



# 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](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks)

*For Immediate Release*

Judy Pedersen, PIO

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E-mail: [parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov)

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Press Inquiries: 703-324-8662

## Green Spring Gardens Hosts Living Garden Spaces Symposium

For gardeners who dream of a thriving space that is wildlife-friendly, sustainable, and beautiful, there is only one place to be on Saturday, September 27, 2014 – Green Spring Gardens in Alexandria, Va. The public garden will play host to “Living Garden Spaces,” a gardening symposium co-sponsored by the Virginia Native Plant Society and Washington Gardener magazine from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. The cost is \$75 for Fairfax County residents and \$90 for out-of-county visitors.

Attendees will discover how to create a richly layered home garden inspired by nature, and how to use native plants to support native ecosystems, beneficial insects, birds, and other wildlife in their garden. Educational sessions led by gardening experts include Regional Natives: The Essential Element for Wildlife Diversity; Designing with Native Plants: Nature as Inspiration; Managing Deer and Other Wildlife Visitors to Your Garden; and The Living Landscape and the Richness of Layers.

Guest speakers include Laura Beaty and Alan Ford of the Potowmack Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society; Betsy Washington, adjunct professor in George Washington University’s Landscape and Sustainable Landscape Design Program; Kathy Jentz, editor and publisher of Washington Gardener magazine; and Rick Darke, an award-winning author, photographer, and lecturer.

The symposium also includes a book-signing by Darke of his most recent book, *The Living Landscape: Designing for Beauty and Biodiversity in the Home Garden*,” co-authored with Doug Tallamy.

Green Spring Gardens is located at 4603 Green Spring Road in Alexandria, Virginia. Registration is available online at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring/gsg-symposium.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring/gsg-symposium.htm) or by calling 703-642-5173.

Green Spring Gardens is a Fairfax County park dedicated to the preservation and interpretation of the area’s horticultural, historical, and natural resources. From the horticulture center with its glasshouse to the renovated eighteenth century historic house and ongoing development of demonstration gardens, Green Spring Gardens offers visitors opportunities to explore the horticulture and history of Northern Virginia.

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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.