



FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY



M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Chairman and Members
Park Authority Board

VIA: Jai Cole, Executive Director

FROM: Aimee Vosper, Deputy Director

DATE: July 3, 2024

Agenda

**Park Authority Board Awards Committee
(Committee of the Whole)**

Wednesday, July 10, 2024 – 6:55 pm

Herrity Building, Board Room

Chairman: Dr. Cynthia J. Carter

Vice Chair: Tim Hackman

1. Resolution Honoring the Fairfax County Park Authority's Outstanding Volunteers of 2024 – Administrative*

*Enclosures



If accommodations and/or alternative formats are needed, please call (703) 324-8563. TTY (703) 803-3354

Board Agenda Item
July 10, 2024

ADMINISTRATIVE

Resolution Honoring the Fairfax County Park Authority's Outstanding Volunteers of 2024

ISSUE:

Seeking approval of the resolution to honor the Fairfax County Park Authority's Outstanding Volunteers of 2024 for their service to the Park Authority and the residents of Fairfax County.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Park Authority Director recommends approval of the resolution honoring the Fairfax County Park Authority's Outstanding Volunteers of 2024.

TIMING:

Board action is requested on July 10, 2024.

BACKGROUND:

The Park Authority relies heavily on volunteer support in a wide range of opportunities. Volunteers support unstaffed parks, invasive plant programs, historic property maintenance and programs, adapted programs, facility support, and much more.

The Park Authority's volunteer support continues to return to pre-pandemic levels. In 2022, as the community resumed working and living under the new "normal" conditions there were more individuals ready to volunteer. That year, 6,419 volunteers provided 112,115 hours. As interest in volunteering to support the parks continues to expand, in 2023 we saw 7,274 volunteers give 126,120 hours in service.

Volunteer service with the Park Authority clearly offers unique experiences, the chance to see tangible change, the opportunity to learn new skills and the satisfaction of teaching new skills, educating families about the environment and in many cases, digging in and getting your hands dirty. Our volunteers bring passion, action and dedication regardless of where they work: digging in the ground, pulling weeds, helping at a Rec Center or golf course or leading programs at a nature center. These essential, good-hearted, hard-working, and resilient volunteers enhance the visitor experience for all those who visit our parks and collectively represent a fiscally-sound approach to the provision of services in support of our mission. Without their help, the park system would be challenged to meet the mandate of community expectations, CAPRA accreditation, and of regional and national leadership in the field of recreation and parks.

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Recent statistics indicate that across America the values and spirit of volunteers continues to rise to the needs. Approximately 61 million Americans — 23% of the adult population — volunteer their time, talents, and energy to making a difference. Volunteer time in the United States is currently valued at \$33.49 per hour. This calculation is based on hourly earnings released by the US Bureau of Labor Statistics and AmeriCorps data on volunteer hours. It's estimated that volunteers contribute nearly \$200 billion in value to US communities. In Virginia, more than 2.2 million residents volunteered in 2023, contributing \$5.5 billion in economic value.

The Fairfax County Park Authority Board recognizes that volunteers strengthen Fairfax County and that volunteering makes a positive impact on the environment, on the quality of life, and on the health and well-being of our community.

This year, while the Elly Doyle Park Service Awards program is under review, the Park Authority sites and programs have nominated their Outstanding Volunteers for the March 2023-March 2024 time period. These volunteers will be recognized with a resolution and a gift at the July 18th Summer Entertainment Series Concert on the Ellipse at the Government Center. A complete list of the Outstanding Volunteers and where they volunteer is attached.

ENCLOSED DOCUMENTS:

Attachment 1: Resolution

Attachment 2: List of Outstanding Volunteers

STAFF:

Jai Cole, Executive Director

Sara Baldwin, Deputy Director/COO

Aimee L. Vosper, Deputy Director/CBD

Allison Rankin, Management Analyst

***WHEREAS**, Fairfax County Park Authority depends on the service of generous volunteers, day-in and day-out, to enrich our parks, address our desire to satisfy and attract diverse audiences and park visitation, and to continue to meet the needs of our growing park system and community; and*

***WHEREAS**, the Fairfax County Park Authority, created by legislative action in 1950, offers volunteers unique service opportunities that allow individuals the chance to grow personally while giving back to their community and include such options as invasive plant management and archaeological exploration, assistance at golf courses, working as a market master at our farmers markets, front desk work at Rec Centers, the chance to teach Adapted Aquatics or other inclusive programs, the pleasure of experiencing life on a farm or working as a docent at a historic site, improving a trail, or dozens of other volunteer activities; and*

***WHEREAS**, these essential, good-hearted, hard-working and resilient volunteers provide an effective means of service provision to the many residents of Fairfax County who visit our parks each year and collectively represent a fiscally-sound approach to the provision of services in support of the Park Authority mission; and*

***WHEREAS**, local volunteers are a big part of the national and state volunteer movement that attracts millions of individuals annually to the call for service and offers not just personal and community benefit but a tangible fiscal impact that allows park systems across America to thrive despite limits to government support; and*

***WHEREAS**, the Fairfax County Park Authority Board recognizes that volunteers strengthen Fairfax County, that volunteering makes a positive impact on the environment, on the quality of life and on the health and well-being of our community, and that volunteering is an essential part of living in a thriving society, adding enormous benefits and opportunities to our park system;*

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Fairfax County Park Authority that it expresses appreciation and thanks to

Volunteer

for dedicated and outstanding contributions to the parks and citizens of Fairfax County.

Adopted by the Fairfax County Park Authority Board on July 10, 2024.

Dr. Cynthia Jacobs Carter
Secretary

Kiel Stone
Chairman

2024 FCPA Outstanding Volunteers

Name	Site	Length of Service	Volunteer Title
Kate Anderson	Green Spring Gardens	2 years	Farmers Market Volunteer
Kenneth Braswell	Greendale GC	5 years	Golf Course Maintenance Assistant
Dave Cox	Twin Lakes Golf Course	14 Years	Play Assistant Manager
Elizabeth Eisenberg	Oakmont REC Center	1.5 years	General Support Assistant
Howard Eisinger	Sully Historic Site	7 years	Gardener
Yuki Ellis	Burke Lake Golf Center	10 Years	Horticulturalist and Extraordinary Planter and Gardener
Marijke Gate	Riverbend Park	4 years	Nature Program Volunteer
Geri Hirai	Spring Hill Rec.Center	7 years	Gardening and Landscaping Volunteer
Steven Johnson	Audrey Moore Rec Center	6 years	Fitness Room Monitor
Karin Lehnigk	Oakton Community Park	2 years	IMA Site Leader
Wayne Lynch	Pinecrest Golf Course	41 years	Golf Course Marshal
Peggy Martz	South Run Recreation Center	10 years	Front Desk Associate
Kim Munshower	Hidden Oaks Nature Center	7 years	Assistant Program Leader
Sue Myracle	South Run Rec Center - Adapted Aquatics Program	5 years	Adapted Aquatics Assistant
Sam Nehman	Providence Rec Center	1.5 years	General Support Assistant
Bob Ochs	Huntley Meadows Park	5 years	Roving Naturalist & Duck Box Monitor
Nicholas Pece	George Washington Rec Center	4 years	General Support Assistant
Robin Rueger	Franconia Rec Center and Park	4.5 years	Trail Volunteer
Irma Ruiz	Cub Run	1 year	Front Desk Associate
Kate Scheuer	Green Spring Gardens/ Historic House	8 years	Tea host & flower arranger
Christine Seigo	Ellanor C Lawrence Park	1 year	Assistant Park Educator
Vijay Singh	Laurel Hill Golf Club	2 years	Golf Course Starter and Marshal
Maureen Wolford	Hidden Pond Park/Nature Center	1 year	Native Plant Gardening Park Volunteer Team Leader