



# FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY



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*For Immediate Release*

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## Ribbon Cutting and Groundbreaking Set For Turner Farm

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors and the Park Authority Board in cooperation with the Analemma Society and The Friends of Turner Farm will hold two public events at The Turner Farm on Saturday, June 21, 2014. Activities will begin with a 10 a.m. groundbreaking ceremony at Observatory Park where a roll-top observatory will soon provide a facility with four permanently mounted telescopes. Following this event, a ribbon cutting will be held at 11 a.m. to mark the official opening of the new picnic pavilion/shelter in the park.

Both projects reflect well on the deep ties into the community that are helping to shape the 52-acre park located on the site of a former dairy farm. The land was saved from development by a public/private partnership started in 1996 to "Save the Farm." Private donations and volunteer efforts continue to supplement the Park Authority's limited budget for this facility.

The Analemma Society, a non-profit organization, has a partnership agreement with the Park Authority to develop recreational and educational astronomy programs at Turner Farm. They regularly work with local students and invite the public to Friday night astronomy events.

The pavilion serves as a connection between astronomy features at the Nike site and equestrian features. It is envisioned as a great place for picnics as well as a place to gather for events or even stewardship education. Members of Save the Farm, the Turner Farm Team and Celebrate Great Falls kept this project moving forward to completion.

Turner Farm features horseback riding and jumping facilities, a celestial telescope, sundial garden and educational facilities plus a tot lot, picnic area, trails and nature observation.

The Turner Farm is located at the intersection of Georgetown Pike (Route 193) and Springvale Road (Route 674) in Great Falls, Va. The park entrance is on Springvale Road. For more information about the park visit online at: [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/turnerfarm/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/turnerfarm/). For more information regarding these events contact the Public Information Office at 703-324-8662.

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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.