

Fairfax County Park Authority

Fast Facts

HISTORY

On December 6, 1950, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors created by ordinance the Fairfax County Park Authority. The Park Authority was authorized by Virginia State law to make decisions concerning all of its agency operations, land acquisition, park development and program needs to provide the desired public services in Fairfax County, Virginia. To date, 13 park bond referenda have been approved between 1959 and 2016. Today, the Park Authority owns and manages 420 parks on more than 23,500 acres of land, offering more than 330 miles of formal park trails, our most popular amenity.

PARK AUTHORITY BOARD

A 12-member citizen board, appointed by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, the Park Authority Board has legal and fiduciary responsibility for Park Authority Funds and sets policies and priorities for the Fairfax County Park Authority. Regular public meetings of the Board are held the second and fourth Wednesdays of most months at 7:30 p.m. in the Herrity Building at 12055 Government Center Parkway, ninth floor boardroom, in Fairfax, VA. The public may attend and speak at meetings. Visit [Public Comment](#) for information regarding speaking at the public meeting.

PARK HIGHLIGHTS

The Park Authority is the primary public mechanism in Fairfax County for the preservation of open space, environmentally sensitive land, natural resources, areas of historic and cultural significance and the provision of fitness, recreation, sports, leisure, and park facilities and services including:

- Nine indoor Rec Centers with amenities such as: swimming pools, fitness rooms, gymnasiums, classrooms, saunas, and an indoor water park and elevated indoor track.
- An ice-skating rink at Mount Vernon Rec Center and the Skate Park in Wakefield Park, adjacent to Audrey Moore Rec Center.
- Eight golf courses, from par-3 to championship level, and four driving ranges, including two heated, covered ranges at Burke Lake Golf Center and the Oak Marr Golf Complex.
- Seven nature and interpretive centers.
- 11 off-leash dog parks.
- Three lakefront parks – Burke Lake, Lake Accotink and Lake Fairfax -- with campgrounds at Burke Lake and Lake Fairfax. Lake Fairfax is also home to the Water Mine Family Swimmin' Hole, a pump track and a large, open skatepark.
- Clemyjontri Park, a fully accessible playground in McLean featuring two acres of family friendly fun, a carousel and a trackless train.

FACILITIES (continued)

- Lee District Family Recreation Area, featuring the fully accessible Chessie’s Big Backyard playground, Our Special Harbor sprayground, a Tree House, Chesapeake Bay-themed carousel, and Chessie’s Trail – a special trail for kids.
- Kidwell Farm, a working farm of the 1930s-era at Frying Pan Farm Park in Herndon, a historic carousel, country store, visitors center, blacksmith shop and playground.
- Riverbend Park, which sits on the Potomac River and offers programs, boat rentals, trails and a visitor center.
- Seven distinctive historic properties available for rent.
- A working 18th century grist mill at Colvin Run in Great Falls and a restored 18th century home at Sully Historic Site in Chantilly.
- A horticulture center at Green Spring Gardens in Annandale.
- 10 producer-only Farmers Markets.
- Parks that feature natural and cultural resources.
- Picnic shelters, tennis courts, miniature golf courses, disc golf courses, amphitheaters, rental and launch marinas, and a kayaking/canoeing center.
- A “Go Ape” zip-line and treetop adventure course at South Run District Park.
- 262 Park Authority athletic fields, including 40 synthetic turf fields. The Park Authority maintains 408 additional fields, of which 352 are located at elementary and middle schools or community centers.
- Gerry Connolly Cross Country Trail – a trail more than 40 miles long that connects the entire county from one end to the other.
- 90% of residents live within a half-mile proximity to parkland.
- Free summer concert series that features 177 performances in 14 parks annually.

FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK FOUNDATION

The Fairfax County Park Foundation supports the Authority by raising more than \$1,000,000 each year in private funds and in-kind support. FCPF assists in obtaining grants and creating partnerships to help the Authority meet community needs for park land, facilities and services. Programs include open space land care and preservation; adapted recreation; community entertainment and outreach; capital project support, environmental education; health and wellness; and camp and class scholarships for low income children and people with disabilities. Visit [Fairfax County Park Foundation](#) online or call 703-324-8582.

MISSION, VISION AND VALUES

The [Mission, Vision, and Values](#) describe the essence of the Park Authority and guide the agency's decisions on policies, practice, and plans.