



# FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY



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*For Immediate Release*

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## Park Board Reaches Compromise With Local Photographers

The Fairfax County Park Authority Board voted to suspend existing fees for photography permits until July 1, 2015 when new rules and a more affordable fee schedule go into effect. Permits are still required. The compromise, agreed to last week is the outcome of several months of work by members of the professional photography community and Park Authority staff which addresses concerns about the costs and permitting process raised by commercial photographers who regularly conduct business in parks. The permits and fees, established in 2011, help the Park Authority manage large wedding parties and family portrait shoots that often occur without adequate notice and may interrupt or interfere with programming or events at park sites.

As of July 1 all photographers conducting business in parks must purchase the basic Commercial Photography Permit. This \$25 permit will be available online and is valid for one year from the date of purchase. For small group photo sessions (total of 11 people or less, including photography staff) no additional fee or site Photo Session Reservations are required.

For groups of 12 to 19 people (including photography staff), a Photo Session Reservation (with additional fees) is required only at the following sites: Ellanor C. Lawrence Park, Sully Historic Site, Green Spring Gardens and Colvin Run Mill. The fees are \$25 per hour with a two-hour minimum. The two-hour minimum ensures photographers have sufficient time to prepare, conduct and clean up after the session. Photo Session Reservations and fees are processed by the individual sites, on a space-available basis.

For large groups of 20 to 74 the fees are \$100 for each two-hour photo session and an additional \$50 per hour thereafter. A Photo Session Reservation is required only at the following sites: Ellanor C. Lawrence Park, Sully Historic Site, Green Spring Gardens and Colvin Run Mill. These sites are utilized most often by photographers and have the greatest potential for conflict with programming or events. If an FCPA venue is rented for an event, then photography fees are waived.

A photography ambassadors program will be initiated as well.

The commercial photography fees are an example of the Business Activity License fee practice, which the Park Authority Board established to charge for commercial activities in parks. This practice is premised on the notion that public parkland exists for the benefit of the residents of Fairfax County, not to enable commercial business to profit. Fees are developed which support this precept as well as to manage activity at FCPA parks.



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.

For more information please contact the Public Information Office at 703-324-8662 or go online at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/press/photography-permit.htm>

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