



FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY



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For Immediate Release

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USDA Grant Provides Access to Fruits, Vegetables at Farmers Markets

Local Farmers Markets are well-known for their tempting, fresh produce. Now through a federal matching grant program more residents in Fairfax County will be able to purchase those fruits and vegetables. Earlier this week, the Fairfax County Park Authority’s Green Spring Gardens was notified that \$4,170 was received from the USDA Food Insecurity Nutrition Program (FINI). This funding will be used to support increased access to fruits and vegetables for the food insecure of Fairfax County, while also benefitting small and mid-sized farmers in the region. The national program, announced by USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack provided \$31.5 million across the country. Green Spring Gardens, as a sub-grantee received funds from the national non-profit organization Wholesome Wave.

“With this grant award we will be able to offer matching funds to Fairfax County SNAP recipients to purchase fresh fruits and vegetable in two of our eleven Farmers Markets,” says Mary Olien, manager of Green Spring Gardens which operates the local markets.

For over 25 years, the Fairfax County Farmers Markets have provided residents access to locally grown and produced fruits, herbs, vegetables, baked goods, jams, jellies, honey, condiments, fruit ciders, dairy products, eggs, meat, freshly cut flowers, dried plants and containerized plants, shrubs, and trees through its eleven markets located around the county.

“This funding will enable us to continue our three-year-old program to offer SNAP transactions and matching dollars to SNAP recipients in our Farmers Markets,” says Chelsea Roseberry, Farmers Market coordinator of Fairfax County Farmers Markets. This incentive program will be implemented at the Herndon Farmers Market on Thursday mornings and Reston Farmers Market on Saturday mornings.

Wholesome Wave is a 501(c)(3) non-profit that strives to create a vibrant, just and sustainable food system. To learn more about Wholesome Wave visit www.wholesomewave.org or call 203-226-1112. For more information about Farmers Markets in Fairfax County visit online at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/wp-farm-mkt.htm>

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