



FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY



NEWS RELEASE

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November 7, 2024

Friends of Lake Accotink Park Host Second Annual Beaver Boogie 5K

Back by popular demand! The Friends of Lake Accotink Park (FLAP) will host its second-annual Beaver Boogie 5K at Lake Accotink Park at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Nov. 30. More than just another fun run, the Beaver Boogie is a great opportunity to join with family, friends and neighbors in supporting one of Fairfax County's largest and most visited parks. The event runs through the park, creating a scenic and picture-perfect atmosphere for all runners and walkers to enjoy themselves while being active.

Registration is \$25 for each participant for the 5K Fun Run/Walk. Additionally, racers may also purchase a \$10 pasta dinner meal deal to be hosted at Kilroy's on Friday, Nov. 29 from 5 to 7 p.m. All information and tickets are available online through Friends of Lake Accotink Park's event website. All proceeds from this event are used to support FLAP projects and programs that directly benefit Lake Accotink Park.

Registered participants may pick up their race packets at the pasta dinner on Friday night from 5 to 7 p.m. at Kilroy's (located at 5250 A Port Royal Road, Springfield) or on Saturday morning at Lake Accotink Park beginning at 9 a.m.

Lake Accotink is located at 7500 Accotink Park Road in Springfield. For event details and questions, please visit the Friends of Lake Accotink Park's event website, or contact them at contact@flapaccotink.org.

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The Friends of Lake Accotink (FLAP) is a certified 501(c)3 organization that is committed to protect, restore, preserve, and educate all concerning the natural, historical, and cultural resources of Lake Accotink Park. FLAP is an all-volunteer organization, and every donation directly fuels project and programs at Lake Accotink Park.





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Three Farmers Market Locations Extend Their Season Into December

The Fairfax County Park Authority is excited to provide locally grown produce and other food items at farmers markets at locations throughout the county. While most market locations begin to wrap things up with the turning of the season, three market locations have extended their market schedule into December. The Burke, Reston, and McCutcheon/Mount Vernon farmers market will continue to be open in December, giving the community fresh options as the weather starts to cool down.

The extended season schedule for these farmers markets can be found below.

Reston Farmers Market
April 27 to Dec. 7, 8 a.m. to noon
Lake Anne Village Center, 1609-A Washington Plaza, Reston

McCutcheon/Mount Vernon Farmers Market
April 17 to Dec. 18, 8 a.m. to noon
Sherwood Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria

Burke Farmers Market
April 20 – Dec. 21, 8 a.m. to noon
VRE Parking Lot, 5671 Roberts Parkway, Burke

For a complete schedule of remaining Park Authority Farmers Market locations this fall and winter, visit the Farmers Market website.

Be sure to visit the Burke, Reston and McCutcheon/Mount Vernon markets to support your favorite vendors through the season, and to welcome our new vendors to the Extended Season. Visit the Farmers Market website for more information regarding the extended season and market locations.

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Ribbon-Cutting for New Amenity at McNaughton Fields Park Nov. 16

The Fairfax County Park Authority, Mount Vernon District Supervisor Dan Storck and members of the Woodlawn Little League community invite the public to celebrate the official ribbon-cutting for the newly completed restroom and concessions building at McNaughton Fields Park. The ceremony will take place on Saturday, Nov. 16 at 10 a.m.

This new facility marks the realization of a long-held vision for McNaughton Fields Park since its establishment in 2016. The building includes permanent restrooms, a concessions stand and storage space built on an existing concrete pad equipped with utilities prepared for this addition.

Join the Park Authority, Supervisor Dan Storck and the Woodlawn Little League community to celebrate the completion of this long-awaited amenity.

- **When:** Saturday, Nov. 16, 2024
- **Time:** 10 a.m.
- **Where:** McNaughton Fields Park, 5320 Pole Road, Fort Belvoir

For questions about the event, contact the Park Authority's Communications Office at parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov.





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Fairfax County Park Authority Celebrates New Playground and Outdoor Fun at Muddy Hole Farm Park

Families, friends, and community members gathered at Muddy Hole Farm Park on Nov. 4 to celebrate the opening of a brand-new playground and enjoy a fun-filled afternoon exploring nature. Hosted by the Fairfax County Park Authority in partnership with Supervisor Rodney Lusk, the event marked the official ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new playground, adding an exciting feature to the park.

“This is what the parks are all about,” commented Park Authority Executive Director Jai Cole, seeing children and parents enjoying their evening in the park with the Wonder Wagon and on the new playground. “We’re in the business of fun, and there’s no more rewarding experience than seeing so many neighbors coming together and having a great time talking and playing together.”

The new playground equipment replaced a pre-existing equipment that was originally installed in 2002 and was in need of replacement. The playground was designed to provide a modernized playground experience for children between the ages of 2 and 12. The new equipment includes a slide, climbing and sensory features and a double-bay swing set. The playground surface was also replaced with Poured-In-Place surfacing for added safety and accessibility.

The evening’s festivities also featured the Wonder Wagon, the Park Authority’s popular Mobile Nature Center. Visitors of all ages participated in games, hands-on educational activities, and interactive exhibits that brought local wildlife and ecosystems to life. The event provided a meaningful opportunity for the community to connect with the outdoors and discover the new amenities that Muddy Hole Farm Park has to offer.

Supervisor Lusk shared his enthusiasm for the event and the new park facilities, stating, “I am thrilled that we were able to replace the aging playground equipment and bring in modernized features that will continue to serve as a fun and safe gathering place for children and families from the surrounding neighborhood. Our parks bring us together to play, relax, and just enjoy time as a community, and I’m confident this playground will create lasting memories for years to come.”

The 13.6-acre Muddy Hole Farm Park is located at 7941 Kidd St. in Alexandria. In addition to the new playground, the park includes tennis and basketball courts and open fields for recreation. For more information, contact the Park Authority’s Communications Office at parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov.





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Poetry in the Parks: Parks and the Arts Celebrate Natural Connection

The Fairfax County Park Authority and ArtsFairfax, joined by Supervisors Kathy Smith (Sully District) and Jimmy Bierman (Dranesville District) celebrated the unveiling of two new plaques at Ellanor C. Lawrence and Riverbend Parks to inspire creativity in nature with Poetry in the Parks. The initiative, created by outgoing Fairfax County Poet Laureate Danielle Badra, encourages parkgoers to contribute creative writing, poetry and illustrations inspired by park scenes to ArtsFairfax's digital collection of Poetry in the Parks.

Watch the video: <https://youtu.be/1Rt8tU5dKNI>

The Poetry in the Parks project has focused on bringing parkgoers and poetry lovers into the same space through poetry readings and workshops at several area parks including Riverbend Park, Ellanor C. Lawrence Park, Huntly Meadows, Green Spring Gardens and Observatory Park at Turner Farm. Works collected from these events are currently included in the Poetry in the Parks collection.

"Nature is the ultimate canvas and we're surrounded by it every day in the parks; that's what makes Poetry in the Parks such a natural connection," said Park Authority Executive Director, Jai Cole. "In addition to providing avenues for active recreation and physical fitness, parks also provide opportunities to exercise our minds through peaceful reflection, creative thinking, curiosity and learning. This project creates a tremendous opportunity for us all to contribute to our own experiences to our community story."

Learn more about the Poetry in the Parks program online at artsfairfax.org/poetry-in-the-parks.

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Magic Begins in the Park: Registration Open for Holiday Festivities

Get ready for a wonderful winter holiday experience! The Fairfax County Park Authority's holiday and winter programs are here, and registration is NOW OPEN for select festive events that have become traditions for families all across the county. Don't miss out on the chance to bring a little extra sparkle to your season.

Some of the Park Authority's featured events include:

Experience the Holidays at Colvin Run Mill

Embrace the spirit of yesteryear with festive activities at this historic site. Join us for lantern tours, a children's holiday shopping experience and meet Santa himself!

- Holiday Lantern Tour: Dec. 6-7, 5:30 or 6:30 p.m., \$12
- Children's Holiday Shopping at Historic Colvin Run: Dec. 7-8, 11 a.m.-2:30 p.m., \$7
- Santa at the Mill: Dec. 14 (3-5:30 p.m.) & Dec. 15 (2-4:30 p.m.), \$10
- Sensory-Friendly Santa at the Mill: Dec. 14 (12:30-2:15 p.m.) & Dec. 15 (11:30 a.m.-1:15 p.m.), \$40 per group (up to five in a group)

Holiday on the Farm at Frying Pan Farm Park

Celebrate the holidays with an evening of wagon rides, animal interactions and visits with Santa. Enjoy food, indoor activities, and cozy campfires.

- Dec. 6-7, Dec. 13-14, Dec. 20-21, 4:30-7:30 p.m., \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door

Winter Wonderland at Burke Lake Park

Climb aboard the Holiday Express for a train ride, spin on the Carolers Carousel, play Gingerbread Man Golf and savor s'mores by the fire. Meet Santa, sip hot chocolate and enjoy the season's warmth.

- Weekends: Dec. 7-8, Dec. 14-15, Dec. 21-22, 11 a.m.-5 p.m., \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door

The fun doesn't stop here! For a complete list of upcoming festivities, check out our Holiday Sneak Peek and secure your spot in the season's most magical events.

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