Welcome!

Federation of Friends Meeting

Tuesday, October 13, 2026, 5:30pm

Herrity Building, Rooms 106/107

Agenda

- 2026 Park Bond Referendum
- FY 2028 Budget
- Update from RMI
- Around the Room

2026 Park Bond Referendum

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Federation of Friends Meeting
Tuesday, October 13, 2026, 5:30pm

Timothy Hackman, Fairfax County Park Authority Board and 2026 Green Team Co-Chair
Mike Reynolds, Fairfax County Park Authority Board and 2026 Green Team Co-Chair

Parks at a Glance

Residents
1.2 mil

Parks
424

Land
23,500+
acres

Golf Courses
8

Working Farm
1

Nature Centers
3

IMA Treatment
2,000+
acres

Total Visitation
26 mil
(approx. CY 2025)

Fairfax County Park Authority
Celebrating 75 years!

Lake Front Parks
4

Trails
340+
miles

Rec Centers
9

Staffed Sites
60

Farmer's Markets
10

Staff
3,000

Athletic Fields
264

Summer Performances
177

Scott's Run Preserve

75 Years of Service and Stewardship

The Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA) has never stopped raising the bar for what a public parks agency can achieve in **service, stewardship of public resources,** and **enterprise management**. From national accreditation to international dark sky honors, FCPA's recognitions reflect a deep and enduring commitment to the communities, environments, and people it serves.

1

CAPRA Accreditation

Holding the highest professional standard in parks and recreation management — a continuous commitment to operational excellence and accountability.

2

4× Gold Medal Winner

One of the most decorated park agencies in the United States, recognized four times by the American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration.

3

Equity & Environmental Leadership

From the Wonder Wagon Mobile Nature Center to the prestigious International Dark Sky designation at Turner Farm Observatory and the Governors Excellence Award for energy efficiency efforts at Spring Hill Rec Center, FCPA leads with purpose on both social justice and environmental leadership.

4

Fueling the Talent Pipeline of Next Gen Park Professionals

Recognized two years in a row by the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia as a Top Employer for Interns — FCPA's competitive paid summer internship program invests in the next generation of public service professionals and park enthusiasts.

Benefits of Parks and Recreation

Per Fairfax County Park Authority's statistically representative **2025 Needs Assessment**, majority of Fairfax County residents 'agree' or 'strongly agree' with the following benefits of parks, recreation, and open spaces:

- **Improve physical health and fitness**
- **Improves mental health and reduced stress**
- **Make Fairfax County a more desirable place to live**
- **Cultivate stronger communities and deeper connection**
- **Protect historical and cultural attributes of the county**


Providence Rec Center


Huntley Meadows Park


Mason District Park


Burke Farmers Market


Wakefield Skate Park


Our Special Harbor Spray Park

Current Realities

- Meeting the demand for visitation, park maintenance and recreation services across Fairfax County requires continuous reinvestment in the park system
- Most Rec Centers are approaching 50 years operating in their original structures
- Rising capital costs cause the deferred renovation gap to widen
- Rapid urbanization to accommodate migration patterns, which require acquisition of open, green space to ensure protection of natural resources and varied recreation solutions
- Evolving population requires diversity of recreational needs
- All members of Fairfax County do not have access to parks and recreational facilities

Park Bond Overview

The Fairfax County Park Authority (FPCA) is preparing to enter a new bond cycle season critical to our park and recreational system **county-wide**. This follows a previously successful 2020 Park Bond referendum that approved $100 million for the Park Authority. In 2022, Fairfax County transitioned certain bond referendums from a 4-year cycle to a 6-year cycle, bringing us to the 2026 Bond Cycle this year. This shift allows the county to realign project completion from start to finish within a bond cycle, address backlogs, and maintain financial stability.

Why do we need a Park Bond?

The acquisition, development, and renovation of parks and recreational facilities are **primarily financed** through General Obligation Bonds, which is a form of long-term borrowing that strategically spreads the cost of significant capital improvements over a number of years.

The allocation of bond dollars to Fairfax County Park Authority requires voter approval of the bond referendum.

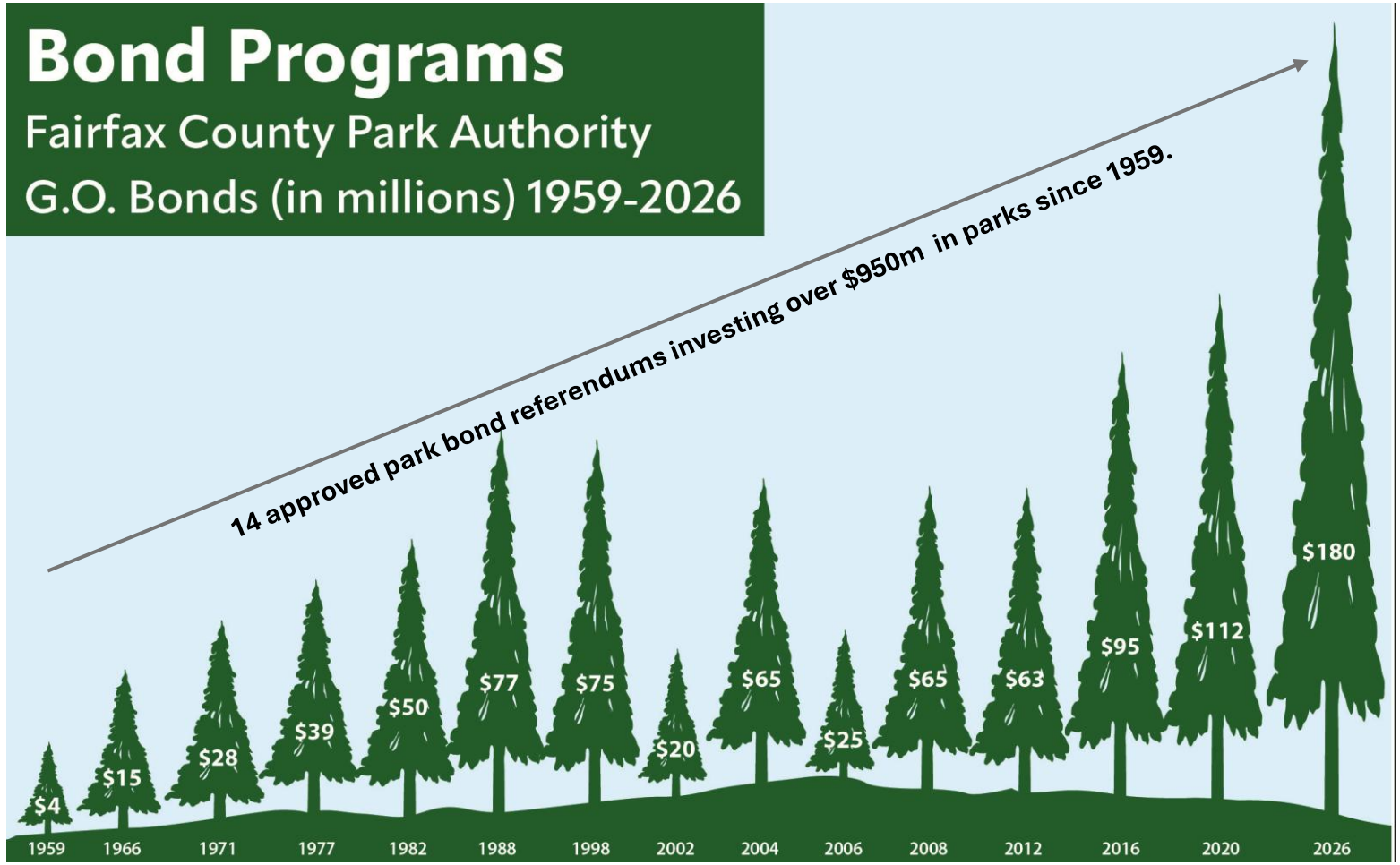
Park Bond History

This Fall, the 2026 Park Bond will be presented to Fairfax County voters as part of the bond referendum in the **November 3rd General Election**, which will include

$180 million

in capital funding for the Fairfax County Park Authority.

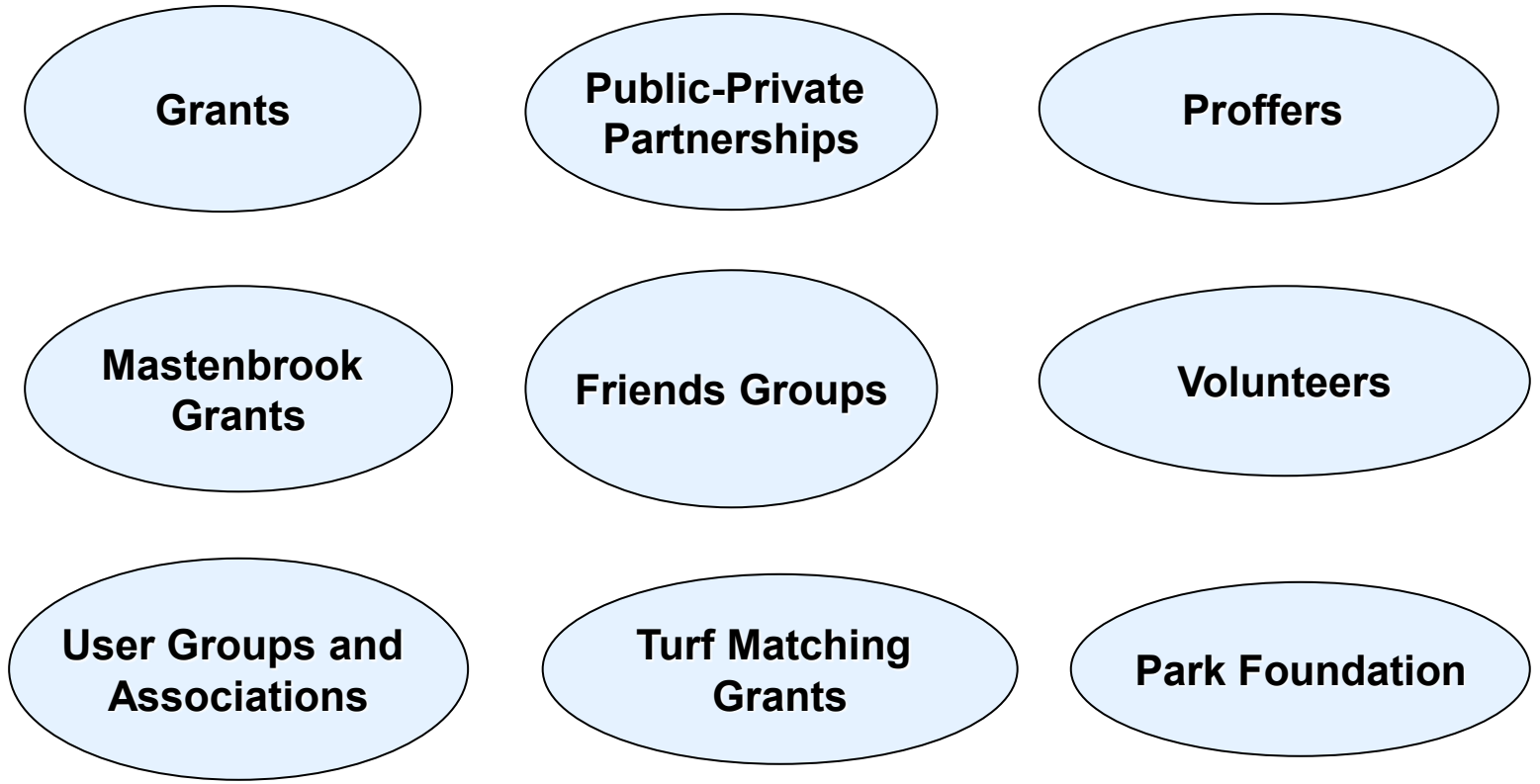
If approved, it with be the 15th consecutive Park Bond approved by county voters, dating back to the first $4 million bond in 1959 with an **average approval rating above 70%.**



*2002 and 2006 were interim bonds
*2020 Bond included $12 million for Northern Virgina Regional Parks. $100 million went to FCPA.

Bond Dollars Do Not Stand Alone

Bond dollars are often paired with other funding for greater project impact and coverage.



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Examples of Park Bond Dollars at Work





- **Woodlands Stewardship and Education Center (2023)**
- **Rec Center Modernization at Cub Run Rec Center**
  - **Childcare Facility (2024)**
  - **Replacement of Competition Pool filter (2025)**
  - **Replacement of Fire Alarm System (2025)**
- **Sully Historic Site (2025): Roof replacement on main house and renovation of the outbuildings (Smokehouse, Dairy Barn, Kitchen/Laundr Building, and Lumber House)***
- **Replacement of roof on the Historic Mt. Gilead House (2025)**
- **Refreshed Playgrounds Across the County (7 slated for Late Fall 2026)**

*Bond funds were supplemented with a 250th grant from Virginia Department of Historic Resources and a generous contribution from the Sully Foundation for over $1M in total reinvestment at the site.

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A Data-Driven Approach for the 2026 Bond

FCPA's 2025 Needs Assessment provides a statistically representative, comprehensive evaluation of park and recreation needs across Fairfax County from **YOU**.

2 out of 3 participants prioritized maintaining existing parks and recreation amenities, trails, indoor recreational facilities, athletic fields and/or courts.

Similar to the 2015 Needs Assessment, survey participants would spend most of their money maintaining, repairing, and upgrading existing facilities if given $100.

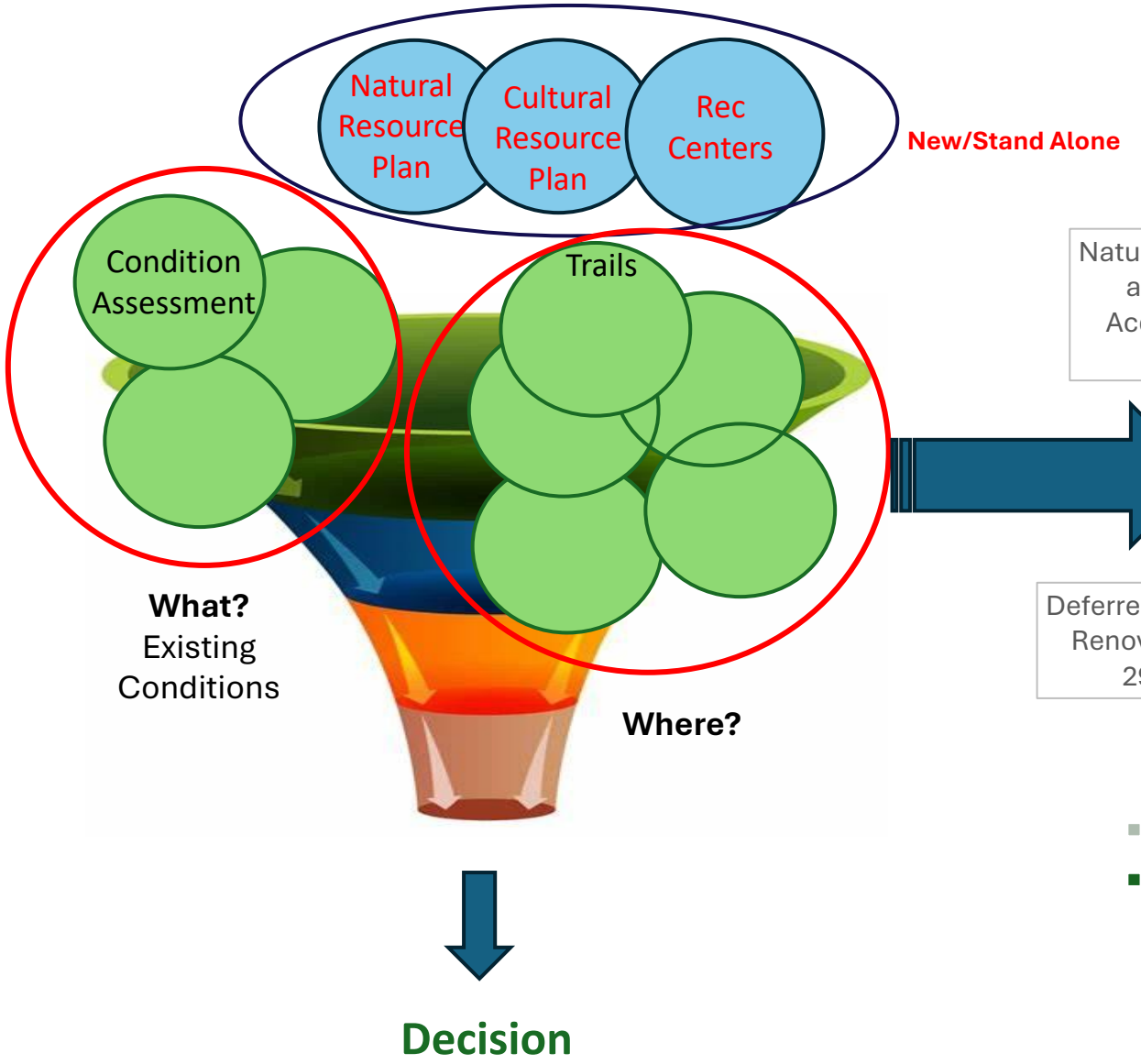
- Runners up: Conserve and maintain natural and cultural resources, acquire new parkland and open space, develop new facilities

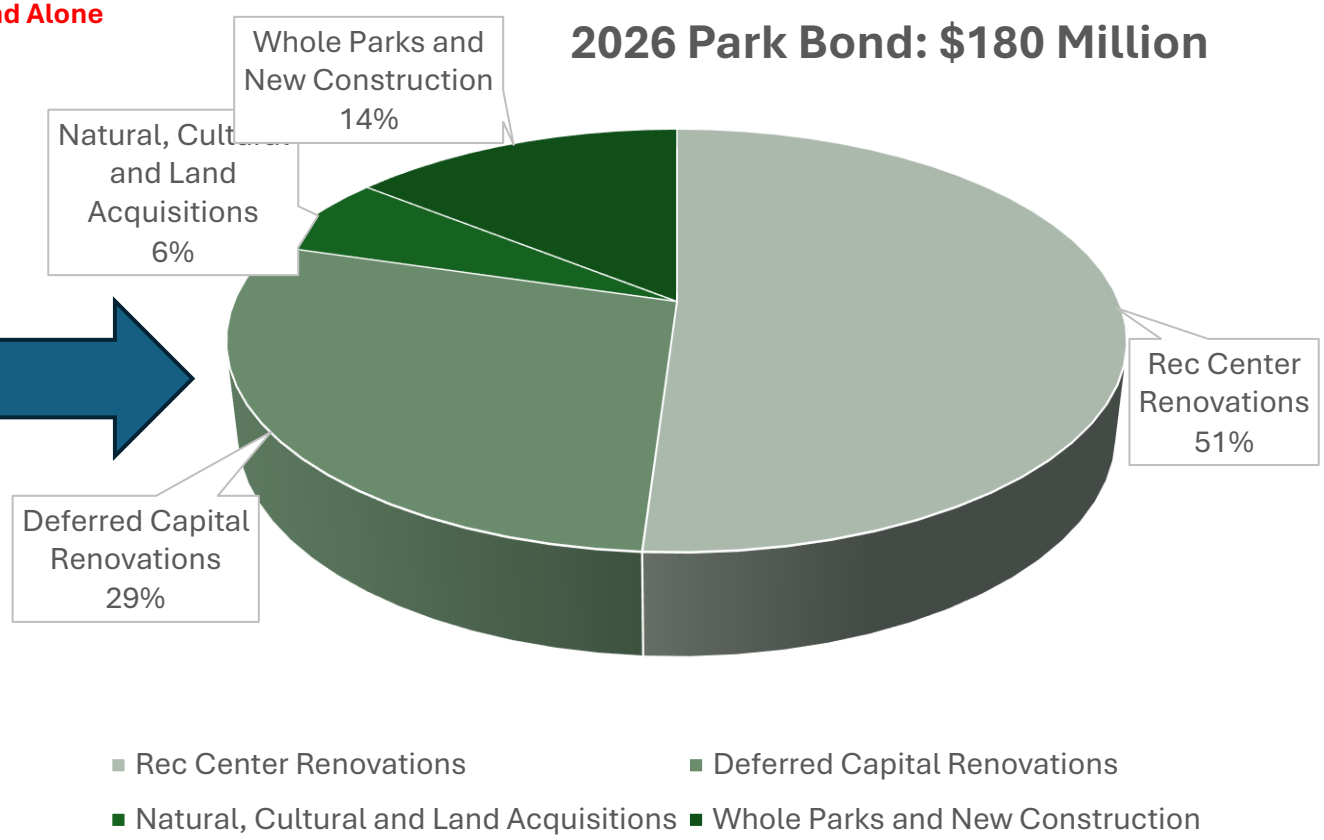
KEY TAKEAWAY?

Take care of what we have.



Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Strategy





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Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Categories

The 2025 Needs Assessment findings, combined with the **Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROSA) Framework** and condition assessments have directly informed criteria for our Capital Improvement Program within each category to help with project criteria in the accompanying work plan:

Sample Projects

Whole Parks & New Construction



Rec Center Renovation



Deferred Capital Renovations



Natural, Cultural and Land Acquisition



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Whole Parks

Planning, design and/or construction of a new park <u>OR</u> fully renovate an existing one to meet demand, improve equity, or enhance functionality.

- *Example: Multiple facilities past their useful life - e.g. Mount Woods (renovation), Ruckstuhl Park (new)*

Mount Vernon Woods







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New Amenities

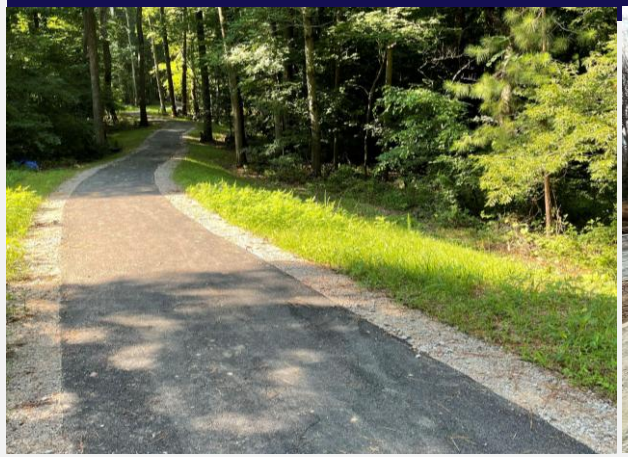
Planning, design, and construction of new park facilities or amenities to meet new demand, add functionality, or expand capacity to an existing facility or site.

- *Examples: New park amenities in existing park could include playgrounds, skatepark, trails, revenue generating amenities, or splash pads.*

Greenbriar Pickleball Courts



Royal Lake Trail and Bridge





Lake Fairfax Inline Skating



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Deferred Capital Renovations

Planning, design, and construction to repair, replace, and upgrade park facilities, maintaining capacity and modernizing outdated amenities to contemporary standards and codes.

- *Examples: Lifecycle replacement of athletic fields, trails, shelters, sports courts, amusements**

Note: 2026 Bond Dollars will cover only a quarter of the deferred capital renovation gap.

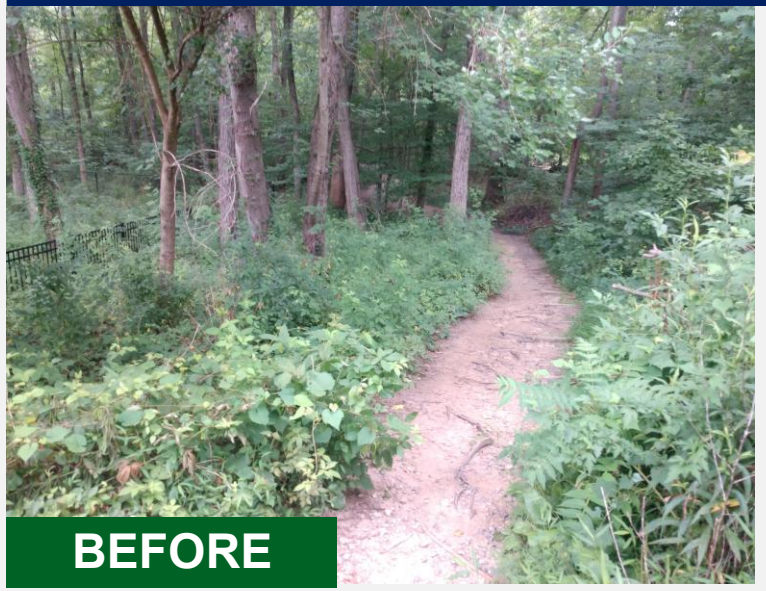
Burke Lake Park Train

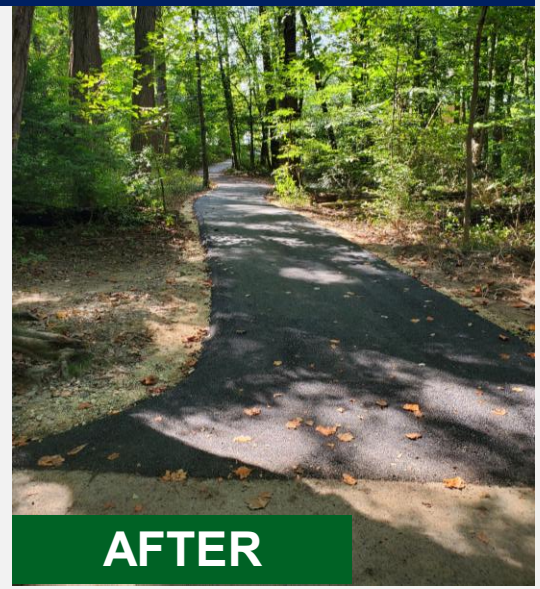


Frying Pan Farm Park Carousel



Cross-County Trail to Mill Springs Dr. Connector





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Natural, Cultural and Land Acquisition

Planning, design, and construction of projects that advance the Park Authority's stewardship mission, support resource management plans, and County initiatives. Includes historic preservation, cultural resource facilities, parkland acquisition, and open space protection.

- *Examples: Historic structure stabilization, property acquisition, open space preservation, resident curator properties*

Ash Grove



Lindsley Property



Forest Restoration at Elklick



Forest Restoration at Oakmont



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Rec Center Renovations

Rec Center renovations include design, repairs, upgrades, and capital improvements to maintain safety, functionality, accessibility, and service quality—covering structural, mechanical, electrical, and cosmetic systems.

- *Examples: Mount Vernon Rec Center Renovation, Audrey Moore Rec Center renovation, Rec Center deferred maintenance, concept plans for Franconia and Providence Rec Centers*



Mount Vernon Rec Center







Audrey Moore Rec Center







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Without the $180M Park Bond…

- Critical funding for rec center improvements and modernization will be lost, losing momentum in providing functional fitness solutions for residents of all ages
- Limited whole park development and improvement, which could impact project progress to meet residents' needs and wants
- Deferred capital renovations will continue to pile up and go unfunded – causing further deterioration of aging infrastructure, safety, and ballooning repair costs
- Unable to seize opportunities to acquire and preserve open green space, which also means the vital ecological corridors could be lost

Every year without investment increases the deferred renovation backlog, reduces quality of life for Fairfax County residents, and makes recovery more expensive and difficult.

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Learn more about…

2026 Park Bond

SCAN ME

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/bond

2026 Fairfax County Bonds

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/bond/bonds

Park Bond Toolkit

Sticker Designs - 3"



Lawn Signs



Car Magnets



Buttons



Door Hangers



2026 Park Bond Referendum Info Online:
www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/bond

Recent Press via FFXNow:
Bond referendums to fund parks, human services projects likely headed to Fairfax voters | FFXnow

Interested in Joining Our “Green Team”?

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Definition:

A Green Team is a group of organized individuals approved by the Park Authority Board to engage and mobilize the community towards a common goal. The individual stakeholders are representative of diverse organizations, communities, and constituencies.



Objective:

To educate residents of Fairfax County on the value of our parks and recreational system and the critical importance of supporting the 2026 Park Bond Referendum.



WE NEED YOUR VOICE!

Countdown to Election Day!
20 Days to Nov. 3

Volunteer Opportunities



- Staff a Green Team table at an FCPA park or event
- Distribute yard signs and door hangers in your neighborhood
- Post a message/graphic on social media







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Key Points of Contact

Bond Information, Presentation Opportunities, and Advocacy Materials

Fairfax County Park Authority Board Chair and 2026 Green Team Chair
Timothy (Tim) Hackman, FCPABoard.Dranesville@fairfaxcounty.gov

Fairfax County Park Authority Board Member, Providence District and 2026 Green Team Co-Chair
Michael (Mike) Reynolds, FCPABoard.Providence@fairfaxcounty.gov

Fairfax County Park Authority Board Member, Sully District Representative
Jose Peralta, FCPABoard.Sully@fairfaxcounty.gov

Fairfax County Park Authority Public Information Officer
Andy Grabel, Andrew.Grabel@fairfaxcounty.gov

Thank You and See You in November!

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BUDGET UPDATE

FEDERATION OF FRIENDS MEETING
OCTOBER 13, 2026

JAI COLE, PARK AUTHORITY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

FY2028 BUDGET GUIDANCE

The FY2028 Park General Operations and Capital Fund Budget would add $3,854,688 to the baseline budget.

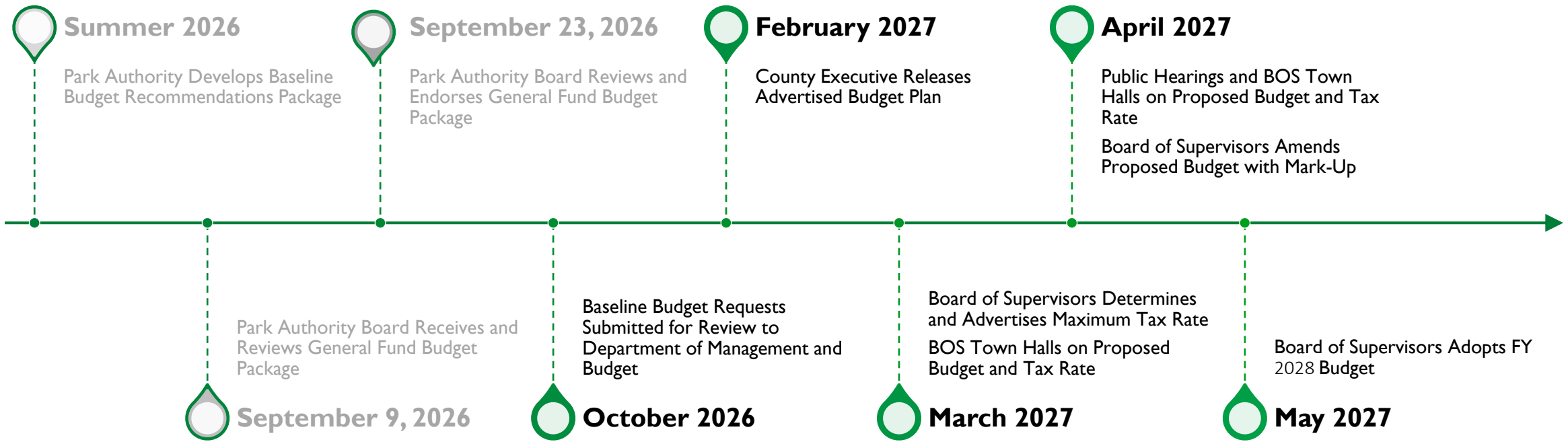
While the County did not request across the board reductions as in the previous several years, they did announce a process with working groups to review specific areas to support structural and long-term sustainability, including:

- Consolidating or eliminating programs and services;
- Closing facilities and consolidating leases;
- Identifying efficiencies through contracting out; and
- Reviewing mandated service levels.

FY 2028 BUDGET REQUESTS: $3,854,688

Item	Description	Requested
Operating Budget Impacts - New Facilities	Funding for 6 new facilities – operating expenses and one-time improvements	$ 524,775
Contract Rate Increases	Funding for increased contract costs	$ 411,864
Deferred Maintenance	Critical county operations that extend the useful life of Park Authority capital assets and increase preventative maintenance	$ 1,518,895
Sliding Fee Scale Implementation	8 positions to continue implementation of sliding fee scale	$ 873,881
SNAP Coordinator	1 position to expand SNAP to all farmers markets and ensure compliance with USDA requirements for seperation of duties	$ 125,273
Sports Tourism Study	Conduct feasability assessment of sports tourism site near Reston and Tysons transit districts	$ 400,000
		$ 3,854,688

FY 2028 BUDGET TIMELINE



Any Questions?



RMI Update

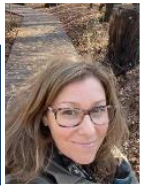
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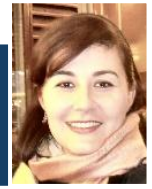
Laura Grape, Division Director, Resource Management and Interpretation

Resource Management & Interpretation

RMI Division Director
Laura Grape



Historic Sites & Horticulture
Paola Schiappacasse



Operations, program & services, fiscal management, site development, renovations, maintenance, community engagement, partnerships and Friends groups

Sites & Managers
- Colvin Run Mill – **Kiersten Fiore**
- Frying Pan Farm Park - **Teresa Reynolds**
- Green Spring Gardens – **Jim Serfass** *(White Gardens)*
- Sully Historic Site – **Matthew Gailani**
- Ellanor C Lawrence Park – **Kylie Lee** *(Woodlands Stewardship Ed Center)*
- Huntley Meadows – **Shannon Smith** *(Historic Huntley)*

Museum Collections Management

Countywide Programs
- Equestrian
- Community Horticulture
  - Garden Plots
  - Farmers Markets

Waterfront Sites & Nature Centers
Nicole Mitchell



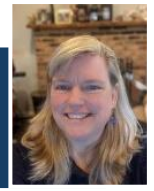
Operations, program & services, fiscal management, site development, renovations, maintenance, community engagement, partnerships and Friends groups

Sites & Managers
- Burke Lake – **Keith O'Connor**
- Hidden Oaks Nature Center – **Kristina Watts**
- Hidden Pond Nature Center – **Casey Pittrizzi**
- Lake Accotink – **Dan Grulke**
- Lake Fairfax – **John Britz**
- Riverbend Park – **Andrew Wilk** *(Scotts Run & Observatory Park)*

Lakefronts Maintenance

Countywide Programs
- Campgrounds
- Marinas

Interpretation & Engagement
Tammy Schwab



Countywide Programs
- Wonder Wagon – **Nikki Zitta**
- Watch the Green Grow – **Duston Angell**
- Fairfax 250th Programs – **Cheryl Repetti & Katie Kelly**
- FCPS educational partnerships

Division-wide Support
- Roving Educators
- Equity and Outreach

Countywide Interpretation
- Interpretive planning, programs, publications, training and certification
- Interpretive signs and exhibit planning and projects

Administrative & Business Development
Leigh Jones



Financial & Budget
- Financial reporting, data collection and analysis
- Budget development, monitoring and reporting
- Asset management and project tracking

Business Development - Chris Goldbecker
- Fee review and proposal coordination
- Business analysis, processes, and planning
- Event and programmatic assistance, coordination and evaluation

Programmatic and Operational Support – Duston Meyers
- SOP development and review
- RecDyanmics & Parktakes Coordination
- Volunteer Program Management – **Natalie Sutton**

Highlighted team members are reporting to new managers.