



# FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY



## NEWS RELEASE

Daidria Grayson, Marketing and Communications Division Director  
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Inquiries: 703-324-8700

July 31, 2025

### Tail-Waggin' Good Time at The Water Mine's Dog Daze

Get ready for your dog's favorite day of the year. Gather up your canine companions and head out to The Water Mine for a dogs-only swimming day on Saturday, Sept. 6 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. For one day only, The Water Mine's pools, sprays, showers and water playgrounds are open just to dogs to end the season on an un-fur-gettable high. Watch your furry friends dive for joy while you peruse the canine resource fair with pet-related vendors. Come out to make more dog-loving friends, entertain the whole family and have a doggone good time.

For the safety of all dogs and their humans, please observe the following rules:

- All dogs must be current on vaccinations.
- All dog handlers must be 18 years or older and supervise dogs at all times.
- No female dogs in heat or puppies younger than 3 months old.
- Aggressive or unruly dogs are not permitted.
- Owners are responsible for cleaning up after their dogs.
- Dogs swim at owners' risk.
- Humans are not permitted in the pool.

Entry costs \$15 per dog, and all proceeds go to benefit parks through the Fairfax County Park Foundation. Buy tickets in advance to secure your dog's spot — purchase tickets at the door if capacity allows.

Learn more about FCPA's dog-focused activities and events on the Dogs of Fairfax County website.

Dog Daze is presented by Fairfax County Park Authority in partnership with the Fairfax County Park Foundation.

The Water Mine Family Swimmin' Hole at Lake Fairfax is located at 1400 Lake Fairfax Drive, Reston, Virginia. For more information, visit The Water Mine website.

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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 website or call 703-324-8582.*

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### Drop-In Interviews for Seasonal Jobs Begin at Burke Lake Park!

Looking for a fun and fulfilling part-time job this fall? Spend your season at Burke Lake Park, one of Fairfax County's most beautiful outdoor destinations! Drop-in interviews at the Burke Lake Park Info Center will be held Aug. 7, 8, 14 and 15 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. (no appointment needed!) Come by to explore job opportunities, complete an application and interview on the spot all in one visit!

#### Available positions include:

- Campground Attendant
- Information Center Attendant
- Lakefront Maintenance
- Marina Attendant
- Miniature Golf Attendant
- Manager on Duty (MOD)
- Train Station Attendant

Can't make it to the Drop-In interviews? No worries! View job ads and apply now for open positions by visiting the Burke Lake Jobs webpage at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/burke-lake/employment-opportunities](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/burke-lake/employment-opportunities).

View all employment opportunities with FCPA by visiting our Jobs website at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/jobs](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/jobs).

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

For more information about employment, contact the Park Authority at [FCPAJOBS@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:FCPAJOBS@fairfaxcounty.gov) or call 703-324-8792.

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## Celebrate Local Food and Community During National Farmers Market Week

The Fairfax County Park Authority is joining markets across the country to celebrate National Farmers Market Week from Aug. 3-9, 2025. Join us for live music, kids' activities and free giveaways at all Park Authority Farmers Markets!

National Farmers Market Week highlights the vital role farmers markets play in supporting local food systems. For more than 30 years, the Park Authority's farmers markets have shaped how Northern Virginia eats, shops and connects with food. Each year, the markets support more than 130 farmers and food producers, while serving both the community and the environment.

The markets offer more than fresh produce and homemade food. They also provide a free food scrap collection service to reduce landfill waste. Since 2023, the program has diverted more than 280,000 pounds of food waste from landfills, turning it into compost instead. This year, the markets went plastic bag-free. Customers can now pick up free reusable bags and washable produce bags at the market information tent.

To make fresh food accessible to everyone, five Park Authority farmers markets accept SNAP benefits. For these shoppers, benefits are doubled—up to \$40—allowing them to purchase twice as much fresh produce. This program brought in \$98,000 in sales last year, benefiting families and supporting local farmers. The markets also host "Nourish Your Neighbor," a fresh food drive held on the last market day of the month. Shoppers can buy extra produce and donate it on site to local food pantries that help neighbors in need.

From picking up veggies or dinner to reducing waste through composting or donating food, every visit to the farmers market makes a difference. Celebrate National Farmers Market Week with us from Aug. 3-9 and see how local food strengthens communities and protects the planet!

For more information and market locations, visit the Farmers Market website at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarket](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarket).

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## Resident Curator Applications Accepted for Lahey Lost Valley through Aug. 30

An application for curatorship has been received for the Lahey Lost Valley historic house. The Fairfax County Park Authority will continue to accept resident curator applications for the rehabilitation and long-term maintenance of the house until Saturday, Aug. 30, 2025, by 5 p.m.

The Resident Curator Program offers long-term lease agreements to qualified tenants in beautiful public park settings. The curator leases are without charge in exchange for financial commitment and approved rehabilitation of the Park Authority's underutilized historic properties.

The Lahey Lost Valley House, located at 9750 Brookmeadow Drive in Vienna, is a mid-18th century brick hall-parlor house with a 1940s brick addition. The house is located on land granted to William Gunnell in 1730. His son Henry Gunnell, together with Henry's wife Catherine, built a working plantation on the site by 1760. The Gunnell family were leaders in Fairfax County throughout the 18th and 19th centuries. The family continued to own the property through the 1930s.

In 1940, the house and 45 acres were sold to Richard and Carlotta Lahey. The Laheys moved a wood framed kitchen addition off the brick house and used it as a freestanding artist's studio. In its place, the Laheys constructed a two-story brick addition. Between 1990 and 1991, Carlotta Lahey arranged with FCPA a bequest to be included in her will to donate the house, furnishings and 22 acres of land. FCPA took possession of the property after Mrs. Lahey passed away in 1999.

To identify potential lessees in the Resident Curator Program, FCPA is seeking proposals for the rehabilitation of the house in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation. Curators will be determined through an open and competitive process, based on several criteria, including a formal proposal, demonstrated experience and competency in historic preservation techniques, financial capabilities and the incorporation of public benefits.

Complete application forms and additional information about the properties are available by visiting Lahey Lost Valley webpage at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/resident-curator-program/lahey-lost-valley](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/resident-curator-program/lahey-lost-valley).

For more information, contact Stephanie Langton, Resident Curator Program manager at 703-324-8791 or by email at [stephanie.langton@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:stephanie.langton@fairfaxcounty.gov).



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## Uncover Wonder: 3 New Stops Added to the Discovery Trail

Calling all wanderers, explorers and trailblazers — your next adventure lies along the Discovery Trail! The Fairfax County Park Authority is proud to announce that three exciting new sites have been added to the odyssey!

Discover hidden wildlife hotspots at Huntley Meadows, step into a bygone era at Grist Mill Park's historic barn and check out Mount Vernon Rec Center's brand-new recreation facilities.

The Discovery Trail Map invites families, friends and individuals of all ages on a free, self-guided adventure through featured parks. Explore the outdoors, learn something new and enter for the chance to win awesome prizes!

### How to Participate:

Pick up a free Discovery Trail Map at Park Authority Rec Centers, Nature Centers or Golf Courses or download it from the Discovery Trail Map website.

- Visit eight featured parks, answer a fun trivia question at each site and fill in the answer on the map.
- Complete the trail and turn in your map to one of five prize redemption locations by **Sept. 1, 2025** to earn an amusement prize pack and be entered to win one of 25 grand prizes. Grand prizes include a backpack with binoculars, foldable frisbee, collapsible pet bowl, boat hat and first aid kit.

“The Discovery Trail map began in 2014 and has been a popular summer activity with families ever since. Each year the Discovery Trail Map has occurred, a committee of Park Authority staff have chosen a theme. As the Fairfax County Park Authority celebrates its 75th anniversary, participants will be able to explore the parks and learn of the history dating back thousands of years. Today, the Park Authority is incorporating innovative solutions at sites to preserve parks for generations to come.” – Jai Cole, Executive Director of the Fairfax County Park Authority

Blaze the trail and discover the stories that shaped Fairfax County's past, present and future.

*The 2025 Fairfax County Park Authority Discovery Trail Program 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*



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