

Discover Your Parks, Have Fun and Win!

Looking for something fun and educational to do this summer? Pick up a free Discovery Trail Map at any staffed Fairfax County Park Authority facility or public library and chart your course for adventure, prizes and a whole lot of fun! Christian Kam visited all 12 of the featured parks on last year's map and was delighted to discover a wide variety of things to see, learn and do.

"I really liked going to the nature centers to learn about animals and facts about them," the Vienna 6th grader said. "I thought that was fun."

In fact, really fun was how he described every discovery he and his mother, Jessica Kam, made along the trail. At Hidden Oaks Nature Center, "It was really fun and they had this turtle..." and at Huntley Meadows Park, "That was fun, and I liked stopping along the trail and reading about animals and what they look like and what their tracks look like," and at Burke Lake Park, "one place we were walking on the trail we spotted a baby deer," he said enthusiastically. He also spotted the map's ambassador, a cardboard cutout named Lord Fairfax VI, at several parks and had fun posting photos with him in the Park Authority's #WhereIsLordFairfax Instagram promotion.

"That was fun, and it encouraged me to go to different parks and try to find him and collect the stickers at the same time," he said.

This year's map highlights a wide variety of animals that inhabit Fairfax County parks. Children and adults who collect map stickers at eight of the featured parks get a prize packet valued at \$93 full of tickets to park amusements, such as mini golf, camping and boat, train and carousel rides. They're also entered in a drawing for one of four new bicycles donated by Spokes, Etc. and Trek through the Fairfax County Park Foundation.

"I'm definitely going to do it again this summer," Christian said with enthusiastic determination. "We did it once and we can do it again. We're going to collect them all [stickers]."

"It's a really good family activity and it's educational," Jessica Kam said. "We love all the parks and appreciate how well they're run."

Beginning May 12, you can pick up a Discovery Trail Map at any Park Authority RECenter, nature center, historic site or golf course or any Fairfax County Public Library while supplies last. You can also download one from the Park Authority website: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/discovery-trail-map. This year's promotion runs from May 26 to Sept. 3.

