



FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY



NEWS RELEASE

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September 19, 2024

Park Authority Seeks Input on Proposed Improvements at Hybla Valley Park

Several improvements are being considered at Hybla Valley Park in Alexandria. The proposed design includes the conversion of the existing tennis court to a combination futsal and basketball court and the addition of a new playground. For the next 30 days, the Fairfax County Park Authority welcomes feedback from the community on these proposed improvements. Community members are encouraged to visit <https://engage.fairfaxcounty.gov/hyblavalleypark> to participate in a brief survey and submit additional comments. All submissions must be received by 4:30 p.m. on Oct. 18, 2024.

Hybla Valley Park is a modest 2.3-acre community park in the Franconia District. It is adjacent to Hybla Valley Elementary School and easily accessible from the surrounding neighborhoods. The park's master plan was approved in 1979, which resulted in the construction of two tennis courts, a tennis practice wall and a small parking area. A playground, a multi-use court and picnic area were included in the master plan but were never developed.

In 2023, the Park Authority completed the Parks, Recreation, Open Space and Access (PROSA) Strategy to provide a framework for equitable access to facilities and amenities throughout FCPA park system. The strategy focuses on access to parks, complete park experiences, habitat connectivity and prioritization of recreational needs with equity in the forefront. Using this strategic framework, the Park Authority identified Hybla Valley Park as an opportunity for investment that will have a lasting positive impact on the surrounding community.

FCPA is committed to providing a diverse range of recreational opportunities throughout the county. Research in this area indicates the need for additional futsal and basketball opportunities for the surrounding community.

Hybla Valley Park is located at 3431 Lockheed Blvd. in Alexandria. Questions about this project can be directed to the Park Authority Public Information Office at parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov.

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Laurel Hill Golf Club Hosts Student Appreciation Day

Golfers of all ages are invited to Laurel Hill Golf Club for Student Appreciation Day, hosted by The Eisman Golf Academy on Sept. 19 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. This event is free, but reservations are required. The day promises a fantastic blend of skill-building activities and fun, including:

- **Longest Drive Competition:** Show off your skills and compete in our Longest Drive Competition for men, women and juniors (12 and under). Prizes will be presented for the longest drive in each division.
- **Delicious Food:** Savor a selection of treats to keep your energy up throughout the day.
- **Live Demos:** Get insights from the pros with live demonstrations of cutting-edge golf technology, including the Swing Catalyst, Smart2Move, Gasp and Custom Fit.
- **Range and Putting Contests:** Test your precision and win fun prizes in our range and putting contests.
- **Short Game Poker:** Sharpen your short game skills in a poker-style competition.

The Eisman Golf Academy – ranked a Top Golf Teacher in Virginia by Golf Digest – offers a variety of lessons, classes and camps at Laurel Hill Golf Club. The academy's Performance Lab is a state-of-the-art facility designed for golfers of all levels, who are serious about improving their game, and features cutting-edge technology and equipment that provides detailed analysis and feedback, allowing our coaches to tailor your instruction to a player's specific needs.

The Laurel Hill Golf Club is located at 8701 Laurel Crest Drive in Lorton.

For more information and to RSVP for the Student Appreciation Day event, please visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/golf/laurel-hill/student-appreciation-day/092124.

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New Partnership Names Park Authority's Laurel Hill George Mason University's Home Golf Course

The Fairfax County Park Authority and George Mason University Golf are proud to announce a new partnership naming the Park Authority's Laurel Hill Golf Club as the university golf team's home course. The collaboration aims to enhance the training and development opportunities for George Mason student-athletes and will also provide opportunities for expanded Park Authority summer camps utilizing the George Mason Field House in Fairfax.

"For many years Laurel Hill and George Mason Golf have had a partnership, but both parties wanted to make this partnership official," said George Mason Head Coach Greg Pieczynski. "It makes sense on both sides. We are Virginia's largest university residing within Fairfax County. Laurel Hill Golf Club is Fairfax County's premier and flagship golf course. Our team has loved coming here to practice and play. Many of our team members from the area and state have competed at events at Laurel Hill over the years. We want to continue that relationship in the future."

The partnership between George Mason and the Park Authority marks a significant step for both organizations, creating opportunities for growth and collaboration in our community. The Patriots men's golf team will have access to the golf course and its facilities for practices, training sessions and team events. In return, the team will host two junior golf clinics at a Park Authority golf course and the university will provide access to its Field House to support Park Authority summer camp programming. Access will vary from year to year and be based on the team's utilization of Laurel Hill Golf Club.

"This is a huge milestone in our partnership with George Mason University golf and has significant meaning as we work toward developing young golfers and fans of the sport throughout Fairfax County," said Ryan Carmen, director of Golf Fairfax. "We're very excited that, through the formalization of our partnership, we will be able to provide junior golf clinics hosted by a collegiate golf team at our courses, and we have the added benefit of expanding our variety of summer camp offerings with the use of the George Mason Field House in Fairfax."

The Laurel Hill Golf Club was constructed in 2005 and has perennially been recognized as one of the premier public courses in Virginia. The golf club boasts robust development facilities, including a 30-station practice range with both mats and natural grass tees, a multitiered putting green, chipping green, and sand bunkers. Laurel Hill is also home to the award-winning Eisman Golf Academy, with a state-of-the-art developmental technology for helping players improve their game.

Laurel Hill Golf Club is located at 8701 Laurel Crest Drive in Lorton. For more information about the course, please call 703-493-8849 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/golf/laurel-hill.





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Park Authority Revises Design for Wakefield Park Tennis, Pickleball

In June, the Fairfax County Park Authority unveiled a proposal to reconfigure the tennis and pickleball court area to enhance the dedicated courts for both sports and opened a public comment period to receive community input. In response to that call, more than 150 comments were received with general support favoring the realignment of the court configuration and included several consideration items for the Park Authority to evaluate.

Park Authority staff have worked creatively and within the available project budget and geographic footprint of the site to revise the court realignment in response to public input received. The project design includes converting tennis court 11, currently in need of repair, into four dedicated pickleball courts, returning the two dual-use courts (courts 9 and 10) to tennis only. A second phase of the project will replace one-half of a walled practice court with two additional dedicated pickleball courts. The new design includes increased court margins and a north-south orientation for all pickleball courts. As the result of the project, Wakefield Park will have 10 dedicated tennis courts and 8 dedicated pickleball courts. The revised layout will increase the net amount of pickleball courts and alleviate competition over the use of dual-use courts for either tennis or pickleball.

The Park Authority anticipates work to begin on Phase I of the project in spring 2025. The start date of Phase II will be dependent upon the permitting process, but once work begins it is expected that Phase II will take approximately three months to complete. All times are subject to change based on project approvals, permitting and weather conditions during the project window. In total, the project cost is estimated at \$300,000, with funding provided by the Board of Supervisors in a joint FY 2024 Third Quarter Budget Consideration Item from Chairman Jeff McKay and Braddock District Supervisor James Walkinshaw.

Supervisor Walkinshaw commended the Park Authority for their diligent work to redesign this proposal in response to community input. "Wakefield Park presents a great opportunity to help meet the growing demand for dedicated pickleball courts. The Park Authority went above and beyond in thinking creatively to develop a solution to address the community's needs and concerns. I am proud to have been able to work with the Chairman and Park Authority on this project. It represents a win-win for both the pickleball and tennis communities."

The Fairfax County Park Authority remains committed to providing accessible playing surfaces to support the popularity of racket sports countywide. With this project, the Park Authority will have a total of 90 pickleball courts and 193 tennis courts at parks throughout the county. To locate athletic courts and other park amenities near you, please visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/locator.



Additional details will be provided as the construction plan for the project is defined. For more information, please contact the Public Information Office at Parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov.

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