 home of Northern Virginia's first congressman experienced the site's World War II Living History Weekend, Civil War Weekend, The Civil War in Camp and at Home, Civil War School of the Soldier, War of 1812 Bicentennial Celebration and Colonial Day. Nearly 400 reenactors interpreted these important historical events for 1,800 attendees. The Civil War Weekend is the most popular living history event Sully hosts, but the World War II Weekend is a close second. Candlelight tours in December 2013 drew the biggest crowds in several years with over 400 visitors attending Civil War, Federal period, and Victorian-themed evenings.



World War II Living History Weekend

Renewed Natural Resource Management Plan Proves Useful ^





The Fairfax County Park Authority Board adopted a new [Natural Resource Management Plan](#) on January 29, 2014. This plan spells out how agency staff and partners are to protect, restore, and manage the natural treasures entrusted to our care.

The Natural Resource Management Plan provides direction to staff to incorporate natural resource management into all Park Authority functions and requires that we inventory, plan, protect, manage, educate, and build partnerships to ensure proper stewardship in support of the agency mission. The Park Authority Board approved the first agencywide Natural Resource Management Plan on January 14, 2004. That plan built the foundation necessary to fulfill the Park Authority stewardship mission and directed staff in the establishment of best practices.

The new Natural Resource Management Plan builds on the old plan and provides a new strategic vision for managing our natural capital. The plan includes 26 actions arranged under four management themes. These themes require us to know what resources we have and what condition they are in, protect them from negative impacts, restore and manage them to the best of our ability to promote their long-term health, and to engage partners and educate residents to promote stewardship.

Some NRMP staff accomplishments in Fiscal Year 2014 include:

- Continuation of the pilot Healing Our Land Heal program at E.C. Lawrence Park
- Completion of the Huntley Meadows wetland restoration project
- Implementation of non-native, invasive plant best management practices including treatment of high priority areas by contractors
- Completed the construction of the stream stabilization project in Wakefield Park
- Expanded and refine deer management methods.
- Surveyed 6,000 acres of parkland in FY 2014 in an effort to understand what natural resources are contained on those parcels
- Assessed 21 parks for deer browse impacts



- Completed two natural resource plans
- Designated Resource Protection Zones at Riverbend, Baron Cameron, Old Colchester, and Franconia parks
- Reviewed 150 external development plans
- Served on 46 park project teams
- Provided technical assistance on 36 encroachment issues as well as 30 easement actions and 50 trail projects. Reviewed six proposed land acquisitions and 11 permit requests for restricted natural area activities

Interpretive Signs Unveiled During Centreville Day Celebration [^]

Three new interpretive signs placed on the old site of the Newgate Tavern in Historic Centreville tell the story of the colonial inn. The signs were unveiled during a ceremony near the intersection of Braddock and Mount Gilead Roads on Saturday, October 19, 2013, during Centreville Day festivities. Sully District Supervisor Michael Frey and officials from the Fairfax County Park Authority and the Fairfax County History Commission spoke about the site's historical significance and the development of the signs.



Newgate Tavern, built circa 1768, formed the nucleus of the crossroads village of Newgate that would later be chartered as Centreville. Many travelers, including George Washington, stopped there on their journeys. The signs describe the tavern and the history of convict and enslaved labor associated with it. Archaeological findings of a dig conducted prior to the commercial development of the property are also examined. Funding for the signs came from a proffer agreement with the land developer.

Pictured from left to right are Sully District Supervisor Michael Frey; Fairfax County History Commissioner Deborah Robison, Sully District representative; Dr. Elizabeth Crowell, Fairfax County Park Authority, Cultural Resources Management and Protection Branch Manager; and Kerri Holland, archaeologist, John Milner Associates, Inc.

Fairfax County 4-H Fair and Carnival 2013 [^]





The 2013 Fairfax County 4-H Fair and carnival held August 1-4 had over 15,000 attendees. Visitors enjoyed the wonderfully cool August weather, animal competitions, live entertainment, educational exhibits, and 4-H department competitions including; floriculture, beekeeping, horse and pony, art, photography, science, and more. Carnival rides, a tractor pull, and a free bug truck night added even more fun. A new traffic flow pattern resolved traffic issues seen in previous years that caused traffic entering the Fair to back up onto West Ox Road. Hiring the Civil Air Patrol to work parking duty greatly reduced the staff hours and costs and Carnival revenue was up over 50% from the previous year.