



# FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY



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*For Immediate Release*

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## Celebrate Public Lands Day By Volunteering In A Park

The Fairfax County Park Authority will celebrate National Public Lands Day and mark the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Wilderness Act on Saturday, September 27, 2014. This celebration, with events taking place nationwide, provides a hands-on opportunity for meaningful volunteer service. Members of the public are invited to participate in an invasive plant management program at Nottoway Park located at 9537 Courthouse Road in Vienna, Va., beginning at 10 a.m. During this work session a brief ceremony will be held and photos taken. The work concludes at 1 p.m.

National Public Lands Day gives residents a chance to visit their favorite parks, beaches, wildlife preserves, or forests and chip in to improve these treasured places – and to celebrate National Public Lands Day, the largest, single-day volunteer event for public lands in our country.

National Public Lands Day (NPLD) is a celebration of the work, play and learning that takes place on public land every day. Last year, more than 175,000 Americans participated at more than 2,200 sites in all 50 states, Guam, Puerto Rico and Washington, D.C. This year’s event focuses on the anniversary of the Wilderness Act, signed by President Lyndon Johnson. This legislation provided the catalyst to save open space across the nation. All told, officially designated wilderness covers five percent of the U.S., an area larger than California.

Residents of Fairfax County are invited to Take Back the Forest at Nottoway Park. This lovely and historic park used to be filled with invasive plants, however after eight years of hard work it is on the path to recovery. More work is needed. Volunteers should wear appropriate clothes – long sleeves, long pants, boots or sturdy shoes and heavy gloves. Light cotton gloves will be provided. Bring a hat, bottled water and kneeling pads.

In the event of lightning or heavy rain, the program will be cancelled. It will proceed in light rain. To get to the site take the main park entrance road and turn at the first right to enter the parking lot by Field 4. From the IMA information kiosk, follow the paved path between the field and the woods and take the first right where you enter the gravel Fitness Trail. Walk past the picnic table/fitness station; continue right at the fork in the path and meet at the red storage box.

To register, visit online at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/resources/IMA/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/resources/IMA/) or call 703-324-8681. Or send an email to [Erin.Stockschlaeder@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Erin.Stockschlaeder@fairfaxcounty.gov). For more information, call 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.