

FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY

12055 Government Center Parkway, Suite 927 · Fairfax, VA 22035-5500 703-324-8700 · Fax: 703-324-3974 · www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks

Information Release_

April 15, 2020 IR-043

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Park Authority Launches Virtual Exploration Center

Whether you're looking for an on-demand workout, activities to entertain the kids, or historical tidbits about Fairfax County, check out the Park Authority's new Virtual Exploration Center.

Find tools to help you stay healthy, connected and engaged from your home or neighborhood until parks are able to safely reopen.

On the Health & Wellness drop-down, you will find a printable health journal, health and fitness trackers, video workouts and nutrition information. Under Science & Nature, you will see nature walk and scavenger hunt bingo games, field guides to plants and wildlife, updates on the new baby animal arrivals at Frying Pan Farm Park, and resources from around the state on everything from feathers to fish. The Culture & History section offers links to history-themed coloring pages, interactive tours of county historic sites, a guide to historical roadside markers and historic sites, and information about the county's museum collections.

Visit the Virtual Exploration Center at <u>www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/virtual</u>. The collection of resources to aid in virtual recreation and exploration will be updated regularly, so check back often.

For more information, call the Public Information Office at 703-324-8662 or email <u>parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov</u>.

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Discover Where to Find Imari Ware in artiFACTS

Long before Fiestaware and Tupperware, people entertained guests by using beautiful Japanese Imari ware.

This month, the Fairfax County Park Authority's <u>artiFACTS</u> website features a punch bowl made of the Japanese porcelain. Learn the history of this form of ceramics and where you can see an example on display at a local historic site. You will also discover why some people think the Imari name is all wrong.

If you can't get to a real museum these days, check out the Park Authority's virtual museum and learn more about Fairfax County's history at the artiFACTS website at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/resource-management/artifacts.htm.

The Park Authority's collections include more than 5,000 historic objects, such as quilts, chairs, baskets, machines and clothing; thousands of archival items, such as photographs, letters, maps and other documents; and upwards of 3 million artifacts that include archaeological finds, such as spear points and pottery. All come with their own stories to tell.

artiFACTS allows us to showcase a small sampling of these treasures to educate, enlighten and entertain.

For more information about the Park Authority's Museum Collections, contact Heritage Resource Specialist Megan Leining at 703-631-1429 or at <u>megan.leining@fairfaxcounty.gov</u>.

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