



FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY



NEWS RELEASE

Ben Boxer, PIO
E-mail: parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov
Inquiries: 703-246-5092

June 27, 2024

Celebrate America's Birthday at Lake Fairfax Park on June 29

Grab your best red, white and blue garb and head over Lake Fairfax Park to celebrate Independence Day with friends and family this Saturday, June 29, beginning at noon! This star-spangled event will provide an evening to remember, with exciting features including food trucks, live music and a dazzling fireworks show to cap off the daylong festivities.

Here's everything that you need to know in preparation for the big day as it quickly approaches:

- **The Fireworks, Food and Fun event begins at noon.** Picnic tables and sitting areas in the park will be available on a first-come-first-serve basis.
- Parking charges at the gate will be in effect beginning at 10 a.m. on June 29 and will be \$20 per vehicle. [Purchase parking tickets online](#) today and save \$5 per vehicle! Pedestrians and bicyclists are free.
- The park will close to any new arrivals at approximately 8:45 p.m.
- The fireworks show will begin shortly after 9 p.m. as the final event for the night.
- Food vendors, including **Spinners Deli, Taha Ice Cream, Jay Vending, El Chef Latino and Frothy Mug**, will be available and open for business from noon until 9 p.m.
- Live music will commence in the afternoon. Come see performances by **Frying Pan Farm Park Jam Band, 2nd Sole and The Sonic Boom**.
- **The Water Mine Family Swimmin' Hole** water park will be open for guests to enjoy from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tickets sold separately. For more information, visit the Water Mine website at <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/watermine/>.

It is recommended that visitors arrive before 8 p.m., so that they have time to find a spot to view the fireworks show. Get ready to sparkle, shine and indepen-dance the night away!

Lake Fairfax Park is located at 1400 Lake Fairfax Drive in Reston. For additional information, visit the [Lake Fairfax Park website](#) or call 703-471-5415. You may also contact the Public Information Office at parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov.

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The Fourth of July fireworks show is sponsored by the Fairfax County Park Foundation. The Fairfax County Park Foundation, a 501(c)(3), supports the Fairfax County Park Authority by raising private funds, obtaining grants, and creating partnerships that supplement tax dollars to meet our community's needs for park land, facilities, and services. Visit the [Fairfax County Park Foundation website](#) for more information or call 703-324-8582.





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Chill Out in the Park During National Ice Cream Month

Summer fun at the parks is getting sweeter this July as the Fairfax County Park Authority prepares to celebrate National Ice Cream Month. With a wide variety of deliciously exciting events and promotions, there is something worth melting for that that all of our ice cream lovers can enjoy in the parks this summer.

Burke Lake Ice Cream Parlor:

Visit the [Burke Lake Ice Cream Parlor](#), which is stocked with decadent flavors of ice cream, snacks and drinks, for a great way to cool off after a day of summer fun at [Burke Lake Park](#). Shelter D is nearby, so the parlor is great for summer birthday parties and gatherings. The parlor is also located near the train station, mini golf course and a playground. The ice cream parlor is open from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on weekends and holidays and 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on weekdays.

Savor the Flavor with Park Programs:

Do you want to learn how to make your own ice cream? Maybe you're just looking to enjoy a program in the park while eating ice cream! In honor of National Ice Cream Month, the Park Authority has several programs that will have everyone screaming for ice cream, including:

- **Dairy Days – Historic Ice Cream and Butter Making** at [Sully Historic Site](#). Churn butter, crank ice cream, milk a fake cow, play 18th-century games and experience the products of a historic dairy. [Multiple time slots are available](#) on July 5, 13, and 19. Cost \$8.
- **Garden Tour and Ice Cream** at [Green Spring Gardens](#). Tour the summer gardens with a Green Spring Master Gardener docent. Finish at the Historic House lawn to enjoy delicious ices. [Sign up to attend](#) on Saturday, July 20 from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Cost \$15.
- **Games and Ice Cream** at [Colvin Run Mill](#). Experience hands-on history through simple recipes, crafts and games. Hand-crank homemade ice cream, churn your own delicious butter and cook over a fire. Learn how to make candles and play historical games. [The Cooking & Crafts Camp](#) is for kids ages 5 to 8, and it takes place July 15-19. The cost is \$415.
- **Cool Down After a Round** with ice cream at one of our golf courses. For more information, visit FCPA's [golf website](#).





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Go Plastic Free in July at Park Authority Farmers Markets

Farmers markets are going plastic free this July in support of Plastic Free July, a global movement that is fighting for a solution to harmful plastic pollution. Plastic Free July will run from July 3 to July 28. The movement has already influenced more than 100 million participants in 190 countries, and the Park Authority is looking to add to those numbers through its farmers markets all month long!

Throughout Plastic Free July, there will be fun activities, great reusable giveaways, and a variety of environmental partners demonstrating how easy it is to go plastic bag-free at the farmers markets. In addition, the Park Authority has provided shopping baskets to produce vendors and compostable bags to all market vendors and will be giving away 5,000 washable produce bags and 2,500 reusable shopping bags during Plastic Free July. You can also make a difference by bringing your own reusable bags to the market and refusing to use plastic this July.

From the woods to the water, plastic is extremely damaging to all environments and the life that grows there. The reduction of plastic waste helps keep our communities clean and healthy. Join the Park Authority in its efforts to reduce plastic use and feel free to introduce some anti-plastic practices into your own lifestyle this month that keep our community clean and plastic-free.

Learn more about Plastic Free July at the Park Authority's Farmers Markets [here](#). Plastic Free July at the Farmers Markets is provided in partnership with [Clean Fairfax](#), [350 Fairfax](#) and [Trace – The Zero Waste Store](#).

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Wonder Wagon on a Roll in Fairfax County Parks

The Wonder Wagon is putting the pedal to the metal for its Summer Park Activation series. The Park Authority's new mobile nature center launched its 2024 Summer Activation series on June 19 at Justice Park with a wagonload of guided and fun-filled activities for the community. With 10 additional parks included in the series, our team invites you to accelerate your summer experience in a park near you:

- **Friday, July 5:** Bruin Park, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
- **Wednesday, July 17:** Mount Vernon Woods Park, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
- **Tuesday, Aug. 6:** Centre Ridge North Park, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
- **Thursday, Aug. 8:** Tyler Park, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
- **Wednesday, Aug. 14:** South Lakes Drive Park, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
- **Monday, Aug. 19:** Clemyjontri Park, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
- **Wednesday, Aug. 21:** Historic Centreville Park, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
- **Thursday, Aug. 29:** Ossian Hall, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
- **Sunday, Sept. 1:** Baileys Park, 4 p.m. - 7 p.m.
- **Thursday, Sept. 5:** Loisdale Park, 4 p.m. - 7 p.m.

The Wonder Wagon brings nature and stewardship education directly to residents through engaging and free activities. Programs and activities give residents a greater insight into their local environment and how the plants, animals and bugs interact within their ecosystem. The Wonder Wagon offers a variety of interactive activities, including plant exploration, bug catching, animal observation, scavenger hunts and bird watching! Guaranteeing a "wheelie" good time, the Wonder Wagon provides children with additional opportunities to continue their exploration of the outdoors and to inspire them to find the beauty of nature in all environments.

The Wonder Wagon was made possible thanks to the significant support of local community members and nature enthusiasts. It is also made possible thanks to the financial support provided from the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors and dozens of generous contributions -- including Pohanka Automotive, the Scott A. & Phyllis P. Crabtree Family Foundation Inc., National Park Service/Chesapeake Gateways, and The Environment Fund of the Community Foundation for Northern Virginia -- through the Fairfax County Park Foundation.

For more information about the Wonder Wagon and a complete calendar of upcoming events, visit the Wonder Wagon website at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/wonder-wagon.

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