



# FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY



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*For Immediate Release*

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## Watch as Maple Syrup is Made at Colvin Run Mill Historic Site

Maple trees at Colvin Run Mill Historic Site have been tapped and buckets are filling with sticky maple sap. Now it's sugaring time! Residents are invited to bundle up, brave the weather, and watch as maple tree sap is boiled down into sweet syrup over an open fire at the mill. Staff members and volunteers will demonstrate how maple syrup is made, and then attendees will sample previous batches served on freshly baked cornbread made from cornmeal milled onsite (while supplies last). This program will be held from noon to 2 p.m. on Sundays, February 8 and 22, and March 1.

The \$5 fee includes admission to a pre-season open house at the mill. Come enjoy the flavor of 19<sup>th</sup> century life in Fairfax County. The mill is not heated, so dress appropriately.

January has traditionally been the month for tapping maple trees in Virginia. Syrup-makers begin by boring a hole into the tree with a drill bit. They then drive a spout into the hole and hang a bucket to collect the dripping sap which is emptied daily. To protect the tree, no more than two taps per tree are drilled. Colvin Run Mill is surrounded by 50- to 100-year-old maple trees, which can produce up to 20 gallons of sap per tap. It takes approximately 40 gallons of sap to create a single gallon of syrup.

Colvin Run Mill Historic Site is a beautiful wooded park with a restored and working mill. The mill was built c. 1811 and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is accredited by the American Alliance of Museums. Take a tour to see the massive waterwheel and gears, feel the furrowed stones that grind grain and smell the burn of mill stones set too close together. You'll hear stories about the man whose ideas revolutionized the milling industry and the family that ran Colvin Run for over 50 years. Tours can be customized for groups. The site's in-depth historical and engineering information will pique the interest of history buffs and engineering fans. The site includes a general store in a 19<sup>th</sup> century building, the miller's house, a barn, and a blacksmith shop.

Colvin Run Mill Historic Site is located at 10017 Colvin Run Road in Great Falls, Va. For information, call 703-759-2771 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/colvinrunmill](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/colvinrunmill).

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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.