



FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY



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Team of Doers Honored by Park Authority Board

Two men credited with doing great things for western Fairfax County will be the first recipients of the newly established Harold L. Strickland Partnership and Collaboration Award. At its meeting on July 22, 2015 the Fairfax County Park Authority Board announced the award will be shared by Sully District Supervisor Michael Frey and Park Authority Board Member Hal Strickland.

Established in June, the award recognizes the value and importance of the teamwork and cooperation necessary to provide varied constituencies with state-of-the-art facilities in Fairfax County parks, often at limited or reduced capital expense to the taxpayer. The Board asked that Strickland nominees demonstrate significant long-term accomplishments that illustrate tangible benefits from partnerships and collaborations.

In the 1990s, Frey and Strickland were quick to recognize the need for expanded recreational facilities and parkland as western Fairfax County boomed. Supervisor Frey worked diligently to increase the park bond by \$15 million in order to make the Cub Run RECenter – the first new center in 17 years – a reality. He also worked tirelessly to secure proffers for synthetic turf fields at Westfield High School bringing developers, public schools, boosters clubs, the Park Authority and youth sports to the table. He brought a dog park to reality as well as agreements that permit model aircraft to fly above parkland in limited areas.

When sewer line construction threatened the Cub Run Stream Valley Park, Frey persuaded all the participants to find common ground. Ultimately the line went in, but so did major improvements to the local trail systems and wildlife habitats. A history buff, Frey also managed to protect cultural values and resources at Sully Historic Site, Mt. Gilead and other archeological sites.

Throughout the years, Strickland worked with Frey, always making certain that parks were at the forefront of the County Board’s agenda. Strickland was an active partner, using his relationships with youth sports organizers and his consensus-building skills to bring projects to fruition. Through this pair’s efforts, the 2,300 acre Sully Woodlands area will provide open space and limited recreational amenities, with nearly 80 percent of the land to remain in its natural state. Proffers and community support brought Sully Highlands sports complex to reality.

A love of history protected cultural resources at Historic Sully, in Centreville, and E.C. Lawrence. And in the near term, an environmental education center is in the works as is a western trail system. The pair will be honored this November at the Elly Doyle Awards ceremony.

For more information, contact the Public Information Office at 703-324-8662.

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