



FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY

12055 Government Center Parkway, Suite 927
Fairfax, VA 22035-1118



MEMORANDUM

TO: All FCPA Sites

FROM: Judy Pedersen
Public Information Officer

DATE: September 5, 2012

SUBJECT: First Amendment Activities at Sites and Facilities

An election is approaching once again. As demonstrated in recent years, parks are popular sites for public gatherings and campaign activities. Since free speech is a fundamental right of all citizens, protected by the First Amendment, the following types of activities **are** allowed in the parks: solicitation, distribution of brochures and literature, posting of signs, picketing and demonstrations. We cannot restrict any of them due to content, but we do have a valid interest in the regulation of time, place and manner in which they are conducted to prevent the interruption of activities or events, to preserve safety and prevent damage to public property.

In 1999, specific areas in our parks were designated as first amendment activity areas. That list is reviewed periodically. These apply to the placement of signs. Citizens handing out brochures, interacting with the public and expressing their first amendment rights in person may do so in any outdoor park area.

Please be aware that the County's Zoning Ordinance [12-103 3.L. (5)] reads, "No sign shall be erected for more than seventy-five (75) days prior to the nomination, election or referendum which they purport to advertise." The Zoning Ordinance allows political signs up to 32 square feet. Most signs are much, much smaller and a sign that large would require special placement so as not to pose a hazard or impede our programs. Finally, it is very important to ensure that signs are placed so they do not obstruct the vision of drivers.

There will certainly be times when situations arise that are not clearly defined by this memorandum. Let's handle these with tact. I am attaching a listing of the first amendment areas for sign placement. If we need to update those sign placement areas please let me know. Please do not hesitate to contact me for clarity or questions at 703-324-8662.

cc: John Dargle Jr., Director
Cindy Messinger, CFO/Deputy Director
Sara Baldwin, COO/Deputy Director
Division Directors

703-324-8700 • TTY: 703-803-3354 • ONLINE: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks • E-MAIL: parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov

If accommodations and/or alternative formats are needed, please call (703) 324-8563, at least 10 working days in advance of the registration deadline or event. TTY (703) 803-3354

Braddock Park

Within 20 feet of the park identification sign.

Burke Lake Park and Golf Course

The area along the service road connecting the park entrance and golf course's parking lot.

Clark House

Within 20 feet of the park identification sign.

Clemyjontri Park

Within 20 feet of the park identification sign.

Cub Run RECenter

Within 20 feet of the park identification sign.

Dranesville Tavern

Within 20 feet of the park identification sign.

E.C. Lawrence Park

1. Route 28 ballfield entrance area.
2. Walney Road grassy area south of Walney Pond parking.
3. Walney Visitor Center grassy area north of main entrance sign.

Frying Pan Park

At the entrance, the island between the entrance and the exit roads.

George Washington RECenter

The picnic area on the left as one enters the park site.

Great Falls Grange

Within 20 feet of the park identification sign.

Greenbriar Park

Within 20 feet of the park identification sign.

Green Spring Gardens

The area on the right as one enters the park, outside the fence that surrounds the traffic circle at the entrance to the site.

Greendale Golf course

A grassy area to the right of the entrance inside the gate.

Hidden Oaks Nature Center

The grassy area in front of the Packard Center.

Hidden Pond Nature Center

Area to the left of the trail to the nature center from the parking area on Greeley Boulevard.

Huntley Mansion

Within 20 feet of the park identification sign.

Huntley Meadows Park

Front entrance of the Park off Lockheed Boulevard.

Jefferson Golf Course

The mulched area in front of the miniature golf course.

Lake Accotink Park

The area on both sides of the entrance off Heming Avenue.

Lake Fairfax Park

The area to the right off the main entrance road, adjacent to the Water Mine's parking lot; and the area up near the field that is used for special events.

Lee District Park and RECenter

The left side of the main entrance road near the ball field gate across from the RECenter.

Mason District Park

Within 20 feet of the park identification sign.

Mount Air Historic Site

Within 20 feet of the park identification sign.

Mount Vernon RECenter

The space across the driveway from the mailbox, about three or four feet away from the Bell View Boulevard entrance.

Nottoway Park

Within 20 feet of the park identification sign.

Oak Marr RECenter and Golf Course

The grassy area to the right of the entrance road before it reaches the RECenter; and the area along the walkway to the golf clubhouse.

Pinecrest Golf course

The grassy area in front of the clubhouse, to the left of the walkway.

Poplar Tree Park

Within 20 feet of the park identification sign.

Providence RECenter

The grassy areas to the right of the entrance road as one enters the site.

Riverbend Park and Nature Center

At the nature center, the grassy area to the right of Jeffery Road in the area adjacent to the parking lot by the nature center. At the park, a triangular area adjacent to the traffic circle in front of the visitor center for signs.

Rolling Valley West Park

Within 20 feet of the park identification sign.

South Run RECenter

The area to the right of the RECenter, next to the access road that leads to the field house.

Spring Hill RECenter

The area between Lewinsville Road and the parking lot, across from Spring Hill Elementary School.

Stoneybrooke Park

Within 20 feet of the park identification sign.

Stratton Woods Park

Within 20 feet of the park identification sign.

Sully Historic Site

The area along the road prior to the entrance gates.

Twin Lakes Golf Course

The area within 20 feet of the flagpole in the island near the clubhouse.

Wakefield Chapel

Within 20 feet of the park identification sign.

Wakefield Park, Skatepark and Audrey Moore RECenter

For signs, the area along Braddock Road to the west of the park sign.

All Non-staffed parks

The area within 20 feet of the park identification sign.