



# FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY



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## *Information Release*

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## Take a Hike and Celebrate National Trails Day in a Park

The Fairfax County Park Authority is joining in the celebration of National Trails Day on Saturday, June 4, 2016, with brief remarks by local officials and a short hike in Lake Accotink Park on recently completed improvements to the Gerry Connolly Cross County Trail. The activities begin at 11 a.m. Participants should meet at the Ellet Road entrance to the park. Parking is available on Ellet and Inverchapel Drive and the hike will be from the Ellet Road entrance to the Danbury Forest bridge and then back.

The Fairfax County Park Authority continues to expand and improve its vast trail system, one of the most popular amenities in the county's park system. A recent Needs Assessment survey found that residents consider trails to be the most important recreational facility provided by the Park Authority.

This project included paving 5,840 linear feet of gravel trail, replacement of ten existing corrugated metal pipe culverts, removal of an existing wooden bridge and the replacement of that bridge with a durable fiberglass model, as well as invasive plant management for areas that were disturbed during the construction.

Funding from the 2012 Park Bond was approved by the Park Board for this project on October 23, 2013. Project costs were \$358,000. This heavily used section of the GCCCT had a gravel surface which required continuous maintenance because the area frequently flooded. The project funding included more than \$20,000 for invasive plant management. This trail is now greatly improved with increased resistance to erosion and the ponding of water as well as access for maintenance vehicles. Where previously it became soggy and inundated in some areas during rain events, it is usable in most weather conditions now.

The American Hiking Society's National Trails Day is celebrated on the first Saturday in June each year. It's the country's largest celebration of trails with events such as hikes, biking and horseback rides, paddling trips, bird watching, geocaching, gear demonstrations, and stewardship projects taking place in all 50 states to promote use of the country's 200,000 miles of trails.

Fairfax County offers more than 900 miles of trails, bikeways and sidewalks for non-motorized transportation that have been mapped using a Geographic Information Systems database. Fairfax Trail Buddy is a web-based mapping tool that provides information about this extensive network of trails. Access the trail map and search for trails by location at: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/trails/>.

The American Hiking Society promotes trail use as a way to gain access to the natural world for recreation, education, exploration, solitude, inspiration and more. It encourages the use of trails



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.

to support good physical and mental health, get hearts pumping, and provide an escape from stress.

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

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