



FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY



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For Immediate Release

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Parks Needs Assessment Underway; Public Comment Sought

The Needs Assessment is here. Help us promote our Parks Count campaign and be certain that we hear from you and others in the community who use Fairfax County 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 the study help the Park Authority better understand what customers desire from our recreational system. It allows us to balance and prioritize those needs across the county.

Over the next year and half, we will be soliciting your help, keeping you informed of progress, and inviting you to the occasional public meeting. Both online and in-person means of input will be used.

Two new online features are launching this week and are available on the Parks Count website (www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parkscount/). The first is the Parks Count crowdsourcing page, an online forum for exchanging ideas. You can read comments from others and add your own once you've set up a user account. This forum will allow you to e-converse with us and your fellow park users, sharing ideas of how you use parks, and what you envision for parks in the future.

The second new feature is the Parks Count Meeting in a Box (MIB). This tool will allow you to host a small group meeting of friends, colleagues, or neighbors to discuss the same matters that we'll be discussing online and in our in-person public meetings. Examples of groups that might use this include residential groups, civic associations, faith-based organizations, and recreational or sports clubs. If you can't come to us, this meeting packet allows us to virtually come to you and have your group's input considered in the same manner as if you were all participating in an open forum.

If you prefer in-person public input, please mark your calendars for Thursday, October 2, 2014, at 7 p.m. when we host an open house at Oakton Elementary School located at 3000 Chain Bridge Road in Oakton, Va. Join us for an opportunity to learn more about the Needs Assessment, and to begin sharing how parks count in your life.

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

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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.