

LIFEGUARDING IS AGELESS



Nationwide, lifeguards are in short supply. The team at Oak Marr Rec Center had to start thinking outside the box to address the shortfall. With that in mind, they looked to retirees – a vast new pool of potential applicants looking for part time work.

Clearly, it's a different demographic but it's been a highly successful approach with a more "mature" workforce in the making. One of these new recruits is Robert Brennen who joined Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA) as lifeguard after a 40-year career where he served in the U.S. Marine Corps and the State Department in 2019.

"I've enjoyed acquiring new skills during training (water rescues, CPR, first aid, etc.), the flexible hours, and working with a super group of younger lifeguards. It's also been great getting to know our FCPA patrons, whether the high school swim teams, the local diving clubs, or the numerous guests who use our pool to stay in shape" said Brennen who works about 15 to 20 hours per week. One of the perks: a free Rec Center membership which allows him to work out on his own in the pool a couple of times a week.

He added, "As an older worker I've enjoyed working with and mentoring younger lifeguards for whom working for FCPA is often their first job. It's a daily responsibility to maintain the high standards that both FCPA and Jeff Ellis & Associates, the Park Authority's water safety trainers/auditors require to keep the public safe while using our FCPA facility." In fact, such high standards have allowed him to continue training and maintain his fitness at such a high level that he was able to expand his lifeguarding opportunities and spend this past summer as a beach lifeguard at Emerald Isle, NC.



For more information on becoming a lifeguard or swim instructor at any of the Park Authority's pools or water parks, please visit our FCPA Aquatics jobs page Aquatic Certification Programs and Jobs at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/reccenter/aquatic-certification.

WHEELS UP IN FAIRFAX COUNTY SKATE PARKS

You don't have to be Tony Hawk to enjoy the Park Authority's two awesome skate parks!

Whether you're an avid skateboarder who knows all the latest tricks or just a beginner, the skate parks are a great place to learn and work on your skills before taking them to the street.

Wakefield Skate Park was fully renovated and redesigned over the summer. The design of the park was a collaborative effort between local skate enthusiasts and professional designers.

It's awesome and caters to all skill levels of skateboarders, BMX riders, and other wheeled athletes. The new park offers a competition-style bowl, multi-level jump line, hips galore, mini-ramp, spine, a-frame, ledges, euro, and many other exciting features. The \$1.2 million project was funded via voter-approved Park Bonds and plans to reopen in late Fall or early Winter.

Those on the other side of Fairfax County can roll over to the Lake Fairfax Skate Park featuring 15,000 square feet of skating area. The plaza obstacles include a shark fin, manual pad, and euro gap with ledges and rails. The ledges and rails are the low to medium type. The bowl consists of three sections at four, six, and eight feet, three high-to-low curved hips, and consistent eight-foot tranny radius throughout.

Jump into the fun but please follow safety protocols and all rules while using the skate parks. For more information visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/skate-parks.

