



FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY

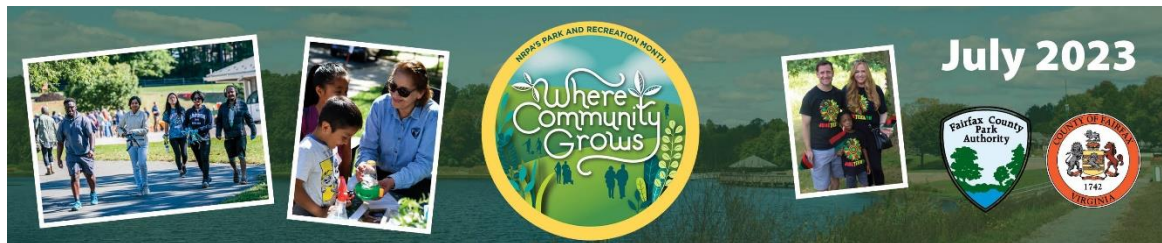


NEWS RELEASE

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June 29, 2023

Communities Grow Through Parks and Recreation



National Park and Recreation Month, observed during the month of July, was established in 1985 for the purpose of promoting strong, vibrant and resilient communities through the power of parks and recreation. This year's theme – “Where Community Grows” – was established by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) to celebrate the vital role that parks and recreation plays in bringing people together, providing essential services and fostering the growth of our communities.



“I’ve had the privilege to see, firsthand, this amazing reality, as our residents engage with one another through play, exercise, service, special events and any number of shared interests,” said Fairfax County Park Authority Executive Director Jai Cole. “That’s what makes parks magical. There is literally something for everyone, and often times, the experiences we have teach us something about ourselves, as well as help us forge connections we may have otherwise never known were possible.”

Parks sit at the center of so many experiences and memories we cherish, such as the first experiences in nature or our introduction to a favorite hobby or physical activity. They are places to gather with friends and family, spaces to celebrate life’s special moments, spots of respite and healing, sites that connect us with essential community services, and so much more.

This year, the Fairfax County Park Authority Board, once again, passed a resolution declaring July Park and Recreation Month. Throughout the month, we invite you to expand your community of friends and acquaintances by enjoying the many different experiences available at Fairfax County parks, rec centers, golf courses, trails and more! Visit the Park Authority’s Park and Recreation Month webpage at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/topics/park-recreation-month to see a variety of ways you can get connected!





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Grant Funds Approved for Linway Terrace Park, Frying Pan Farm Park Improvements

The Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA) Board approved two Mastenbrook Volunteer Matching Fund Grant applications totaling \$39,995 to support improvements to Linway Terrace Park and Frying Pan Farm Park. The total estimated project cost for the improvements at both sites is approximately \$1.24 million.

- **Linway Terrace Park (\$20,000)**
The McLean Little League has proposed replacing Linway Terrace Park's diamond baseball field with a synthetic turf field to provide an even and consistent playing surface that is more forgiving of wet conditions. The total cost of the project is estimated between \$1.2 and \$1.3 million. The project is to be fully funded by the McLean Little League except for the \$20,000 in grant funding provided by the Fairfax County Park Authority. The project is anticipated for completion in fall 2025.
- **Frying Pan Farm Park (\$19,995)**
The Friends of Frying Pan Farm Park has proposed replacing sections of degraded fencing with 2,666 linear feet of new oak board fencing around several of the farm's pastures. The Friends of Frying Pan Farm Park will be contributing matching funds in the amount of \$19,995 to complete the funding needed for the project. Project completion is anticipated for early 2024.



The Mastenbrook Volunteer Matching Fund Grant Program encourages public-private ventures that improve Fairfax County parks and park facilities. It is designed to fill a gap between limited bond funding and the community's desire for new or improved park facilities by assisting volunteer, community and user groups in improving park facilities by matching funds and in-kind services.

Since 1999, the program has awarded approximately \$2.08 million in grants for projects valued at more than \$15.8 million. Grants ranging from a few hundred dollars to the maximum of \$20,000 have funded such projects as trail improvements, construction of gazebos and shelters, and athletic field improvements.

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For Inclusion and ADA Support,
call 703-324-8563, TTY 711.

For more information or to apply for a matching grant, visit the Mastenbrook Grants website at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/mastenbrook-grants or call 703-324-8470. Applications can be found at <http://bit.ly/mastenbrook>.

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George Washington Rec Center to Receive Summer Makeover

The [George Washington Rec Center](#) will be temporarily closed from July 24 through August 18, 2023, for planned maintenance and improvements. Fairfax County Park Authority pools experience these kinds of closures every two years to perform a deep system cleaning and necessary maintenance work. The Park Authority is coordinating this needed work to minimize any inconvenience and deliver an improved experience for rec center members.



Some of the projects include:

- Replacement of existing sand filtration system
- Replacing lobby storefront doors
- Retiling showers
- Updates to the party room
- Deep cleaning of the pool deck

Rec center membership provides access to the Park Authority's entire network of rec centers across the county. The Franconia Rec Center, located approximately 6 miles away, is fully equipped and prepared to serve members who traditionally use the George Washington Rec Center during this temporary closure.

"We understand the inconvenience that comes with temporary closures of this nature, but the George Washington Rec Center is in need of some tender loving care and we have identified this as the most opportune time to get that work done," said Cindy Walsh, Director of the Park Authority's Park Services Division. "We appreciate the understanding and patience of the public during this closure and look forward to delivering an improved product when all is said and done."

The George Washington Rec Center is located at 8426 Old Mount Vernon Road, in Alexandria. The Franconia Rec Center is located at 6601 Telegraph Road, in Franconia. For more information, please contact the Park Authority's Public Information Office at Parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov.

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Parks Awarded Grant To Manage Invasives at Lake Accotink

The Fairfax County Park Foundation (FCPF) received a \$40,000 three-year grant as part of the Society for Ecological Restoration's (SER) Standards-based Ecological Restoration in Action program to support the Fairfax County Park Authority's Invasive Management Area (IMA) projects at Lake Accotink Park in Springfield, Virginia.

"These grant funds will help support the healthy wildlife habitat at Lake Accotink Park with invasive plant treatment focused on protecting mature trees and increasing the urban forest with more native tree plantings," said Jai Cole, executive director of the Fairfax County Park Authority. "It will particularly help with some of the harder to reach, more difficult to control invasive plants and get to areas that volunteers haven't been able to reach."



"The Fairfax County Park Foundation is grateful for this grant to fund projects that improve natural resources at Lake Accotink Park.," said Bobbi Longworth, FCPF executive director.

The grant will help treat three sites totaling approximately 7.2 acres of invasive plants at Lake Accotink. This IMA project will target vines that are threatening trees and other invasive plants that need to be kept from spreading into healthier sections of the park.

The Fairfax County Park Authority's IMA is a community-based program designed to reduce invasive plants on our parklands. This program engages volunteers and builds a community focused on taking care of natural resources. Since 2006, more than 150 acres have come under IMA management with 65 sites currently active.

"Microsoft is proud to collaborate with the Society for Ecological Restoration to deliver standards-based ecological restoration with the Fairfax County Park Authority in Fairfax County. We are excited to help implement restoration solutions on the ground that benefit both nature and people. This project aims to eliminate invasive plants, plant native trees and shrubs and encourage volunteer stewardship in support of



our commitment to support the environmental health of the communities we work in.” said Holly Beale, Senior Program Manager for Microsoft.

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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 Park Foundation at <https://fairfaxparkfoundation.org/> or call 703-324-8582.

The Society for Ecological Restoration works to ensure that ecological restoration is recognized and utilized as a fundamental component of global conservation, biodiversity and sustainable development programs, and that ecological restoration projects are designed and implemented in a way that provides people with the opportunity to not only repair ecological damage, but also improve the human condition. Learn more about the work and get involved in the network by visiting the Society for Ecological Restoration website at www.ser.org.



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Plan and Grow Your Own Garden Plot at Hogge Park

Are you ready to embark on a gardening journey and experience the joys of cultivating your own green space? Don't miss out on the opportunity to apply for a garden plot rental at Hogge Park, the newest Garden Plot Rental in the Fairfax County Park Authority's community garden rental program.

Rental garden plots are available for one growing season that runs from February to November. Plot rentals include a 6-foot-by-9-foot raised garden bed, soil, a community hose, shed access for tool storage and waste collection. All plots are wheelchair accessible.



Take the first step toward growing your own fresh produce, connecting with nature and joining a vibrant community of fellow gardeners. Don't wait, spaces are limited so secure your spot today! Boyd A. and Charlotte M. Hogge Park is located at 3139 Glen Carlyn Road in Falls Church.

For more information, please visit the Community Garden Plot Rental Program website at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring/plots.htm.

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Work To Begin on New Ruckstuhl Park in Falls Church

The Fairfax County Park Authority will soon begin work on the development of the new Ruckstuhl Park in the Providence District. Contractor TMG will soon be mobilizing on the site with active construction activity beginning by early July. During construction, neighbors may experience occasional construction traffic entering and exiting the park via Idylwood Road.

The 7.2-acre park will include a picnic pavilion, open play area, fitness cluster, a nature-themed playground, trail loop and parking lot. Total project costs are estimated at \$2.5 million and will be funded with monies from the 2020 voter-approved park bond. Construction is projected to be completed by summer 2024.

The estate of the former resident-owner, Dr. Lily Ruckstuhl, donated the property to the Northern Virginia Conservation Trust in 2009. The property was then acquired by the Park Authority in 2011, with a conservation easement prescribing certain conditions for its future use.



[The Ruckstuhl Park Master Plan](#) was developed with extensive community engagement and was approved by the Park Authority Board in 2015. The board later approved the final project scope in December 2022.

Ruckstuhl Park is located at 2445 Idylwood Road in Falls Church, Virginia. For more information, contact the Public Information Office at Parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov.

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