



FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY



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For Immediate Release

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New Boats Expand Adapted Programs at Parks

Riverbend Park in Great Falls, Va., will have new boats this year that will jumpstart the park's adapted recreation programs thanks to a \$5,000 grant made through the Fairfax County Park Foundation (FCPF) from the Take Me Fishing program of the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA).

Riverbend used the grant to purchase new boats and reach an audience that has been traditionally underserved in outdoor recreation -- patrons with physical or mental disabilities. The new sit-on-top kayaks are more accessible for people with physical disabilities, provide more stability and are perfect teaching tools for people who have never been out on the water. They allow an instructor to sit in the back while a student paddles and becomes familiar with being on a boat close to the water.

The new boats will be available for the public to rent and for traditional programming. The park also is purchasing several new tandem kayaks and new fishing equipment, including push-button rod/reel combos that are easily handled by inexperienced fishermen.

Riverbend's adapted kayaking program kicks off on June 28, 2014. For more information about the program and the new boats, call Riverbend at 703-759-9018.

The Fairfax County Park Authority is one of 19 agencies benefitting from the 2013 grants made possible through funding from the Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation (RBFF).

"NRPA has been an important part of our youth participation efforts for years, and we're pleased to continue working with them this year to offer boating and fishing programs at parks and recreation facilities across the nation," said RBFF President and CEO Frank Peterson. "Early introduction is key to continued participation in boating and fishing. It also teaches kids to respect and protect their aquatic natural resources."

NRPA is a national not-for-profit organization dedicated to advancing park, recreation and conservation efforts that enhance quality of life for all people. RBFF is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to increase participation in recreational angling and boating, thereby protecting and restoring the nation's aquatic natural resources. RBFF's Take Me Fishing campaign helps boaters and anglers of all ages and experience learn, plan, and equip for a day on the water.

FCPF supports the Park Authority by raising private funds, obtaining grants, and creating partnerships to meet our community's needs for park land, facilities, and services.

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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.