



CELEBRATE JUNETEENTH AT FRYING PAN FARM PARK

On June 19, 1865, enslaved Black persons were told the Civil War had ended and they were free. The day came to be known as Juneteenth and was first celebrated in Texas to celebrate freedom after 246 years of enslavement.

On Saturday, June 18 (11 a.m. – 2 p.m.), celebrate Juneteenth at Frying Pan Farm Park with a day of African-American stories, food traditions, a storyteller, music, crafts and food trucks. The event is free and open to the public.

“We want our Juneteenth activities to focus on ‘cultural universals,’” said Frying Pan Park Manager Nicole Mitchell. “Our goal is to help participants recognize that people are bound together by similarities, regardless of group membership.”

Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/juneteenth in June for more programs and information.

HIDDEN
GEM



Brookfield Park



Nearly 20 years ago, Patrick and Julie Childers noticed few youngsters riding bikes on trails near their Lee District home. They found local kids were simply unaware of these trails, couldn't get to them or didn't have a bike to ride. Being avid cyclists and nature lovers, the Childers decided to help the kids they saw in their diverse neighborhood become healthier and more connected to local natural areas.

They formed a non-profit – TrailsforYouth.Org that with support of the Park Authority, local officials, Springfield Civic Association, Mid-Atlantic Off-Road Enthusiasts (MORE), The Outride Foundation, IMBA Dig-In Grant and community members, built a pump track at Brookfield Park, located at 7417 Floyd Avenue in Springfield.

It's a hidden gem, tucked away behind the picnic pavilion, and basketball courts. This facility, originally built in 2018 was recently expanded. This new installation surrounds an existing pump track and is suitable for bicyclists of all ages. It includes six professionally built, wood and steel features that provide new cycling challenges and opportunities. The track is designed to allow riders of a wide range of abilities to maneuver around the track, while navigating smooth bumps and banked turns.

Julie Childers, TYO Executive Director said of the expansion, “It will provide youth from our wonderfully diverse community accessible, safe and fun biking opportunities for decades to come.”

Find out more at <https://trailsforyouth.org> or via the Park Authority at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/trails/bikes

