



FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY



NEWS RELEASE

Public Information Office
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March 3, 2025

Earth Day Festival Returns to Sully Historic Site on April 26

Spring is around the corner and Earth Day Fairfax is almost underway! Mark your calendar for Fairfax County's largest, family-friendly Earth Day extravaganza at the Sully Historic Site on Saturday, April 26. Celebrate our world with a day filled with games, entertainment, food and hands-on crafts, exhibits and activities. Activities will take place from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is free. Parking is \$10 per vehicle.

There's more than enough fun to go around with an appearance by WUSA-9 meteorologist Topper Shutt and live performances by the D.C. area's own Recycling Pirates, 2nd Sole and Proverbs Reggae Band. Meet our farmland friends from Frying Pan Farm Park and learn about local plants and wildlife. Enjoy fun experiments that will enhance your understanding of the water cycle and other natural processes going on around us. Channel your outdoor adventure side with a giant rock wall, Nerf archery, ax throwing and camping tips. Participate in a wide variety of fitness demonstrations, such as yoga, Zumba, Body Combat and an outdoor synthetic ice skating rink.

Don't miss the vendor marketplace, touch-a-truck exhibit, food trucks and a craft beer garden featuring Ono Brewing Company.

With so much to do, learn and experience, it's an event you're not going to want to miss. Stay up to date with the latest event details at Earth Day festival website at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/earth-day-festival.

Sully Historic Site is located at 3650 Historic Sully Way, in Chantilly, Virginia. For more information, please contact the Public Information Office at Parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov.

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The 2025 Earth Day Festival is made possible in partnership with the Fairfax County Park Foundation. The Fairfax County Park Foundation, a 501(c)(3), supports the Fairfax County Park Authority by raising private funds, obtaining grants, and creating partnerships. For more information about the Park Foundation, visit its website at <http://FairfaxParkFoundation.org> or call 703-324-8582.





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NEWS RELEASE

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March 6, 2025

Park Authority Seeks Community Input on Olander and Margaret Banks Neighborhood Park Renovation

The Fairfax County Park Authority invites the community to a public meeting to discuss the Olander and Margaret Banks Neighborhood Park. The meeting will take place on Thursday, March 20, from 1-2 p.m. at Richard Byrd Library (7250 Commerce St., Springfield) in Meeting Rooms 1 and 2.

Located at 7400 Old Telegraph Road in Alexandria, Banks Park is a 10-acre green space in the Franconia District, adjacent to the Kingstowne community.

During the meeting, FCPA will present an overview of the park's current conditions and discuss key considerations for future improvements. Attendees will have the opportunity to ask questions and share feedback directly with the project team.

In addition to the meeting, beginning March 20, community members can submit comments online via PublicInput until April 20, 2025. After the public input period closes, FCPA will review all feedback and develop a concept plan for public review.

For more information, please contact the Park Authority Public Information Office at Parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov.

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Help Shape the Future of Fairfax County Parks: Join the Park Authority for a Needs Assessment Community Meeting

The Fairfax County Park Authority is launching the Parks Count! 2026 Parks Needs Assessment to evaluate park and recreation needs across the county. We want to hear from you! Your feedback will help guide improvements to amenities, facilities and programs for the next five years.

The study will utilize research, trends analysis, community input and surveys to help FCPA meet the diverse park and recreation needs of everyone in Fairfax County. Along with the Parks, Recreation, Open Space, and Access Strategy (PROSA), the 2026 Needs Assessment will help shape decision-making for park investments and improvements, including the 2026 park bond.

Your voice matters! Help shape the future of our parks by attending one of our upcoming public meetings. A virtual public meeting will take place on Wednesday, March 19, 2025, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. This online session is a convenient way to learn more about the project, share your thoughts and ask questions—all from the comfort of your home.

For a more interactive experience, join us at the In-Person Workshop on Saturday, March 22, 2025, from 10:00 a.m. to noon at the Franconia Rec Center. This open house-style, family-friendly event will feature a guided nature walk, activities with the Wonder Wagon, a sensory-friendly area for children and a Rec Center pass promotion. Come engage in hands-on activities and discussions to help shape the future of our parks.

If you can't attend a meeting, you can still make your voice heard by participating in the 2026 Needs Assessment survey launching soon! A randomly selected group of residents will receive a mailed survey, but anyone can provide input through an online survey hosted on PublicInput.

Visit the Parks Count! Our Parks, Our Future webpage for the latest updates, to register for the upcoming events and to learn more about participating in the 2026 Needs Assessment survey. For questions, contact parkscount@publicinput.com.

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Pohick Interceptor Rehabilitation Project To Temporarily Impact Cross County Trail

Beginning March 17, the Cross County Trail in Pohick Stream Valley Park between Cliff Forest Drive and Wadebrook Terrace will be temporarily closed while the Department of Public Works and Environmental Services undertakes a major rehabilitation project on the Pohick Interceptor. This project involves the renewal of approximately 6,500 linear feet of large-diameter sanitary sewer pipe and associated maintenance hole structures to ensure continued safe and reliable wastewater service for Fairfax County residents.

During the construction phase, there will be an initial three-month closure of the Cross County Trail within the project area. Once work at the northern end of the project area is complete, a detour along Pohick Road will be in effect for approximately 12 to 15 months, while the remaining rehabilitation is completed. Depending on weather conditions, construction is expected to conclude in winter 2026. Trail closure and project signs will be posted in Pohick Stream Valley Park to guide residents.

The rehabilitation work, utilizing a trenchless Cured-in-Place Pipe (CIPP) method, is a cost-effective and minimally invasive approach that extends the service life of the infrastructure by approximately 50 years. In addition to proactively maintaining the sewer system, this project will reduce the risk of emergency repairs, protect public health and minimize environmental impacts.

For alternate park locations and trails to explore during this temporary closure, residents are encouraged to use the Park Authority's Park Amenity Locator and Trail Buddy tools. Project updates and additional information can be found online by visiting the Pohick Interceptor Rehabilitation project webpage.

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Fairfax County Park Authority To Begin Tennis and Pickleball Court Enhancements at Wakefield Park

The Fairfax County Park Authority will soon begin renovating the tennis and pickleball court areas at Wakefield Park (8100 Braddock Road, Annandale) to enhance playing conditions and increase dedicated courts for pickleball. Construction, led by contractor ATC Corp, is expected to begin early April 2025.

The project will be completed in two phases. Phase 1 will include converting Tennis Court 11 into four dedicated pickleball courts, renovating Tennis Courts 7 and 8, restoring Courts 9 and 10 to tennis-only use, and repairing Tennis Courts 1 and 2. The basketball courts will also undergo repairs, with completion expected by late June. Weather permitting, Phase 1 is anticipated to be completed by mid-July 2025.

Phase 2 will follow shortly after, replacing half of the walled practice court with two additional dedicated pickleball courts, while preserving the tennis practice wall and courts closest to Courts 9 and 10. This phase will require additional site work, including modifying an existing trail and relocating picnic tables. Phase 2 is expected to be completed by fall 2025, pending necessary permits and weather conditions.

During construction, Tennis Courts 3, 4, 5 and 6, as well as Pickleball Courts 12 and 13, will remain open for public use. Directional signage will guide visitors to alternative pickleball court access, ensuring safe entry. However, visitors are reminded to avoid designated construction areas. Residents should also expect occasional construction traffic entering and exiting near Court 11 via the park access road. Construction hours will be 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekdays and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekends. Residents are encouraged to use the Park Amenity Locator to identify alternative courts to use during construction.

Once completed, Wakefield Park will feature 10 dedicated tennis courts and eight dedicated pickleball courts, reducing competition for dual-use courts and better accommodating the county's growing demand for racket sports. The final design was informed by public feedback from the July 9, 2024, meeting. The \$300,000 project is funded through the FY 2024 Third Quarter Budget Consideration Item, sponsored by Chairman Jeff McKay and Braddock District Supervisor James Walkinshaw.

FCPA remains committed to expanding accessible playing surfaces for racket sports. With this project, Fairfax County will offer 90 pickleball courts and 193 tennis courts across its parks. For more details, visit the Wakefield Tennis and Pickleball Redevelopment Project page on PublicInput or contact the Public Information Office at Parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov.

