



## Introducing the Wonder Wagon: Connecting Communities to Nature Where They Live

Step into the world of environmental exploration with the Wonder Wagon, the Fairfax County Park Authority's innovative Mobile Nature Center. The initiative, shaped by a significant amount of community input, is designed to bring nature and stewardship education directly to underserved areas of Fairfax County to foster environmental awareness and resilient communities.

The Wonder Wagon is not just a van; it's an experience. Packed with engaging activities, from bug-catching to birdwatching, the Wonder Wagon will help audiences of all ages to see our urban environments as nature-rich spaces. Residents can delve into the wonders of plants and animals, discovering the beauty of the natural world right at their doorstep.

Beyond providing hands-on experiences, the Wonder Wagon aims to create lasting memories and inspire a lifelong connection with nature. By reaching into communities, it encourages residents to advocate for parks and sustainable initiatives in their neighborhoods. Made possible by Community Foundation for Northern Virginia support, the National Park Service and the Fairfax County Park Foundation, the Wonder Wagon is on a mission to offer 150 programs annually and serve more than 3,500 community members. This initiative not only supplements Virginia's Science standards of learning, and the Park Authority's mission, but it also aligns with countywide initiatives and goals.

Keep an eye out for our brightly branded van as the Wonder Wagon rolls into neighborhoods near you. Stay tuned for updates, and let the adventure begin!



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Fairfax County Park Foundation  
Preserve Protect Play

## Celebrate the Outdoors at Earth Day 2024!



Since 1970, Earth Day has been celebrated across the nation and in more than 192 countries throughout the world to raise awareness for environmental protection and conservation. Ultimately, the goal is to instill in each of us a sense of environmental stewardship demonstrated through simple day-to-day choices we can make such as recycling, conserving water and energy, or even getting the whole family involved in a volunteer clean-up activity.

To get to that point, most of us need to feel a "real" connection to the world around us, and that's not always an easy thing to do with all the 'virtual' distractions around us. This year, take advantage of the Park Authority's Earth Day Festival and forge a real connection to the outdoors through the universal languages of fun and play!

At Earth Day 2024, children of all ages can enjoy an entire day of amazing experiences at the Sully Historic Site. From racing through an outdoor obstacle course, hiking the surrounding trails and meeting some of our local wildlife to enjoying live performances, countless hands-on exhibits and our Earth Day Scavenger Hunt, we've got something for everyone!

Mark your calendar and join us for a "Spring-tacular" celebration on Saturday, April 20, 2024, from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. at the Sully Historic Site. For more information, visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/topics/earth-day](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/topics/earth-day).



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