



# 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](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks)

## Information Release

Judy Pedersen, PIO

E-mail: [parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov)

Inquiries: 703-324-8662

October 7, 2020

IR-152

## Save Now on Membership to the County's 9 Recreation Centers

There has never been a better time to get fit at a Park Authority RECenter. Take advantage of the membership sale that's going on now through Nov. 30, 2020. Whether you're a new or returning member, you can save up to 20% on the purchase of all 6-month memberships and 25% on 12-month memberships.

Memberships are on sale at any of the county's [nine RECenters](#) and online at <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/passes>. They may be used for all facility uses that allowed under COVID-protocols, which currently include lap swimming/water walking, Cybex Selectorized strength training machines, cardio machines and limited dumbbells, indoor basketball and racquetball courts, and public ice skating sessions. Amenities vary by location and may be limited due to pandemic-related safety reasons.

New safety measures are in place at all the RECenters. These measures include enhanced cleaning protocols, more sanitizing stations, and new fitness center layouts that allow for social distancing. An advance reservation system is in place, and non-contact check-in systems are now standard.

To ensure that the RECenters are safe for everyone, please remember to:

- Stay home if you are sick or if you had contact with someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 within the past 14 days.
- Wear a face covering or mask.
- Practice social distancing.
- Wipe down fitness equipment before and after use.
- Wash your hands frequently with soap and water.
- Follow marked footprints and other directional signs to help ensure safe distances from others.

For more information, contact 703-222-4664.

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IR-153

## Three Fairfax County Parks are Parent Favorites

Three Fairfax County parks are among the region's favorites as chosen by readers of Washington Parent magazine this year.

Clemyjontri Park was a winner in the Fun & Activities/Playground category, and Riverbend Nature Center and Burke Lake Park were both finalists in the Fun & Activities/Nature Centers category. Burke Lake Park was also honored as a finalist in the Fun & Activities/State & Neighborhood Parks category. The honors are based on more than 11,000 votes in the magazine's 2020 Washington Parent Picks contest.

The colorful [Clemyjontri Park](#) in McLean features a unique playground where children of all abilities can play side-by-side. Children who use wheelchairs, walkers or braces, or who have sensory or developmental disabilities, can have a parallel playground experience of fun and exploration.

[Riverbend Park](#) is located along the Potomac River in Great Falls and offers a rare combination of geology, plant life, wildlife, isolation and beauty. It offers a nature center for educational programs, a visitor center with Native American exhibits, trails and water activities.

[Burke Lake Park](#) in Fairfax Station offers 888 acres of fun with a popular loop trail around the lake, boating, fishing, camping, mini-golf, and train and carousel rides. There's even a seasonal ice cream parlor for summertime treats.

A complete listing of the contest winners is available in the October issue of Washington Parent magazine.

For more information, contact the Public Information Office at 703-324-8662, or send an email to [parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov).

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IR-154

## Help Green Spring Gardens Celebrate its 50th Anniversary this October

This month, Green Spring Gardens is celebrating 50 years as one of the Fairfax County Park Authority's premier destinations, and there are several ways you can join the fun.

The gardens themselves are open to visitors daily for no charge. Stop by to see what's blooming, visit the Children's Garden or stroll wooded pathways through the park. [Green Spring Gardens](#) is located at 4603 Green Spring Road in Alexandria, Virginia.

Click on the "On Your Own" link at Green Spring Gardens' website at <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/green-spring> to get a list of things to see and do, such as a scavenger hunt guide, a park video and more.

Add a touch of history to your day with the new "Visit with the Historian" program. Step into the 1784 Historic House with Green Spring's historian, who will share the fascinating origins of the site, the intriguing people who lived here, and how Green Spring Gardens evolved into the community treasure it is today. Your 45-minute private visit will include time to view informational videos and a historic photo exhibit. The cost is \$20 for one or two adults; \$10 for each additional person up to seven. Please call 703-941-7987 to schedule.

You can also find information on other programs and teas at Green Spring by visiting the Historic Programs and Teas website at <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/green-spring/teas>.

Check out #GreenSpring50 on social media to find the series "50 Reasons to Love Green Spring." The Park Authority's [Instagram](#) page and the [Friends of Green Spring Gardens Facebook](#) page highlight a new "reason to love GSG" each week.

While the in-person celebration of this golden anniversary has been postponed until 2021 because of COVID-19 health considerations, you can celebrate virtually with Green Spring at any time by visiting the Green Spring's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary web page at <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/green-spring/50th-anniversary>.

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*For Immediate Release*

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October 7, 2020

IR-155

## Braddock Park Master Plan Public Survey Available Online

The community has an opportunity to participate in an important survey that will help inform the Braddock Park master plan revision process and help park planners determine which amenities are desired at this Springfield District park. The survey can be accessed at <https://publicinput.com/W5580>, and will be live until Saturday, Oct. 31, 2020.

The Fairfax County Park Authority held a public information meeting on Braddock Park planning last week. For those who could not attend the meeting, a recording can be viewed on YouTube at <https://youtu.be/GvcQyvdajmU>. Public comment on the plan is also being taken via [parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov) through the end of October.

For more information, please visit the Braddock Park Master Plan Revision project webpage at <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/planning-development/braddock-park-master-plan-revision>, or contact the Public Information Office at 703-324-8662.

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PSA-161

## Tackle Composting and Curb Appeal in Talks at Green Spring Gardens

Green Spring Gardens is offering two Garden Talks this fall that will help you give your garden an organic boost and improve your home's curb appeal.

On Friday, Oct. 16, 2020, come to Green Spring for "Garden Talk: Composting Made Simple," and learn how to start composting at home. Instead of dragging your kitchen, garden and yard waste out to the curb every week, learn how to use that waste to make valuable compost for your yard and garden. Extension Master Gardeners will show you what it takes to build your own compost pile.

Help your home make a good first impression with the "Garden Talk: Curb Appeal for Fall Beauty" program on Friday, Nov. 13, 2020. Extension Master Gardeners will show you how to create a warm and inviting entry with colorful berries, dazzling leaves, beautifully structured branches, stunning grasses, standout seed heads and even blooming flowers. Find a new favorite to add beauty and vibrance to your fall and winter landscape.

Both Garden Talks are designed for participants age 16 to adult. They run from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m., and the cost of each program is \$10 per person.

Green Spring Gardens is located at 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria, Virginia. For more information, call 703-642-5173; or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/green-spring](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/green-spring).

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PSA-162

## Spend a Fall Friday Evening by a Crackling Campfire at Lake Fairfax

Come to Lake Fairfax Park for an evening campfire the whole family can enjoy.

Explore the wonders of the natural world through activities, such as nature walks, animal presentations and interactive fun. Learn about nature and our place in it. Topics vary by date. Of course, no campfire would be complete without s'mores!

The "Campfire Fridays" program runs on Oct. 23, 2020 and Nov. 6, 2020, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. The cost is \$12 per person, and the events are designed for participants age 3 to adult. Children must be accompanied by a registered adult.

Lake Fairfax Park is located at 1400 Lake Fairfax Drive, Reston, Virginia. For more information, call 703-471-5414, or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/lake-fairfax](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/lake-fairfax).

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PSA-163

## Explore the Stars and Planets with an Astronomy Webinar

Now that the days are getting shorter and the nights are getting longer, it's a great time to learn some astronomy basics to better enjoy those extra hours of dark skies.

Log into the "Introduction to Astronomy Webinar" on Thursday, Oct. 29, 2020, to learn some fundamentals of astronomy and the universe around us. The webinar will cover basic types of astronomical objects from small to large, the motions of the planets and stars, and interesting phenomena in the night sky.

This virtual program will be hosted in an online Zoom meeting by staff and volunteers of the [Analemma Society](#). The program runs from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. and is designed for participants age 8 to adult. **The cost is \$8 per person.**

For more information, call Riverbend Park at 703-759-9018.

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PSA-164

## Fill the School Holiday in November with Burke Lake's Mini-Camp

Keep the kids busy on their student holiday Nov. 2 and 3, 2020, with the "Best of Burke Lake Park" mini-camp.

Campers age 8 to 12 will get to enjoy all of the fun activities Burke Lake Park has to offer. There will be time for archery, disc golf, mini golf, games, crafts and more. There's even a reptile program that lets kids learn about the creatures that call Burke Lake home.

The program runs from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday and Tuesday, so send your campers with a snack, drink and lunch. The cost of the mini-camp is \$140 per child.

Burke Lake Park is located at 7315 Ox Road, Fairfax Station, Virginia. For more information, call 703-323-6600, or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/burke-lake](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/burke-lake).

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PSA-165

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## Hone your Drawing Skills on Nature Walks at Huntley Meadows

What better way to learn about “Nature Drawing” than on the nature trails at Huntley Meadows Park?

Join local naturalist and artist Margaret Wohler on woodland and wetland trails to learn about and draw the plants and animals that live at Huntley Meadows. This series of classes will focus on basic drawing skills, color theory, perspective, shading, gesture, contour and realistic rendering. The emphasis is on experience over product. All supplies are included.

This program for adults begins on Monday, Oct. 19, 2020, and runs for five weeks. Classes meet from 4 to 5:30 p.m. The cost is \$82 per person. Please dress comfortably for spending time outdoors.

Huntley Meadows Park is located at 3701 Lockheed Blvd., Alexandria, Virginia. For more information, call 703-768-2525, or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/huntley-meadows](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/huntley-meadows).

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PSA-166

## Let the Kids Go Wild with Wild Critters at Lewinsville House

Want to know more about wildlife near your house or school?

Bring the youngsters to Lewinsville House to learn about the plants, animals and habitats near you. The “Wild Critters” program will be filled with hands-on activities, crafts, songs and games. It runs for five weeks, beginning Wednesday, Oct. 21, 2020. Parents/guardians are required to attend with children and hopefully learn something new, too.

This program is designed for children age 3 to 6. It runs from 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m., and the cost is \$40 per child. For more information, call Riverbend Park at 703-759-9018.

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PSA-167

## Make Like a Moth and Be Drawn to a Campfire at ECLP

If you've ever wondered why a moth is attracted to light, then come to the "Night Flyers Campfire" at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park and go mothing with a naturalist.

Once you've finished looking for these delicate flyers, gather around the campfire, make s'mores and discover why moths are drawn to light. Learn what you can do to conserve them.

The program on Friday, Oct. 16, 2020, is designed for participants age 4 to adult. It runs from 6 to 7 p.m. and supports the Earth Day theme "Protect Our Species." The cost is \$8 per person.

Ellanor C. Lawrence Park is located at 5040 Walney Road, Chantilly, Virginia. For more information, call 703-631-0013, or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/eclawrence](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/eclawrence).

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PSA-168

## Pick a Pumpkin and Learn some Halloween History at Sully

Come to Sully Historic Site and discover how pumpkins came to be associated with Halloween.

After a little seasonal history lesson, pick a pumpkin to decorate. Paint supplies will be provided. This program is designed for family members of all ages, and family or pod groups will be provided their own table at a socially distant spot and given their own supplies.

During the “Colorful Pumpkins” event on Saturday, Oct. 17, 2020, there will be six family groups per 45-minute session with up to six people in each group. Spots are filling quickly, so don’t wait to choose your time slot. The cost is \$20 per family group. Reservations up to two days before the event are required.

This event will be taking place outdoors. The rain date is Sunday, Oct. 18, 2020.

Sully Historic Site is located at 3650 Historic Sully Way, Chantilly, Virginia. For more information, call 703-437-1794, or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/sully-historic-site](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/sully-historic-site).

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