

Fairfax County
Park Authority



Elly Doyle

PARK SERVICE AWARDS

Virtual Watch Party

Friday, November 18, 2022

Chairman's Choice Award

Harold L. Strickland Partnership and Collaboration Award

Eakin Philanthropy Awards

Elly Doyle Park Service Awards

Justice, Equity, Inclusion and Diversity Award

Outstanding Volunteer Recognition



Program

Musical Performance of Try Everything by the Westfield High School Chamber Singers under the direction of Katie H. Pierce, Director

Opening Remarks

Dr. Cynthia Jacobs Carter, Lee District Rep
Fairfax County Park Authority Board
Chair, Awards Committee

Ronald Kendall, Mason District Rep
Fairfax County Park Authority Board
Vice Chair Awards Committee

Welcoming Remarks

William G. Bouie, Chairman
Fairfax County Park Authority Board

Tribute and Presentation of Chairman's Choice Award to Ellamae "Elly" Doyle

Keynote Address

Jeffrey McKay, Chairman
Fairfax County Board of Supervisors

Presentation of the Harold Strickland Partnership and Collaboration Award

Presentation of the Fairfax County Park Foundation Eakin Awards

Bobbi Longworth, Executive Director
Fairfax County Park Foundation

Anita Herrera, Board Chair
Park Foundation Board of Directors

Laura Eakin Erlacher, Vice Chair
Park Foundation Board of Directors

Presentation of the Elly Doyle Park Service Awards Youth, Special Recognition and Elly Doyle

Presentation of the inaugural Justice Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Award

Jai Cole, Executive Director
Fairfax County Park Authority

Celebration of the 2022 Park Authority Outstanding Volunteers

Closing Remarks

Tonight's Awards

CHAIRMAN'S CHOICE AWARDS

The Fairfax County Park Authority Board established the Chairman's Choice Award in 2019 to recognize outstanding long-term support, service to and advocacy on behalf of the Park Authority. This award honors those whose efforts have provided a critical contribution to the agency and helped sustain and expand its nationally accredited facilities and programs. The contributions of the recipient of this award must support the One Fairfax policy.

Chairman's Choice recipients must demonstrate significant contributions to the Park Authority over a period of five years or more. The award recognizes outstanding, tangible support in areas such as land growth, facility development, financial management, financial support, legislation, or a combination of such factors. The award shall be given periodically as deemed appropriate by the Chairman of the Park Board and the members of the Park Authority Board.

This award may recognize an individual or organization and is the only Park Authority Board award open to seated elected or appointed officials as well as Park Authority Board members.

HAROLD L. STRICKLAND PARTNERSHIP AND COLLABORATION AWARD

The Fairfax County Park Authority Board established the Harold L. Strickland Partnership and Collaboration Award in 2015 in honor of the retired Park Board member's long service and significant contributions to the Park Authority.

In the spirit of Strickland's accomplishments, this award recognizes the value and importance of teamwork and cooperation necessary to provide residents with state-of-the-art facilities in Fairfax County Parks, often at limited, reduced or no capital expense to the taxpayer.

Harold L. Strickland Partnership and Collaboration Award nominees demonstrate significant long-term accomplishments that provide the residents of Fairfax County with tangible examples of the benefits of partnerships and collaborations that help to sustain or grow service to the community, while reducing the need for Fairfax County Park Authority financial resources to accomplish the service delivery.



Tonight's Awards

FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK FOUNDATION EAKIN PHILANTHROPY AWARDS

The Eakin Philanthropy Award, established in 2009 by the Fairfax County Park Foundation, is named in honor of the Eakin family, donors of the first parcels of parkland to the Park Authority more than 50 years ago.

The annual award recognizes individuals and organizations whose financial or in-kind contributions have significantly enhanced Fairfax County parks through the Foundation. The impact of Eakin awardee-supported projects have long-term benefit to the community; and visionary contributions create new programs or facilities and provide a creative approach to addressing community needs.

2022 ELLY DOYLE PARK SERVICE AWARD

The Elly Doyle Park Service Award was established by the Fairfax County Park Authority in 1988, in recognition of former Park Authority Board Chairman and member Ellamae Doyle's years of outstanding service toward the preservation of parkland and establishment of natural and recreational areas for the benefit of Fairfax County residents. There are three Elly Doyle categories including a Student or Youth Honoree, Special Recognition as well as the agency's top award – the Elly Doyle Park Service Award presented to no more than three recipients annually.

The purpose of the award is to publicly recognize a volunteer or group of volunteers for outstanding contributions to Fairfax County parks.

JUSTICE, EQUITY, INCLUSION AND DIVERSITY AWARD

The Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Award is a new award approved by the Park Authority Board on March 23, 2022. This award recognizes significant, tangible contributions made by individuals, organizations or businesses that help accomplish the Park Authority's strategic priority to enhance diversity systemwide and foster a culture of inclusion in parks and/or within the surrounding community.

This award shall be given periodically as deemed appropriate by the Park Authority Board. Tonight's awardees are the Inaugural recipients.



Tonight's Awards

2022 OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers offer invaluable services at county parks, recreation facilities, golf courses, nature centers and historic sites. Each year, Outstanding Volunteers are recognized for their service to our park system. The selection of these individuals, and occasionally groups is made by their peers at the site level. It is a true expression of gratitude by those most familiar with their contributions and dedication to FCPA and the people who visit our parks.

Without a doubt our volunteers lie at the heart of our success as an agency. They provide manpower, expertise, advocacy and passion. All volunteers were feted this summer with an appreciation party at Frying Pan Farm Park. This year's award recipients received a resolution of appreciation from the Park Authority Board as well as a basket filled with unique items from sites and divisions within the Park Authority. These are mere tokens of the heartfelt appreciation and admiration of our incredible, Outstanding Volunteers.





Opening Remarks

**Emcees
Dr. Cynthia Jacobs Carter
and Mr. Ronald Kendall**

A decorative graphic in the top right corner featuring several bright yellow sunflowers with green leaves and stems, arranged in a cluster.

*Cynthia
Jacobs
Carter, Ed.D.*

Emcee

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors appointed Dr. Cynthia Jacobs Carter to the Park Authority Board on January 28, 2020, for a second four-year term. This follows a November 1, 2016, appointment to the board, and a 2011 election to the Fairfax County Park Foundation Board. She serves as Park Authority Board liaison to the Park Foundation and as Chair of the Awards Committee.

Dr. Carter is Senior Advancement Officer at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of African American History and Culture. She leads the Museum's Gift Planning efforts. These efforts include heading the Harriet Tubman Legacy Society and helping to build an endowment for the newest Smithsonian museum. The popular museum, which opened in 2016, is located on the National Mall. She is also a member of the Diversity and Inclusion committee.

Before joining the museum's staff, Dr. Carter served at the Smithsonian as Chief Development Officer in the Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage. Prior to that, she was Chief Development/External Affairs Officer at Africare. Other positions were held at Howard University, and at The George Washington University. Dr. Carter has taught at Georgetown University and at The George Washington University, both in Africana Women's Studies. She is a National Geographic author of two books: *Africana Woman: Her Story Through Time* (Simon and Schuster) and *Freedom In My Heart: Voices From the United States National Slavery Museum* (Penguin Random House), which was nominated for the NAACP Image Awards for Best Literary work in 2010.

Dr. Carter earned a Doctor of Education degree in Educational Leadership and a Master of Arts degree in International Education from The George Washington University. Her undergraduate degree is from Virginia State University.



Ronald Kendall

Emcee



Park Board member Ronald Kendall has been the Mason District representative since 2017. He was reappointed to the Board in October 2022 to a four-year term. Mr. Kendall served 30 years in the federal government. He served two years as a volunteer in Haiti with the Peace Corps and six years at Peace Corps headquarters in D.C., in administration and program support.

He also worked for 22 years at the Environmental Protection Agency's D.C. headquarters in the Office of Pesticide Programs. During his federal service, his duties included project management, grants management and regulatory oversight. He led teams in budget and work plan development, as well as program and process improvement. He received many awards during his tenure for collaboration, continuous improvement and promoting excellence in workplace relations. He served as liaison with state, tribal and municipal pesticide programs over many years.

Mr. Kendall has served the Park Authority Board as a member of the Green Team advocacy group on passage of the 2016 and 2020 Park Bonds. He serves as vice chair on the Park Authority Awards Committee.

Mr. Kendall was born in Richmond, Massachusetts. He earned a bachelor's degree in journalism from the University of Massachusetts and a master's in business from Central Michigan University.



*Welcoming
Remarks*
William Bouie
Park Authority Board
Chairman



Park Authority Board Chairman William G. Bouie joined the Park Authority in 2005 and has served as Board Chairman for more than a decade. He is a telecommunications executive, a gifted athlete and active volunteer involved in numerous civic organizations.

Mr. Bouie's service includes past membership on the boards of Wolf Trap Center for the Performing Arts and the Reston Hospital Center Board of Trustees. He currently serves on the boards of Public Links Inc., the Reston Community Center Board of Governors, Public Art Reston and Leadership Fairfax.

Well-known for his work with youth in the Northern Virginia area, Mr. Bouie remains active and involved. He is the assistant district administrator for Little League Baseball of Northern Virginia, was the Northern Virginia Little League Volunteer of the Year in 2007 and was a Project Gold team member with the United States Olympic Committee. He is a nationally ranked racquetball player.

He is currently the president and CEO of Sky Communications Inc. Before that, he served as a president – public sector for Acuitive Corporation; senior business development director for Siemens Enterprise Communications; senior vice president – business development with HCI Technologies of Sterling, Virginia; and director of telecommunications for Michigan Consolidated Gas.

Born and raised in Detroit, Mr. Bouie received his bachelor's degree in political science from Western Michigan University and his master's degree in business management from Central Michigan University. He has participated and served on the research and development council at Bell Labs and has provided consulting services to other major vendors in the telecommunications marketplace.

He and his wife Regina live in Reston, Virginia.



*Presentation
of the
Chairman's
Choice
Award*



Ellamae “Elly” Doyle



For more than four decades, the Fairfax County Park Authority Board has been presenting awards in her name, honoring those individuals and groups who epitomize the very best of volunteer service to the Fairfax County Park system. Now, Ellamae Doyle, former chairman and member of the Park Board, is the recipient of a Chairman’s Choice Award, which recognizes her many years of service to the Park Authority and to residents of Fairfax County.

On Dec. 20, 1988, the Elly Doyle Park Service Award was established in recognition of Ellamae Doyle’s years of outstanding service to the park system. This award honors her dedication to continue volunteer service in the community. The annual award publicly honors volunteers or groups for outstanding service to Fairfax County parks.

The recent Chairman’s Choice Award was approved unanimously, and indicative of the great respect and admiration Park Board members feel for her. Ellamae (Elly) Doyle has been a significant influencer, park advocate and a key figure in creating the Fairfax County park system as we know it today.

Park Authority Board Chairman Bill Bouie noted, “Among her greatest achievements is the preservation of open space in Fairfax County via park bonds. She served as a vocal advocate for the agency’s numerous bond referenda over the years. She also recognized the importance of volunteer service and encouraged residents in Fairfax County to truly make the growing park system an integral part of their lives via participation, service and advocacy.” Bouie added, “It is important that we take the time to say thank you now and recognize her contributions to our success.”





Keynote Address
Chairman
Jeff McKay
Park County Chairman



Chairman Jeffrey C. McKay is a lifelong Fairfax County resident, born and raised on the historic Route One Corridor in Lee District.

From kindergarten to eighth grade, he attended two of Fairfax County’s world-class public schools, Woodlawn Elementary School and Walt Whitman Middle School, before graduating from Bishop Ireton High School. Jeff also graduated with a B.S. in Public Administration and Political Science from James Madison University and is a graduate of the University of Virginia’s Sorensen Institute for Political Leadership.

Chairman McKay has more than 20 years of experience working on behalf of the residents of Fairfax County. First serving for 12 years as then-Supervisor Dana Kauffman’s chief of staff before running and winning the election as Lee District Supervisor in November 2007. He was elected Chairman in 2019.

Since joining the Board, he has been a champion for equity, education, affordable housing, transportation, revitalization, and the environment in Fairfax County. His commitment to these issues has been demonstrated on the Board as former Chair of the Legislative and Transportation committees and current Chair of the Budget Committee.

His work has been recognized by the Mount-Vernon Lee Chamber of Commerce as Citizen of the Year in 2019, by the Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions as the recipient of the 2020 Sustainability Champion Legacy Award, and by the Fairfax County Park Authority Board as the recipient of the 2021 Chairman’s Choice Award.

He lives in Lee District with his wife, two children, and their latest retired racing greyhound.



*Presentation
of the
Harold L.
Strickland
Award*

There are two Harold Strickland Partnership and Collaboration Award recipients this year. The recipients include the Friends of Frying Pan Farm Park and the Friends of Lake Accotink Park. Both organizations bring long-term volunteer service and financial support to the parks, and each play a significant role in the success and popularity of both unique FCPA sites.



The Friends of Frying Pan Farm Park



For six decades, the Friends of Frying Pan have promoted teamwork and collaboration. They do this in their support of the farm, equestrian, farmhouses, Country Store, Visitor Center, and maintenance and interpretive operations. They have supported many great events and continue to partner with the Park Authority and Park Foundation on the Bluegrass Barn Series, Horse Expo, Spring Farm Day, Juneteenth Celebration, Hunter Mill Melodies Summer Concert Entertainment Series, 4-H Fair and Carnival, Farm Harvest Days and Holiday Lights.

The Friends of Frying Pan have also made many long-term contributions over the years. Accomplishments include installing and maintaining farm fences. Miles in length, members of the friends' group have provided volunteer support for fence maintenance and installation, as well as financial support. They have hosted the Pre-Turkey Quarter Horse Show, a nationally rated show, for more than 40 years in the Indoor Arena. In addition to sponsoring the largest horse show of the year, the friends provide clinics and schooling opportunities year-round, so that the local horse community has a place to learn and train.

Most recently, they pledged to support natural resource efforts and best management practices at the park. The friends committed \$64,000 over five years to the forest restoration project at Frying Pan. The Friends funds support the entire farm operations, including veterinary and feed bills. The group also supports the Kitchen Garden at Kidwell Farmhouse, an interpretive tool teaching people how to reconnect to their food and to improve food access in the Hunter Mill District.

The friends annual operating budget covers an additional quarter of a million dollars in park-related expenses.

Friends of Lake Accotink Park (FLAP)



The Friends of Lake Accotink Park (FLAP) is an all-volunteer organization with a mission is to “Protect, restore, preserve and educate all concerning the natural, historical and cultural resources of Lake Accotink Park.”

FLAP accomplishes this mission via eco-savvy and educational projects, programs and outreach efforts in collaboration with neighbors and visitors alike.

One example of FLAP’s volunteer activity is the regular cleanup of Lake Accotink Park. Every second Sunday of the month, some 90 volunteers come together to remove trash from the 493-acre park. They remove an average 120 bags of trash per month, totaling 100,000 pounds of trash that won’t endanger human safety, kill or injure wildlife, or enter the greater Chesapeake Bay Watershed. The result is a cleaner, healthier environment for humans, native plants and wildlife.

Some projects made possible by FLAP include the Margaret Kinder Educational Pollinator Garden and the Dog Waste Station. The group’s conservation and education activities earned a Best of Braddock Award for “Neighborhood Beautification Enhancement or Community-Building Effort” in November 2021. FLAP’s financial support totals approximately \$400,000 in services and tangible assets.



Roberta Longworth

Fairfax County
Park Foundation
Executive Director



Roberta (Bobbi) Longworth is the Executive Director of the Fairfax County Park Foundation (FCPF). She leads a team of dedicated professionals and collaborates with Board Directors to support the Park Authority by raising private funds, obtaining grants and creating partnerships. During her tenure at FCPF, annual giving has increased by more than 250%, which helps bridge the gap between public funding and Fairfax County's needs for park land, facilities and outreach programs.

Before joining FCPF in 2010, Bobbi led the Fairfax Library Foundation where annual revenue grew fivefold over a decade. Donations helped to expand childhood literacy outreach, increase library collections, and create academic tutoring programs through Virginia's largest library system.

Her non-profit management career began as Director of Fundraising with the United Way of the National Capital Area. She previously held private sector positions in financial accounting and corporate tax compliance at a \$6 billion Fortune 500 company.

Bobbi is a Certified Fund-Raising Executive (CFRE) and is Blackbaud certified. She is a member of the Association of Fundraising Professionals; the National Association of Charitable Gift Planners; and the National Capital Gift Planning Council (NCGPC) which honored her for expanding the FCPF Legacy Circle. She is a Class of 2003 graduate of the Leadership Fairfax Signature program.

Understanding that trust is a charitable cornerstone, Bobbi and her team work to ensure that FCPF meets all vital standards and ethical practices earning the Candid.GuideStar's Platinum Seal of Transparency for program and financial reporting. This highest level of recognition is earned by less than .01% of charitable organizations. FCPF also received an overall Encompass Rating System 'Give With Confidence' score of 100 out of 100 by Charity Navigator.

Park Foundation donors who sponsor a bench; give a car; make monetary donations through a family foundation, Donor Advised Fund, IRA Distribution, stock gift; or leave a legacy via a Will, enrich Fairfax County parks today and into the future through a recently initiated endowment to help the parks that we all love!

*Presentation
of the
Eakin
Awards*





*Anita
Herrera*

**Park Foundation
Board of Directors Chair**



Ms. Herrera is the General Counsel for Nodal Exchange, LLC and Nodal Clear, LLC. She has over 20 years of legal experience in energy and commodities trading. Ms. Herrera joined Nodal Exchange as the Chief Compliance Officer in October 2008. At Nodal Exchange's Tysons Corner offices, Ms. Herrera oversees legal, compliance and regulatory matters.

Ms. Herrera was previously the founder and Managing Partner of OTC Legal, LLC focusing on business law and compliance matters. She was an attorney for both the Commodity Futures Trading Commission and the Federal Regulatory Energy Commission. Ms. Herrera was formerly Trading Counsel for Statoil Energy and was Counsel for the law firms of McGuireWoods and Sutherland. She is an active member of the bar in Virginia and Washington, D.C., and a Certified Public Accountant (inactive).

Ms. Herrera holds a Juris Doctorate from Temple University Beasley School of Law and a B.B.A. in Business Management from the College of William & Mary.

In addition to serving as Chair of the Fairfax County Park Foundation Board, she serves as Treasurer and a Board Director of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) of Northern Virginia, which is a position she has held for over ten years. She is also a 2003 graduate of the Leadership Fairfax Signature program.

Ms. Herrera has been a resident of Fairfax County for over 20 years and lives in McLean. She enjoys the Fairfax County golf facilities and often is exploring various local park facilities on foot and by bicycle.



Laura Eakin Erlacher

**Park Foundation
Board of Directors
Vice Chair**

Laura Eakin Erlacher is the Director of Government Affairs & Policy for GE Power. She analyzes domestic and global energy trends and climate policies and provides strategic guidance on Federal and state legislation and regulations of importance to the natural gas industry.

Prior to her current position, Laura was the Washington DC publicist of the Emilie Brzezinski Sculpture where she coordinated, promoted and installed two successful art exhibits of monumental wood sculptures at Jim Kempner Fine Art (NYC) and the Katzen Art Center, American University (WDC).

Ms. Eakin Erlacher served as PPL Corporation Manager of Federal Government Relations in Washington DC where she advocated Fortune 500 electric and gas utility corporate positions on key federal legislative and regulatory issues before U.S. Congressional members, senior federal government officials, and international government representatives. Previous roles with PPL Corporation include Manager of U.S. Business Development, PPL Global, and Analyst of International Business Development in Fairfax, Virginia.

Other experience includes Business School Intern, Investment Development at an Overseas Private Investment Corporation; and Community Relations assistant at the Boston University Office of the President and Assistant to the Vice President for Programs & Projects at the Atlantic Council of the United States. Positions held in Prague, Czech Republic are Secondary School English Teacher; and Assistant in the Central European University Office of the Chief Executive.

Ms. Eakin Erlacher earned her Master of Business Administration from Boston University School of Management. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Foreign Affairs from the University of Virginia.

She was the first member to represent the Eakin Family on the Park Foundation Board, having served on the inaugural Board from 2001-2004. During that time, she supported Fairfax County Park Authority by raising supplemental funds from private sector, grants and collaborative partnerships. The major fundraising initiative was Clemyjontri Park, a two-acre accessible playground in McLean, Va.

In 1951, LeRoy Eakin, Sr. donated 14 acres of land which was Fairfax County's first park. The Eakin family gave another 240 additional acres which ultimately became the Fairfax County Park Authority. Ms. Eakin Erlacher presents the annual Eakin Philanthropy Awards, established by the Park Foundation to recognize visionary financial and material contributions that significantly enhance Fairfax County parks. Laura serves on the FCPF Board of Directors to continue the Eakin Family legacy.



*2022
Fairfax County
Park Foundation
Eakin Award
Recipients*

The Fairfax County Park Foundation (FCPF) has named a foundation, three organizations and a Park Authority Friends Group as recipients of this year's Eakin Philanthropy Awards, honoring outstanding contributions to parks through the Park Foundation.

Each of the 2022 awardees has significantly increased support of Fairfax County parks within a brief timeframe.

The Fairfax County Park Foundation supports the Park Authority by raising private funds, obtaining grants and creating partnerships that supplement tax dollars to meet community needs for park land, facilities and services. It established the Eakin Philanthropy Award to recognize visionary, financial and material contributions that significantly enhance Fairfax County parks. The award is named in honor of LeRoy Eakin Sr., who donated 14 acres of land in 1951 that became Fairfax County's first park.

The Adler Foundation



The Adler Foundation, committed to helping communities and the environment, is recognized for generous support of various FCPF projects. It began in 2021, supporting Hunter Mill Melodies Summer Entertainment Series. In 2022, The Adler Foundation donated \$20,000 to adopt carousel horses at Chessie's Big Backyard in Franconia. Acknowledging the environmental impact that the Stewardship Education Center at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park will have through education, The Adler Foundation donated \$100,000 to fund the new amphitheater.



Wegmans



FCPF is honoring Wegmans, long known for its philanthropic outreach in local communities, for their active involvement in many Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA) programs. Ranging from donations for FCPA events, such as the Elly Doyle Park Volunteer Awards and the 2022 Take Your Child to Work Day, to monetary sponsorship of the Summer Entertainment Series and the Stewardship Education Center's STEAM feature. Since 2013, Wegmans' support exceeds \$30,000.

Ellanor C. Lawrence Park Friends



The Ellanor C. Lawrence Park Friends group will receive an Eakin Award for partnering with the Park Foundation to preserve and protect the park and to help the Park Foundation secure sponsorships for the STEAM features, including musical flowers, solar trail cameras, and the birds and wildlife feeding stations at the Stewardship Education Center (SEC) at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park. The ECLP Friends have already raised more than \$20,000 since forming in 2020.



McLean Youth Soccer Association (MYS)



FCPF is also honoring McLean Youth Soccer Association (MYS) with a 2022 Eakin Philanthropy Award. This honor recognizes ongoing outstanding contributions to FCPA parks including the Holladay Field project made possible partnership through a partnership with Leidos and the Embassy and Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates. Over the years, MYS contributed millions of dollars to improve sports facilities.

In 2021, completion of a new synthetic turf project was celebrated at Holladay Field next to Spring Hill Elementary. The new field includes a full-sized rectangular soccer field available for football, men's and women's lacrosse, field hockey and small-sided soccer. Landscape improvements, including two under-ground storm water management facilities, a bleacher pad, access trail and landscape improvements were also part of the project. Funding for the project was made possible through voter-approved Park Bonds and contributions from the Ambassador to the U.S. Yousef Al Otaiba of the United Arab Emirates and Roger Krone, CEO of Leidos. Both are MYS parents and soccer enthusiasts.

Also considered in these award deliberations is another MYS funded project in McLean. The need for clean restrooms and shelter from inclement weather for the visitors at Lewinsville Park inspired another significant investment for parks. An initial \$200,000 contribution to the Park Foundation from MYS will enable the Park Authority to design a restroom and storage building. MYS has agreed to provide operational costs including annual cleaning, repairs, and utility costs.



*2022
Elly Doyle
Park Service
Award Recipients
Youth Award
Recipients*





Ava Belmont



Ava Belmont volunteers with the Laurel Hill Park Volunteer Team and IMA, where she leads subgroups during larger events and provides guidance to volunteers with less experience.

Since 2020, she has volunteered regularly, conducting invasive management activities. She is known as Laurel Hill PVT/IMA's "most consistent and long-tenured volunteer." Serving actively and consistently since 2020, she has also volunteered at the front desk at Mount Vernon Rec Center and has taught skating classes at the rec center.

Belmont has taken on occasional leadership responsibilities and has assisted in directing activities, such as Earth Day trash pickups. Even with a busy and demanding personal schedule, Belmont finds time to volunteer, and she has become an inspiration for others. Belmont is currently a freshman at York College in Pennsylvania.





Yasmine Marrero



Yasmine Marrero began her service to the Fairfax County Park Authority with the Friends of Lake Accotink Park (FLAP), as a monthly trail cleanup volunteer. Fitting with her passion as a steward of the environment, she created the Young FLAPpers subgroup.

Marrero challenged her fellow high school students to get more involved, earn service hours and remove pollutants from Lake Accotink's 493-acre park during monthly cleanups. During the 2021 school year, she coordinated the first FLAP quarterly Trash Off: A High School Showdown! Some 200 volunteers participated and an estimated 3,000 pounds of trash, including tires, furniture and plastic waste, were removed from Lake Accotink's trails and waters. Moreover, students throughout Fairfax County gained increased environmental awareness of how pollution affects parks and watersheds.

Marrero has volunteered more than 200 service hours and her contributions helped provide a cleaner, safer and enjoyable experience for all those who frequent Lake Accotink Park.





*Elly Doyle
Park Service
Special
Recognition
Awardees*

Throughout the park system, thousands give generously of their time and talent each year. Through its Elly Doyle Park Service Awards, the Park Board has acknowledged the contributions of the following individuals with 2022 Special Recognition Awards: Stuart Copan, a longtime volunteer at Burke Lake Park; Chuck Welsh, who volunteers at Laurel Hill Golf Club; and the Jefferson Manor Citizens Association, which maintains Jefferson Manor Park.



Stuart Copan



Stuart Copan is a volunteer with more than 11 years of service at Burke Lake Park. Copan spends an average 120 volunteer hours annually doing whatever needs to be done to benefit the park and patrons.

In high school, he spent a lot of time running at Burke Lake as a distance runner, which contributed to his affinity for volunteering at the park. He has served in a variety of roles, including trail maintenance; assisting at and organizing events, such as Arts in the Parks; providing information to park-goers; operating the train and carousel; trash pickup and garden maintenance; maintaining the cross-country course; staffing during special events, such as Holiday Lights; and many more. He is flexible, willing to help wherever he is needed, and is dedicated to making the park a fun, safe place for adults and children.





Chuck Welch



Chuck Welch has been volunteering at Laurel Hill Golf Club for nearly a decade, working as a starter during the busiest times of the week. A busy day on the golf course requires mastery of the tee sheet and anticipating golfers' needs as they prepare for their rounds. Welch does all of this, with a smile. Members of the club and other customers know him by name, often discussing the game and their other interests, such as fishing and hunting. Welch always puts customers first; and his positive demeanor is contagious.



Jefferson Manor Citizens Association



The Jefferson Manor Citizens Association contributes hundreds of service hours to the maintenance and stewardship of Jefferson Manor Park. Over the years, the group has marshalled volunteers from the community to conduct park clean-ups, participate in invasive plant removal workdays, and help give park facilities a refresh by painting the picnic shelter, restrooms and picnic tables. Members promote community cohesion by hosting events at the park, such as picnics and social gatherings. They strengthen community ties with the police by hosting National Night Out at the park. Through JMCA, this vital community park stands not only to last for future generations, but also to retain its important place in the life of the community.





*Elly Doyle
Park Service
Award
Recipients*

Both of this year's recipients, selected before the Park Board's summer recess, work as leaders of local invasive plant removal efforts.



Stephen Markle



Stephen Markle is an Invasive Management Area (IMA) Volunteer Site Leader and a Park Volunteer Team Leader. He has volunteered his time to Gil McCutcheon Park in Alexandria, Virginia, since 1998, helping protect and preserve this 18-acre park for over 24 years. As an IMA site leader, he has organized over 137 workdays and contributed approximately 2,276 hours to the restoration and maintenance of the park. He has spent countless hours repairing trails and working with volunteers to ensure safe use of trails.

His efforts to protect McCutcheon Park predate its renaming from Lamond Park. Markle served as Vice Chair of the Lamond Community Task Force to develop a land use plan for the property. He wrote Mastenbrook grants and fundraised to develop a park playground. He coordinated workdays, signed Adopt-A-Park agreements, and he continues to lead volunteer work. He coordinated efforts with neighbors that back up to the parkland, finding an agreement to remove bamboo. Overall, he has done whatever it takes to make this a special place, logging a total of 7,816.5 hours of volunteer service over the years.





Willow Martin



Willow Martin is an Invasive Management Site leader for Oakton Community Park. She has served as a volunteer in various capacities for many years, but she became an IMA Site leader in April 2021. The Greater Oakton Community Association asked her to help with the park, a role she enthusiastically took on, knowing it would likely be a large and multi-year job.

Upon becoming a site leader, she constructed a design for the woods and field in the park and a concrete plan for realizing it, coordinating closely with IMA and representatives of the Greater Oakton Community Association. To date, she has organized 12 monthly sessions involving over 200 people and has cleared several areas of invasive plants and planted numerous new trees and native flowers. At the library, she has also organized and worked with volunteers during semi-annual grounds cleanup days, and she recently led a delightful children's gardening event.

She is committed to protecting natural resources and giving the woodlands every chance to thrive. She is passionate about removing the invasive plants in the park, and she inspires more people to become involved. The beautification of Oakton Community Park, in which she plays the leading role, has done much to make the park a center of community.





*Presentation
of the Justice,
Equity Diversity
and Inclusion
Award*



Executive Director Jai Cole



It's been more than a year since the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors affirmed the selection of Jai Cole, who serves as Executive Director of the Park Authority. Her September 2021 appointment paved the way for Cole, a park professional with more than two decades of leadership experience with award-winning recreation and park agencies to lead FCPA in new directions and towards a more equitable and accessible park system.

Since her appointment, Cole visited every park in the system – all 420 parks, culminating in completion of the system wide tour on National Public Lands Day – September 24, 2022. Cole took the time to work with volunteers at Lake Fairfax Park that day, helping to plant trees, and pull invasive plants. The workday was filled with local officials offering their hands-on support as well as a bit of nostalgia for Cole, who grew up near Lake Fairfax Park. Cole is currently reviewing her findings from the tour to determine maintenance needs, and opportunities for system growth and enhancement.

Director Cole comes to the Park Authority from the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Montgomery Parks (M-NCPPC, Montgomery Parks) where she served as Chief of the Park Planning and Stewardship Division since 2018.

In her role as Chief of the Park Planning and Stewardship Division, Cole provided overall strategic direction for long-range planning, natural resource management, cultural resource stewardship and interpretation, trail planning and construction, development review, and environmental project review for a 37,000 acre, nationally accredited, six-time Gold Medal winning park system. The M-NCPPC, Montgomery Parks has a \$127 million annual budget and a \$317 million, six-year Capital Improvement Program budget.

Cole previously served with M-NCPPC, Montgomery Parks as their Natural Resource Manager, and has held several other positions in that agency related to natural resource management and aquatic ecology beginning in 2005. Cole also worked as the Director of Adult Programs at Reston Community Center from 2003 until 2005.

Cole grew up in Fairfax County, residing in Reston for 25 years. She attended South Lakes High School where she played youth softball, basketball and field hockey. She then went on to earn a Bachelor of Arts in biology at the University of North Carolina Greensboro where she played Division I basketball.

Pravinchandra and Hansaben Dave



This year, the Park Authority Board presents the inaugural Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Award, which was established this past summer. The purpose of the award is to recognize significant and tangible contributions made by individuals, organizations or businesses that enhance diversity systemwide and foster a culture of inclusion in parks.

The first recipients are Pravinchandra and Hansaben Dave, who together have provided tremendous help to the Adapted Aquatics program at South Run Rec Center. Pravinchandra has volunteered with Adapted Aquatics for at least 10 years, and Hansaben joined some seven years ago.

As assistant swim coaches for children with disabilities, they have demonstrated their strong support for all types of people who want to learn to swim. Because of their patience, gentleness and praise, every child who trains with them wants to keep them as their coaches. Children who are nonverbal often point to them when asked who they want to swim with, displaying a strong sense of trust and comfortable partnership.

Both show up each week, year-round to help, and they can be relied upon to take on whatever needs to be done. They have contributed more than 100 hours of volunteer time in the program this year and more than 900 hours throughout their tenure.



*Celebration of
the 2022
Park Authority
Outstanding
Volunteers*





Ana Alatrash

Spring Hill Rec Center



Ana Alatrash has that can-do attitude that has allowed her to step up in many different areas at the Spring Hill Rec Center. She provided musical and movement session to the preschool team, assisted in inventory and organization of supplies and equipment, assisted in the fitness department with classes and cleaning and answering customer questions.

In addition to adding value to the preschool program through her musical talents, she became certified in yoga instruction that has helped in the continuity of classes.





Dave Barnard

Cub Run Rec Center



For the last five years, Dave Barnard has shown his flexibility and helpfulness. From the beginning, he has been willing to travel to any site that was short on volunteers. Although his home base is Cub Run Rec Center, he goes to Lee District, Oak Marr and South Run rec centers when needed. Those who have worked with him value his kind, gentle and consistent style.

His outstanding contributions have been in deep water work, getting several student athletes to be more at ease swimming in the deep end of the pool. He been described as an inspiration and a guide to new instructors.





Ava Belmont

Laurel Hill PVT/IMA



Ms. Belmont was selected as an Elly Doyle Youth Service Award recipient as well as an Outstanding Volunteer.

Please see her write up on page 26.





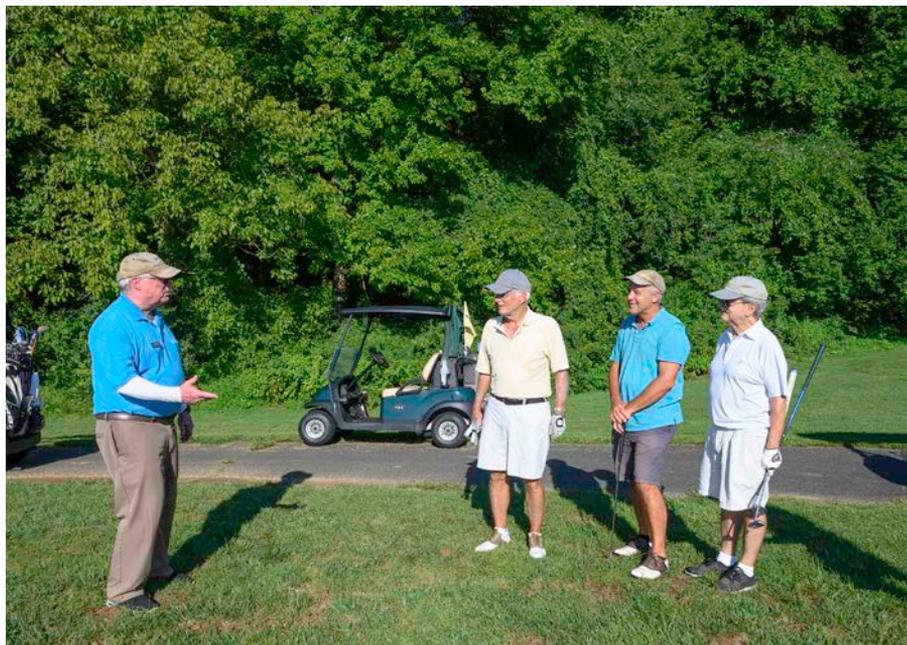
William Doud

Twin Lakes Golf Course



William Doud began his volunteer service with the Fairfax County Park Authority as a play manager at Twin Lakes Golf Course in 2019. He leads the Tuesday morning shift and supervises all the activities associated with on-course management. Doud's reliability and dedication are something he brought with him from his long career with the U.S. Navy.

Over the last year, he provided on-course training to all new volunteers. His positive attitude is very helpful when it comes to handling situations that may arise and presenting any guidance or warning in a pleasant manner that conveys the message. He exemplifies the role of a volunteer -- helping golfers in every way to enjoy their round from check-in to departure.





Dan Dyke

Colvin Run Mill



Dan Dyke is dedicated to identifying needs at Colvin Run Mill and getting them completed. Dyke has undertaken many projects, from setting up and helping with events to cleaning mill gears, organizing the wood shop and clearing out weeds in the mill race.

He has been instrumental in planning, setup and working at many events, such as Santa at the Mill, Children's Holiday shopping and maple syrup boil-downs. Noticing the need to update the education center, he organized a group of volunteers to paint the two rooms. As president of the Friends of Colvin Run Mill, he helped the group raise money to buy new lighting and installed it. The friends also purchased a video screen and projector, so the site could display a video of how the mill worked, increasing accessibility and helping more people understand how the mill runs. When he saw that the site was running low on storage space for grain, he got a new freezer purchased and installed, allowing the site to produce and store more grain for sale and programs.

Dyke also established and maintained a social media presence for the Friends group, increasing the visibility of the site.





Elizabeth Etherton

Frying Pan Farm Park



It's Elizabeth Etherton's initiative, excellent communication to park managers and the inspiration she sparks in others that make her a "gem of a volunteer." Etherton cares about the garden at Frying Pan Farm Park and how it's used as a teaching tool with the public. She stepped up to ensure the garden was properly cared for and maintained.

She developed an annual plan for the garden, which includes a garden for more than just springtime. She also drafted garden activities for The Friends of Frying Pan's Spring Farm Day. In addition, she assists with arranging environmental education activities for youth coming from Floris Elementary School and its Green Team.





Alan Figgatt

The Observatory at
Turner Farm Park



Alan Figgatt is a dedicated volunteer with a passion for speaking on astronomical topics. He has spent thousands of hours of his own time for the Friday Night Public Viewings, special events, as well as the courses that he teaches at Turner Farm Park.

Figgatt developed astronomy courses, such as the “Introduction to Telescopes” and the “Night Sky Tours.” He maintains the telescopes to ensure that they are in proper working order. He has worked with many parents and Scout representatives for schools, retirement homes and Scout groups to arrange activities at the park.





Gioia Forman

Green Spring Gardens



Gioia Forman is committed to making Green Spring Gardens a place for everyone in the family, and it is this dedication that underlies her five-year service to the Park Authority.

With the pandemic keeping the site closed, Forman created family activities in the gardens that were accessible and interesting to visitors and helped celebrate Green Spring Gardens' 50th anniversary. Examples include poems through the garden in the spring and finding 50 frogs to commemorate Green Spring's anniversary. She was also part of the team to develop story time in the gardens to include Korean and Spanish languages.

Even the events Green Spring Gardens regularly hold get a special touch with Forman. She expanded the offerings and details of the semiannual bake sale to include a "sit-down café," dog treats, kids cookie/cupcake decorating stations, and more, bringing in thousands of dollars to the Friends of Green Spring. Her colleagues say that the quality of her work "wows us all."





David Gorsline

Huntley Meadows Park



Dave Gorsline tackles a unique volunteer role each spring as the Duck Nest Box Coordinator. He trains and supervises a small group of independent volunteers, which meets at Huntley Meadows from February to June to monitor duck-nesting activity in the park. They also repair and maintain the boxes every year.

Gorsline's commitment to the Duck Nest Box program has been a significant contribution to the long-term natural resource management at the park. His efforts ensured institutional knowledge is shared with new volunteers, the nest boxes are well-maintained, and that there is data that aids in natural resource management decisions.

David Gorsline has thoughtfully committed to leaving a legacy in his Will to the Fairfax County Park Foundation for Huntley Meadows Park.





Janet Jaeger

Lee District Rec Center



For almost five years, Janet Jaeger has been volunteering at the Lee District Rec Center as a front desk associate. She gives patrons accurate and current information, which was essential after rec centers reopened. Jaeger sets an example for newer front desk associates, carrying herself in a professional manner with a can-do attitude that is very contagious and has a positive effect on the patrons.

Always willing and able to lend a helping hand, she volunteered to train several of the Pulley Career Center students. The Pulley Career Center provides training to students with disabilities ages 18-22.





Susan Jones

South Run Rec Center



After 22 years, Susan Jones has only gotten better and that's why she is once again an outstanding volunteer. She has given 199 hours to South Run Rec Center this year, and throughout her volunteer tenure has contributed more than 4,000 hours.

As a front desk volunteer, Jones exemplifies friendly helpfulness in all her dealings with customers and staff. Her dependability, enthusiasm and follow-up have done much to influence new customers to join and old ones to keep coming back.





Brian Keith

Sully Historic Site



Brian Keith has been an active outdoor volunteer since January 2019 and a great asset to Sully Historic Site. Whatever the task – from moving firewood, to setting up and taking down tents, to ensuring candles are lit for the safety of visitors during candlelight tours – he is ready to tackle them.

Keith has also cleared invasive and other natural material from the Cain's Branch Archaeological Trail at Sully, making elements of the historical structures in the park visible to visitors. His work assisted the public in viewing and commenting on proposed waysides on the historic Cain's Branch trail project.





Owen Krzos

Hidden Pond
Nature Center



Full-time student Owen Krzos was Hidden Pond Nature Center's second-most active volunteer during the past year in the number of hours and programs he worked on. He often steps up to help with program or fill in for other volunteers; he helps with cleanups, trail repair and invasive plant removal; and his help is critical in the park's unique programs, such as the Animal Sweethearts Dance and Campfire Fridays.





Kristine Lansing

Riverbend Park



Kristine Lansing is an exceptional volunteer at Riverbend Park who leads bird and wildflower walks. She is knowledgeable, friendly and reliable. Program participants rave about her teaching skills and walks. She engages with park visitors on the trails to provide service and education about the natural areas and wildlife. She immediately reports downed trees and issues to park management so that they may be addressed rapidly. Her dedication helps park staff monitor bird and plant species throughout the park.

For this year's Bluebell Festival – the first time it was held in two years – Lansing volunteered to lead wildflower walks. She also took on training of a new roving naturalist volunteer. Finally, she promotes other park services, such as programs, hikes, classes and camps.





Jerry Lopynski

Frying Pan Farm Park



Jerry Lopynski brings an incredible positive energy every time he comes to Frying Pan Farm Park. With him operating the carousel, riders are in for a fun and interactive experience. His attendance and dedication ensure that the carousel is available for the enjoyment of park goers and other staff members can perform other duties that benefit the park, especially the interpretive staff who impart knowledge about the historical and natural resources of Frying Pan Farm Park.





Yasmine Marrero



Ms. Marrero was selected as an Elly Doyle Youth Service Award recipient as well as an Outstanding Volunteer.

Please see her write up on page 27.





Mike Messman

Greendale Golf Course



Since 2014, Mike Messman has been volunteering at Greendale Golf Course, holding a variety of positions. During the pandemic, he took responsibility for key areas in the golf course and took on numerous maintenance duties. Throughout the year – rain or shine -- Messman and his golfing colleagues undertook different projects that would not have been completed without their efforts.





Kim Nguyen

Cub Run Stream Valley



Kim Nguyen is willing to assist in multiple different ways, including stepping up to help when there was no official volunteer coordinator. When the longtime volunteer coordinator left, Nguyen learned the process of onboarding volunteers. In April, she led a successful watershed cleanup at the Cub Run Stream Valley, which encompasses eight different cleanup sites, including the area around the rec center. More than 100 bags of trash were collected by more than 130 volunteers.





Brenda Pryor

Providence Rec Center



Making customers feel welcome and supported are just some of the reasons Brenda Pryor are appreciated by patrons and staff alike. She has many suggestions and ideas, including producing an insert letting customers know that they can use their pass at all rec centers and not just at Providence Rec Center. Pryor's presence at the front desk enhances the quality of each customer's experience. Customers feel welcomed and heard when she is on duty. And, she is on a first-name basis with many of the rec centers regular customers.



Welcome to Providence RECenter

Facility Hours:
Sunday: 8am to 6 pm
Monday: 5am to 9 pm
Tuesday: 5am to 9 pm
Wednesday: 5am to 9 pm
Thursday: 5am to 9 pm
Friday: 5am to 9pm
Saturday: 7am to 6pm

Pool Hours:
*Sunday: 9am to 6pm
Monday: 6:30am to 9pm
Tuesday: 6:30am to 9pm
Wednesday: 6:30am to 9pm
Thursday: 6:30am to 9pm
Friday: 6:30am to 9pm
*Saturday: 9am to 6pm

Lap Swim Only: Saturday and Sunday 9am to 1pm
Saturday Summer Pool Hours: 9am to 8pm (Memorial to Labor Day)



Beverley Rivera

Lake Accotink Park



Beverley Rivera's work as a volunteer has transformed an area of Lake Accotink Park overrun by invasive plants. For the past three years, she has hosted a public workday almost every Saturday. In the past year, Rivera organized and led 47 public workdays, volunteered 182 hours and led 617 volunteers who, themselves contributed 1,407 service hours.

In addition to removing invasive plants, Rivera also plants many native species to help restore the healthy habitat. Last year, Rivera and her volunteers planted 393 wildflowers/grasses and 113 shrubs/trees.





Alice Schipf

Oak Marr Rec Center



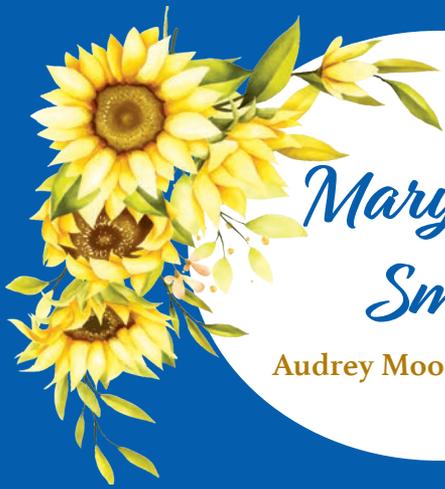
Alice Schipf personifies the expression “age is just a number.” Schipf is always ready with a friendly smile and a willingness to get any job done at Oak Marr Rec Center.

In addition to helping prep and maintain garden beds by weeding, trimming and mulching, Schipf has been instrumental in helping plant more than 100 flowers in the beds and containers around the rec center that creates a welcoming appearance.



Many have taken notice, including one customer who posted on Twitter, “Whoever takes care of the landscaping at the entrance to @fairfaxparksOakMarrRECenter does an amazing job.”





Mary Beth Smith

Audrey Moore Rec Center



Mary Beth Smith's friendly personality and can-do attitude make her a stand-out volunteer. As a front desk associate, she is the first point of contact for Audrey Moore Rec Center customers. Smith has endeared herself to the front desk staff with her open and friendly demeanor. Her nursing background comes in handy, especially during busy times at the rec center. She is unflappable when there are last-minute changes and knows how to diffuse potential issues even before they arise. Her positive rapport with staff and patrons, along with her capable problem-solving skills make her a true asset to the team.





*Closing
Remarks*

Special Thanks

It takes lots of time and effort to coordinate and prepare both the awards and the celebration of these Park Authority Board and Park Foundation awards. The following individuals were instrumental in the success of tonight's program and the overall recognition these worthy, unselfish, and giving volunteers.

Dr. Cynthia Jacobs Carter – Chair

Mr. Ronald Kendall – Vice Chair

Park Authority Staff Elly Doyle Team

Judy Pedersen, Chair

Jonathan Cooper

Cindy Fortuno

Elizabeth Gallagher

Roberta Longworth

John Mandell

Yasmin Shafiq

Tammy Schwab

Kristina Stanton

Don Sweeney

Margaret Thaxton

Don Tubel

Divya Vashishth

Pam Gardner and Mark Jung, Channel 16

Fairfax County Park Foundation

Westfield High School Chamber Singers

Fairfax County Park Authority Board

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Marguerite F. Godbold, Vice Chair, Sully

Michael Thompson, Jr., Secretary, Springfield

Timothy B. Hackman, Treasurer, Dranesville

Abena A. Aidoo Hewton, Ph.D., Member-at-Large

Cynthia Jacobs Carter, Ph.D., Lee

Linwood Gorham, Mt. Vernon

Ronald Kendall, Mason

Faisal Khan, Member-at-Large

Ken Quincy, Providence

Kiel Stone, Braddock

James P. Zook, Member-at-Large

Jai Cole, FCPA Executive Director

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