



# FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY



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## *Information Release*

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## Three Fairfax County Park Fields Getting New Names

Three athletic fields in Fairfax County will receive new names in morning ceremonies on Saturday, November 7, 2015, as the Fairfax County Park Authority Board honors three icons of the local youth sports movement. The public is invited to attend these brief recognition events.

Soccer Field #4 at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park will be named in honor of Jeff Stein at a ceremony beginning at 11 a.m. For years, Stein has been an advocate and volunteer on behalf of those who love sports in Fairfax County. He has served on the Fairfax County Athletic Council since 2001 and also served as president of Fairfax County Soccer Council from 1998 until 2003. In addition, Stein has been active with the Southwestern Youth Association (SYA), serving as Soccer Commissioner from 1994 until 2014, when he became SYA Vice President -- a post he still holds. He created the Fairfax Over 50 Soccer League, coached youth soccer for more than 20 years, and served as a soccer referee for more than a decade.

Also at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park, Field #6 will be named in honor of Gary Flather who has served the youth of Fairfax County as president of SYA for more than 20 years. This ceremony will take place immediately following the Jeff Stein ceremony. Flather fostered his love of volunteer service while still in college, became a Patriot Club member at George Mason University (GMU) in 1984 and served on the GMU Athletic Advisory Council in 1986. He began volunteering with SYA as a baseball coach in 1989, became Commissioner of SYA Little League Baseball, and then served as president from 1995 until 2000. He was instrumental in the merging of SYA Little League and the Church League T-ball program, created and became Commissioner of SYA Travel Baseball in 2000, and remains active as a Little League Baseball coach. Among his many other activities, Flather was instrumental in development of Ellanor C. Lawrence Park synthetic turf fields.

Rectangular Field #1 at Sully Highlands Park will be named in honor of community leader and youth sports advocate Ralph Wills in a ceremony at noon. Wills has been active with the Chantilly Youth Association (CYA) since 1984. He has served as president of CYA from 1999 to the present, representing the interests of 13,000 players. Over the years, Wills has coached youth and adult soccer and softball teams, as well as playing soccer, softball, baseball and volleyball. He worked with 56 teams during his service as Boys under 16 Commissioner for the Suburban Friendship League, has served as Senior Soccer Coordinator for CYA and as Soccer Coordinator.

The entrance to the athletic fields at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park is on the western side of Route 28 (Sully Road), at the first lighted intersection north of the intersection of Route 28 and Walney Road. Sully Highlands Park is located at 13808 Wall Road, Herndon, VA. Please follow the signs to the events.

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



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.

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