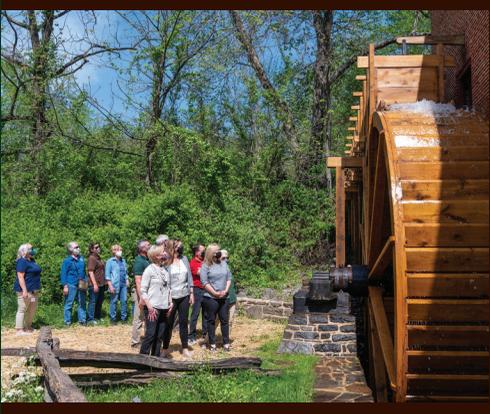


A Fresh Start for the Big Wheel



It's back to the grindstone for Colvin Run Mill! Much to the delight of longtime mill enthusiasts, the 210-year-old historic structure began operating again in May after a year-long closure to replace its deteriorating water wheel and flume.

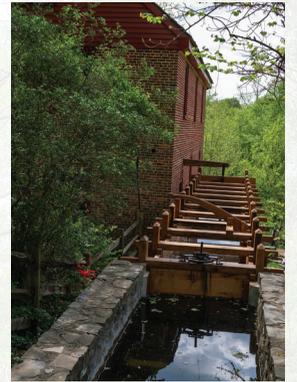
"I'm thrilled to death that it is up and running again," said Dan Dyke, president of the Friends of Colvin Run Mill volunteer organization which helps support the mill. "It's a wonderful example of early 19th century technology that many more people will get to see and enjoy."

The fully operational mill offers a rare glimpse of the milling process from start to finish, just as it was done when it opened in 1811. First-time visitors are especially fascinated by the mill's sight.

"You can see people's eyes light up when they see the dramatic spill of water from the flume and feel the vibration of the wheel when it is first turned on," said interim park manager Sarah Oberther. "They smile from ear to ear and realize that this place is really special."

The mill produces flour, corn meal and grits, which are sold in the nearby historic general store, just up the path from the miller's house. Grinding demonstrations are held on the first and third Sunday of every month and park tours are available on weekends and by appointment. Book your visit, and see for yourself why yesterday's innovation is today's fascination.

For tour times and ticket information visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/colvin-run-mill/tours or call the park at 703-759-2771.



ALL ABOARD FOR ICE CREAM AND PIZZA!

Treat yourself to old-fashioned family fun at the Burke Lake Park Ice Cream Parlor. The newly renovated shop features an enchanting, miniature train that loops around a suspended, indoor track, adding to the fun while you enjoy any number of items from the shop's expanded menu in a depot-themed setting.



"I got an ice cream," exclaimed 2-1/2-year-old Beatrice Learned as she gleefully toddled from her outdoor picnic table to peer into the ice cream shop window for a glimpse of the train. Her mother, Vanessa Beary of Reston said the visit to the ice cream parlor was the perfect ending to their first trip to Burke Lake Park.

"This is amazing," she said of the kid-friendly activities near the ice cream parlor. "We rode the big train three or four times and the carousel twice, and the train inside the ice cream parlor is just the sweetest thing! It's a great way to keep a toddler entertained."

Families with older children say they are impressed with the changes, too. Menu options now include pizza, hot dogs, sundaes, milkshakes, coffee, soda, juice boxes and more. It's the perfect rest stop during a fun-filled day of amusements. The Burke Lake Park Ice Cream Parlor is open weekdays from 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. and weekends from 11 a.m. – 6 p.m. through Labor Day.

