



FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY



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For Immediate Release

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PSA-036

Riverbend Park to Host Bluebells at the Bend Festival

Join us on April 12, 2014 as we celebrate an annual rite of spring at Riverbend Park, the return of Virginia bluebells. The second annual Bluebells at the Bend Festival from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. features live music, wildflower walks, live animals, face painting, wagon rides, and other family-friendly activities. Admission is \$5 per person.

Hear singer-songwriter Andrew McKnight perform his award-winning folk and Americana music. Take a tour of Riverbend's authentic longhouse, a traditional eastern Native American dwelling. See demonstrations on how Native Americans used spring plants. Park naturalist Jim Dewing will lead live hawk and owl demonstrations. Kids will enjoy a moon bounce and puppet shows, and everyone will enjoy walking among the bluebells and wagon rides. The sight of the forest floor covered in purplish-blue blossoms is one you won't forget!

Virginia bluebells (*Mertensia Virginia*) is a species of wildflower named after German botanist Franz Karl Mertens (1764-1831). The species name refers to Virginia, where the plant was first identified. Bluebells thrive in rich floodplain soils that are replenished each year by floods, such as the banks of the Potomac River at Riverbend Park. For more information, call Riverbend Park at 703-759-9018.

Riverbend Park is located at 8700 Potomac Hills Street in Great Falls, Va. Learn more about the park at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/riverbend-park/.

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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.