



FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY



12055 Government Center Parkway, Suite 927 • Fairfax, VA 22035-5500
703-324-8700 • Fax: 703-324-3974 • www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks

For Immediate Release

Judy Pedersen, PIO

September 10, 2014

E-mail: parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov

PR-068

Press Inquiries: 703-324-8662

Parks Count! - FCPA Needs Assessment Update Gets Underway

Parks Count, the Park and Recreation Needs Assessment currently being conducted to determine current and future county needs for recreational facilities and programs, is underway.

Periodically the Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA) examines whether park offerings match the community's diverse interests, lifestyles, and changing trends. This ensures that the Park Authority is investing wisely in its award-winning park system and providing quality parks and services countywide.

The first opportunity to learn more about the study and for in-person public input will take place on Thursday, October 2, 2014 at 7 p.m. This meeting will be held at Oakton Elementary School located at 3000 Chain Bridge Road in Oakton. The meeting will feature an open house format, allowing the opportunity to learn more about the process and to begin to share how parks count in your life.

Fairfax County benefits from a diverse community of more than one million residents representing varied ages, incomes, languages, nationalities and levels of activity and mobility. Recreational interests reflect that diversity. Park activities range from a walk in the woods, skating, swimming, playing sports, visiting historic sites or gardens, taking classes or socializing with fellow pet owners. Most residents have multiple recreation and leisure pursuits that rely on park system facilities and programs. Parks count in people's lives.

FCPA provides parks, recreational, natural and cultural resource stewardship, facilities and programs at an affordable cost. These needs shift over time and often grow more quickly than available resources. These changing needs must be counted and prioritized in order to make wise investments and decisions concerning parks. The Needs Assessment Study is a process of considering park and recreation needs, trends and preferences. It relies on research, information gathering, surveys and analysis. The results of this study help the Park Authority better understand what customers need from the system and the best approach to balancing those emerging priorities. Now underway, the Needs Assessment will continue through late 2015.

Over the next several weeks, more opportunities to participate individually, online and in small group meetings will emerge. Public input is a vital component in the process and we want to hear from you. Find out about the many ways you can participate in the process by attending this meeting or going online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parkscount/.

For more information, contact Needs Assessment Project Manager Anna Bentley at 703-324-8726 or send a note to 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.