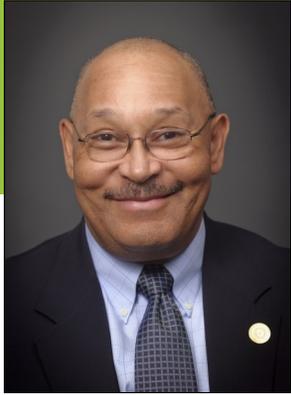


Fairfax County Park Authority FY2018 Annual Report & Strategic Plan Update

July 2017-June 2018



PARKS OFFER A LIFETIME OF DISCOVERY



William G. Bouie
Chairman
Park Authority Board

My friends,

Thank you for taking a few moments to share in our success. The Fiscal Year 2018 (FY2018) Annual Report and Strategic Plan Update reflects only a moment in time for the Fairfax County Park Authority. This is a snapshot of accomplishments for an agency with a rich history of achievement. In this report we merely touch on the many programs, awards, planning initiatives, capital projects and partnerships that make us one of the top park systems in the country.

Each year I am awed by the dedication of park staff members, the initiative of our leadership team, the Park Authority Board's collective vision for the future and the support of our community. This is a shared vision that takes drive and intellect at every level. Clearly, in the past fiscal year we were up to the task.

FY2018 was filled with promise and great things that came to pass. This was a year for inclusion. One Fairfax was embraced by this community with the Board of Supervisors, Public Schools and the Park Authority Board passing resolutions of support that ask us to look at all matters through a new lens of social equity. Only two in five parks and recreation departments nationwide have a formal inclusion policy that ensures all members of a community can access and enjoy all that parks and recreation has to offer. Ours is a work in progress that faces many challenges. It's a challenge we gladly embrace in our quest for increased accessibility to fitness, healthful activities and enjoyment of our open space and trails for all members of our community.

There is much to report: our first agency-wide Master Plan that sets the course for the future; an accounting of the accomplishments of our 2013 /2018 Strategic Plan; an introduction to a new mission and vision statement as well as the 2018/2023 Strategic Plan; information on land acquisition as well as the outcomes from our Cultural and Natural Resource Management plans. And of course, briefs on lots of things we did really well throughout the system. It's been an amazing year, and the best lies ahead!

Enjoy this report and please take the time to visit our parks. Go to a class, take up soccer or hike on a trail. Workout at a RECenter or explore our past at an historic site. From farms and gardens to nature centers and lakefront parks – there is something in our system that calls to each of us.

Warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Will G. Bouie". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

William G. Bouie
Chairman, Park Authority Board



Fairfax County Park Authority Earns National Re-Accreditation

The Fairfax County Park Authority continues to serve as a role model for other park systems around the nation.

It has once again been re-accredited by the Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA) and the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA). Earning accreditation is confirmation of outstanding performance at the highest levels nationally.

The Park Authority initially earned national accreditation in October 2008, received re-accreditation in October 2013 and once again earned this designation this fall. Each time, the Park Authority earned a perfect score, meeting every single national standard – all 151. Official word came in September at the 2018 NRPA Annual Conference in Indianapolis, Indiana.

CAPRA accreditation is the only national accreditation for park and recreation agencies and is a measure of an agency’s overall quality of operation, management and service to the community. This mark of distinction indicates that an agency has met rigorous standards related to the management and administration of lands, facilities, resources, programs, safety and services.

Upon receipt of this honor, Park Authority Executive Director Kirk Kincannon expressed pride in the Park Authority staff, leadership and members of the Park Board noting, “Together, we worked tirelessly to accomplish this and to do it with another perfect score. That does not just happen.” Kincannon added that the win belongs not just to the agency but to the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors and the Park Board, the thousands of volunteers who power our parks, the staff and the community at-large who enthusiastically support parks.

The CAPRA accreditation visitation team cited a number of agency strengths, including:

- A committed, passionate and cohesive staff
- Excellent employee manuals
- Good relationships with county government and other agencies
- Comprehensive planning procedures and in-depth needs assessments that staff are quick to reference
- Outstanding and comprehensive recreation programs, such as a working farm in an urban area
- Staff with varied backgrounds and work experience that have melded together
- Good security training and interaction between planning and maintenance and between police and parks
- An agency-wide communicators group with monthly meetings that was described as “replicable”
- Monthly meetings with finance division leads
- Friends groups and community partnerships
- Use of reporting technology and data that was easy to access and understand

CLOSING OUT THE 2013-2018 STRATEGIC PLAN

Over the past four fiscal years, we have worked hard to reach the goals outlined in the Strategic Plan. These pages outline some of the many accomplishments that helped us better serve the community, provide programs and services, maintain facilities, touch diverse lives with

healthful opportunities for leisure and wellness, and attain new efficiencies in staffing, energy management and capital construction. Our system prospers, and the residents of this community benefit!

This hard work resulted in national reaccreditation, an improved fiscal outlook and the ability to provide an outstanding, multifaceted park system that equitably serves all and improves the quality of life in Fairfax County.

EXPAND ALTERNATIVE RESOURCES: Secure non-traditional funding sources and in-kind services that supplement and further enhance the Park Authority programs, services, facilities and mission.

- Through strong partnerships, new parks, synthetic turf fields, picnic shelters, pump tracks, a roll top observatory, and athletic field upgrades were completed. These partners provided over \$14 million in contributions towards facility improvements throughout the park system.
- In conjunction with multiple county rezoning actions, 30 acres in Tysons and 17 acres in Reston of privately maintained, publicly accessible parkland was proffered. A total of 104 acres were proffered/dedicated to the Park Authority county-wide.
- Volunteers provided 899,041 hours of service resulting in a cost avoidance of approximately \$22 million.
- Agreements with 25 athletic organizations assisting with field maintenance through the Adopt-a-Field program resulted in a cost avoidance of \$192,818.

STABILIZE FUNDING Address the continued instability in the Park Authority funding environment by optimizing various funding sources to accomplish targeted financial and service goals.

- Expansions at RECenters and the addition of new amenities at The Water Mine made customers happy and resulted in an increased net revenue of 200 percent at these facilities. Similarly, expansion of Burke Lake driving range resulted in increased net revenue for this facility by 50 percent.
- Savings of nearly \$1.3 million in utility costs were realized due to an aggressive energy management program.



MANAGE & PROTECT PROPERTY Continue to lead collaborative efforts to manage and care for our parks, facilities and infrastructure, and protect natural and cultural resources.

- A partnership with the Department of Public Works and Environmental Services' Stormwater Division resulted in completion of 21 projects and 2.6 miles of stream restoration on parkland with a total cost of roughly \$27 million. Those 21 projects resulted in pollutant reductions of over 15,000 pounds of nitrogen, 59,300 pounds of phosphorous and 640 tons of sediment to the Chesapeake Bay.
- As a result of a renewed focus on facility renovations, close to \$70 million has been appropriated to fund projects that will address aging park infrastructure.
- The care of the county's historic properties is core to the FCPA's mission, in FY15 the Resident Curator (RC) project was launched as a strategic approach for the long term care of these treasured resources.

LEVERAGE TECHNOLOGY Utilize technology solutions to constantly improve customer experiences and increase efficiencies and accuracy in internal business processes.

- After more than 25 years, the Park Authority launched a new recreation management system that enhances the customers registration experience and provides enhanced reporting and marketing capabilities.
- A new tee time reservation system and point of sale Golf Management System provides golfers with an enhanced reservation system, access to promotions and a better overall golfing experience.
- Trails are the most popular park amenity in Fairfax County. To better serve our trail users, the "Trail Buddy" application was created to assist with navigating local trails.
- You can sign up on your phone! In an effort to improve customer's experience using the park website, staff enhanced our mobile interface for conducting business and obtaining information. As a result, mobile usage increased by 88 percent since FY2014.



INFORM & ENGAGE THE PUBLIC Engage the community to raise awareness of park benefits, value, offerings and challenges; broaden support for the park system; increase public involvement in park planning and decision making; and stimulate growth in park use and volunteerism.

- The use of social media to inform and engage the public has proven to be a successful and cost-effective communications tool. Annual organic reach increased from 198,000 impressions in FY2014 to more than 7 million in FY2018.
- The community revitalization efforts occurring in Tyson's resulted in a community-driven planning process that informed Tyson's Park Master Plan.
- A taskforce made up of Friends Group representatives and staff developed a template for Memorandum of Understandings that will guide the development of partnerships with Friends groups for the future.

OPTIMIZE PROGRAMS & SERVICES Ensure continued provision of a wide range of facilities, programs and services to serve the needs of an increasingly diverse population in a manner which is financially sustainable.

- A partnership with RECenters and INOVA provides a continuum of service from physical therapy to long-term fitness via our passholder programs.
- The Park Authority remains committed to educating the next generation of environmental stewards. Since FY2014, 6,485 programs were provided to 102,679 people.
- Key to the Park Authority's mission is providing access to ALL residents of Fairfax County. Since FY2014, \$5,207,966 in scholarships have been provided to more than 42,500 people.

LEARN MORE!

Find out more about FCPA's 2014-2018 Strategic Plan accomplishments on the following pages:

**STRENGTHEN
FINANCIAL STABILITY**

6-9

**IMPROVE
BUSINESS PRACTICES**

10-17

**PROMOTE
ORGANIZATIONAL EXCELLENCE**

18-19

MAINTAIN QUALITY WORKFORCE Align the organization to achieve consistently excellent performance and prepare for future challenges by expanding professional development opportunities and fostering diversity.

- DriveCam launched in 100 percent of Park Authority vehicles to encourage safe driving. In the first year of implementation, cost of claims decreased by 52 percent, and frequency of claims were reduced or dropped by 80 percent.
- With 40 percent of the FCPA's workforce eligible to retire by 2020, the agency focus on preparing our future leaders is essential. To prepare future leaders, several programs were initiated including mentoring, cross-training, and enhanced focus on cross-team participation.
- The Park Authority's Values were updated to reflect the needs of the organization and values we aspire to maintain.

FOSTER A POSITIVE WORK ENVIRONMENT Ensure an inclusive work culture with two-way communication and a collaborative work environment that supports recognition of valued employees.

- A new performance management system was launched. The system promotes improved job performance, encourages skill development, and fosters performance at the highest level while increasing the probability of success for the employee and the workgroup through enhanced communication.
- During FY2015, 72 percent of FCPA merit employees completed an Employee Survey. The feedback was used to inform initiatives that enhanced communication, accountability and employee development.
- The Park Authority's leadership created a strategy for improved communication to staff that includes a director's blog/enhanced park blog, enhanced director's office site outreach, and lunch and learns. Additionally, an agency-wide internal communication group was created to assess internal communication needs and recommend strategies to improve communication agency-wide.



PARTNERSHIPS: Building a Winning Team for Fairfax County Parks

The Park Authority continues to build a winning team of partners to help meet the needs of young athletes. In 2017, local players scored a big win when the Washington Nationals Dream Foundation selected Mason District Park as the location of its second Legacy Field. Through the Legacy Fields program, the Dream Foundation renovates one youth baseball and/or softball field in the Washington, D.C. region annually. The Annandale field was fully renovated and enlarged to accommodate different styles of youth baseball play. On a hot day in August 2017, Baseball Hall of Fame member Iván ‘Pudge’ Rodríguez joined Little League players, local fans, county leaders and the Dream Foundation for a star-studded ribbon-cutting ceremony to dedicate the new Iván ‘Pudge’ Rodríguez Field.

They say lightning can’t strike twice, but in 2018, the Washington Nationals and Major League Baseball announced that two fields at Fred Crabtree Park would be renovated and renamed the Bryce Harper All-Star Complex. The Washington Nationals outfielder was on hand for the dedication and offered

inspiration to the young players who gathered to celebrate the opening of the complex. Later that evening, Harper went on to win the 2018 Home Run Derby, but we’re proud that he started the day knocking it out of the park right here in Fairfax County.

Mastenbrook Grants

When inspiration and funding come together, great projects become a reality! Through the Mastenbrook Volunteer Matching Fund Grant program, the Park Board will match contributions from individuals and groups to help make approved park projects a reality.

In FY2018, those who received grants included: McLean Community Foundation, Rotary Club of McLean, Braddock Dogs, Chantilly Youth Association, Earth Sangha, Friends of Frying Pan Park, Annandale North Springfield Little League, Reston Herndon Little League, Joey Pizzano Memorial Fund,

Washington Nationals Dream Foundation, Great Falls Lacrosse Association, Great Falls Soccer Club, Pioneer Baseball League, Woodlawn Little League, McLean Little League, Fort Hunt Little League, Fairfax Little League, Friends of Historic Huntley and Wayne Valis.

The projects included a host of exciting new opportunities for the community including improved athletic fields, new equestrian jumps, an athletic practice wall, a dog park and a shade structure at Clemyjontri Park. Grant money also helped pay for a new indoor golf simulator at Pinecrest Golf Course, sprayground updates at the Lee District Family Recreation Area and educational materials at Historic Huntley.

(Above) Bryce Harper throws out the first pitch at the new Bryce Harper All-Star Complex.



Since 1999, there have been more than **180** Mastenbrook Grant capital projects with total awards of approximately **\$1.7 million**. The grants have gone toward projects in Fairfax County valued at more than **\$11.6 million**. These matching grants are funded through park bonds.

Building a Strong Foundation



The Fairfax County Park Foundation continues to support the Park Authority by raising private funds, obtaining grants and creating partnerships that supplement tax dollars to meet our community's needs for parkland, facilities and services.

\$811,803

Amount FCPF donated to the Park Authority in FY2018 for parks and outreach programs.

7,878

Number of donations from individuals, corporations and organizations to help our parks.

2,226

Rec-PAC Scholarships awarded to children from low-income families in FY2018.

59

Major Park Authority projects and events supported by the Park Foundation.



Park Foundation Board of Directors

Celebrating 20 Years of Giving Back



Our Special Harbor has been a favorite feature at the Lee District Family Recreation Area since 2009. The sprayground attracts tens of thousands of children each year and was designed, constructed and funded by the Joey Pizzano Memorial Fund.

Our Special Harbor is a fully-accessible spray ground inspired by Joey Pizzano's love of the Chesapeake Bay. In 2018, the Pizzano Memorial Fund donated more than \$40,000 to the Park Foundation to mark its 20th anniversary. The gift provided four wheelchairs for the Park Authority's adapted aquatics programs and also funded four new features at Our Special Harbor. An anniversary celebration at the spray ground brought out local leaders and supporters.



Recognizing Philanthropic Impact in Fairfax County Parks

The Park Foundation honored generous donors with 2017 Eakin Philanthropy Awards. The award recognizes significant financial or in-kind contributions, projects with long-term benefit to the community, and visionary contributions which create new programs or facilities and provide a new approach to addressing community needs.

Jean and Ric Edelman focused a love of astronomy on Observatory Park at Turner

Farm and helped fund the roll-top observatory's telescopes. The Observatory offers specialized astronomy programs, festivals and family viewing sessions.

The Chantilly Youth Association and Timber Ridge at Discovery Square, Inc. helped create Sully Highlands Park in Herndon, which features multiple athletic fields. The partners have provided park contributions valued at more than \$7 million.

Volkswagen of America makes summers special by donating to Parks and Community Together, known as the PACT program, which supports Park Authority camp programs. VW has contributed nearly \$59,000 to send kids to summer camps.

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



Jean & Ric Edelman



Chantilly Youth Association & Timber Ridge at Discovery Square

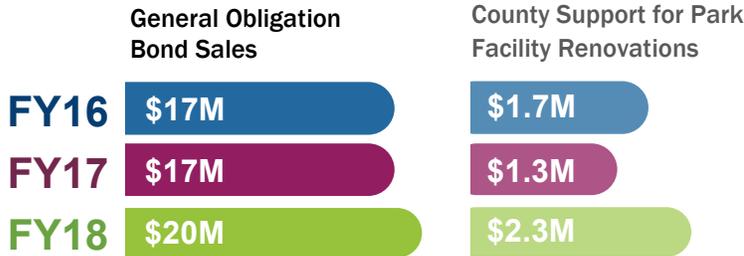


Volkswagen of America

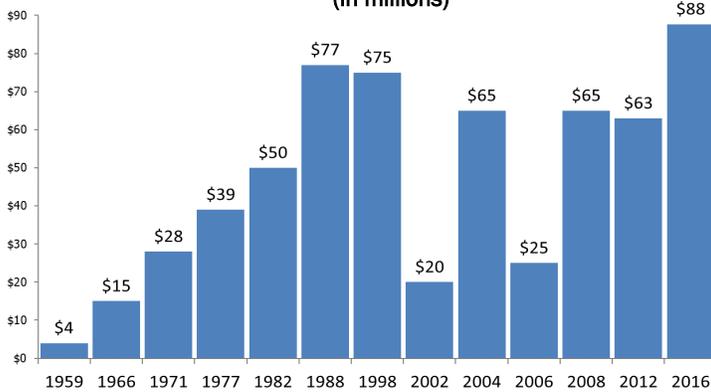
County Support for Parks Funds Facility Renovations

\$59.3
MILLION

Over the past three fiscal years, Fairfax County has supported new park facilities or park renovations by providing nearly \$59.3M via general obligation bonds or additional county support:



History of Park Authority GO Bonds (in millions)

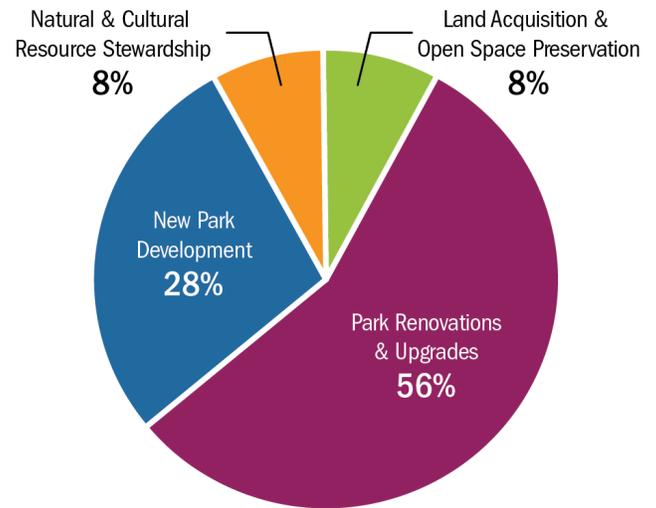


Park Bonds Benefit Aging Facilities

Over the past several decades, voters in Fairfax County have wholeheartedly approved park bonds. During tough financial times or more prosperous periods, those who love parks have translated that affection into yes votes. The opportunity to once again vote on park bonds approaches in 2020 but in the meantime, here is a categorical look at where those bond dollars have recently gone.

The bulk of 2016 park bonds has been spent on taking care of those facilities we have and ensuring that our aging park system continues to serve the residents of our community.

2016 Park Bond Distribution



Park Bonds Fund Redevelopment Project at Burke Lake Golf

In 2017, Springfield Supervisor Pat Herryty joined Park Board members and golf enthusiasts to celebrate not one but two renovated facilities at Burke Lake Golf. The first ribbon-cutting came in spring 2017 with the re-opening of the double-decker driving range (pictured below). The celebration continued in December 2017 with the opening of the 4,200 square-foot modernized clubhouse.





Volunteers Power Our Parks

Whether greeting customers at RECenters, running interpretive programs at historic sites, tending the animals at nature centers, or serving as starters at a golf course, Park Authority volunteers power our parks! Who are these dedicated volunteers? More than 2,000 are one time participants who joined in a stream valley clean up or pulling invasive plants. Another 2,000 are long term volunteers who, year in and year out, are counted on to lend a hand. Included in that long term group are: 175 volunteers who have been with the Park Authority for more than 10 years and 38 who have been volunteering their time for more than 20 years.



Park volunteers logged

207,431

service hours in FY2018.



A Little Help from Our Friends

The Park Authority depends on Friends and Park Volunteer Teams. These folks get their hands dirty, work in the field and raise funds to support a myriad of projects. In FY2018, Friends groups funded internships, staff training, equipment such as kayaks and telescopes, bird food and eclipse safety glasses. Friends groups and PVTs cleaned our streams, pulled invasive weeds and staffed clean ups that brought new life to park sites and wooded areas. Programs for Title I schools were funded, concerts and children s performances supported, camp scholarships given and financial support given for farm animals, invasive management programs and other endeavors.



Fairfax County Parks

are supported by **21**
Friends groups
or Park Volunteer Teams.



The Value of Partnerships

The Fairfax County Athletic Council and the Department of Neighborhood and Community Services (NCS) shared honors as 2017 recipients of the Harold L. Strickland Partnership and Collaboration Award recognizing the value and importance of teamwork and cooperation. These longtime Park Authority partners work with the Park Authority on collaborative programs and policies such as the Adopt a Field Program, Athletic Field Maintenance Program, Synthetic Turf Task Force, Youth Sports Scholarship Program, Field Allocation Policy, Athletic Facility Scheduling System, Park Master Plans, Tysons Redevelopment Plan and Park Policies Regarding Field Use.



NCS Athletics schedules park & school athletic facilities for

179,000

youth and adults annually.

RECenter Study Sets Path for Long-term Sustainability

A new report on the Park Authority's RECenters digs deep by providing a capital development plan that meets the needs of County residents and optimizes facilities to ensure continued financial sustainability. The Park Authority hired the firm of Brailsford and Dunlavey to research how the nine RECenters could better meet community needs and improve fiscal returns. RECenters are required to be financially self-supporting and are not sustained by general county funds. After an extensive study including interviews with staff, community focus groups, facility assessments and financial research, the firm released an FCPA System-wide Sustainability Plan for RECenters in March.

Capital investment was cited as critical to the RECenters' future success and financial stability.

The report recommended expansions at Mount Vernon, Oak Marr, Providence and South Run. Audrey Moore was targeted for a phased rebuilding. Other investments were recommended for Lee District and Spring Hill. Resizing was suggested for Cub Run's oversized fitness space. Other recommendations called for a rebranding of the George Washington RECenter, creation of a Reston RECenter, and the building of a new competition sports center, at a location to be determined, to draw non-local spending into the area.



212,509 visits to
drop-in fitness classes were
recorded in FY2018.





American Alliance of Museums



Parks Earn Esteemed Museum Accreditation

Of the 33,000 museums in the nation, just over three percent have achieved accreditation by the American Alliance of Museums (AAM). The Fairfax County Park Authority's Resource Management Division (RMD) and four of its historic sites are now on that es-

teemed list. AAM calls its accreditation "the ultimate mark of distinction in the museum field" and signifies "excellence and credibility." Colvin Run Mill Historic Site, Sully Historic Site, and RMD's Historic Artifact Collections were first accredited in 1979 and have now

been reaccredited several times. Green Spring Gardens was included for the first time in 2002 and reaccredited in 2018. Frying Pan Farm Park was added to the accreditation list for the first time this year.

Resource Management Plan Utilizes Technology

The Park Authority completed the fourth full year of its agency-wide, five-year Natural Resource Management Plan (NRMP). We found new ways to look at parks through technology by populating a geodatabase model of parks. There were ecological restorations and natural capital investment projects at Old Colchester Park and Preserve, Poplar Ford Park, John C. and Margaret K. White Horticultural Park, Fitzhugh Park, and Elklick Preserve. Future discoveries will come

in 2019 as we continue to populate the geodatabase model and implement more natural capital/ecological restoration projects. We'll finalize a new invasive vegetation management contract, complete the NRMP plan for Huntley Meadows and implement a Natural Area Preserve at the park. In 2019, we'll review and update a new agency-wide Natural Resource Management Plan so that we continue to pursue natural resource protection into the future.

New Cultural Resource Management Plan Adopted

The new Cultural Resource Management Plan coordinates agency-wide efforts to preserve cultural resources. The document was critical to FCPA's 2018 re-accreditation by the American Alliance of Museums. The plan's streamlined approach to organization is in line with FCPA's two cooperative branches, the Heritage Conservation Branch and the Archaeology and Collections Branch. The plan sets forth specific branch responsibilities and coordinates agency-wide preservation efforts – a simplified guide for who does what. For county residents, it means enhanced protection of county cultural resources now and in the future.



1,931

park acres surveyed for non-native invasive plants.

62

invasive species treatment plans completed.



1,048

acres treated for non-native invasive vegetation in FY2018.



57 acres of prescribed fire implemented



7,700

volunteer hours donated to remove non-native invasive vegetation at **55** sites.



253

parks were researched for deer browse/density.

Historic Corduroy Roads Revealed

The Park Authority's Archaeology & Collections Branch documented and preserved two Civil War-era corduroy road discoveries made in Fairfax County in the past few years.



Numbers provided for FY2018.

Updating Aging Playground Equipment

As many neighborhood parks age, it is imperative that the Park Authority replace old equipment with new, state-of-the-art apparatus. To that end, new playgrounds are popping up in neighborhoods around the county, thanks in large part to the 2016 Park Bond. That bond has invigorated the replacement initiative that will improve playground safety and bring facilities up to ADA standards. Kids are having fun at the updated playgrounds at Bucknell Manor Park, Griffith Park, Hidden Pond Nature Center and South Run District Park. A brand new playground also opened at Dulles Station Community Park (shown above).



Volunteers Manage Invasive Plant Species

It was another successful year for FCPA's Invasive Management Area (IMA) program. In FY2018, 2,126 volunteers spent 7,700 hours restoring habitat by removing invasive plants and planting native species at 467 workdays. Volunteers participated in the annual Take Back the Forest promotion in April and May. IMA worked with student groups as well as adult and corporate groups, and provided advice to private landowners on best management practices for their own property. In October of 2017, IMA was honored with the Friends of Trees award from the Fairfax County Tree Commission for its rapidly expanding efforts to remove invasive plant species from public parklands throughout the county.

Growing our Park System One Acre at a Time

The Park Authority owns or manages more than 23,500 acres of property in Fairfax County. In FY2018, the cumulative level of FCPA parkland increased by 94 acres or 0.42 percent primarily due to the addition of 57.8 acres to Confederate Fortification Park in Springfield District. Additional parkland via Board of Supervisors land transfers included the 7.3 acre Chantilly Library site in the Sully District, the 12.8 acre Rolling Wood Park site in the Mt. Vernon District, the 6.4-acre addition to Loftridge Park and the 1.2-acre addition to Dogue Creek Stream Valley Park in the Lee District. An 8.5-acre addition to Loisdale Community Park in the Lee District was acquired via donation.

94
Acres added to the Park Authority's total acreage in FY2018.

Stream Restorations Reduce Runoff

Multiple Stream Restoration projects were completed on park property in FY2018 helping to reduce stream bank erosion, cleaning local waterways and improving water quality, and ultimately improving our stream valley parks and larger estuaries downstream.

Some of the projects completed during this reporting period include Turkeycock Stream Restoration at Mason District Park and McLean Central Park where Dead Run Stream improvements were made. Long Branch Falls Park stream restoration work was undertaken as well as the restoration of Greentree Village Park/Pohick Stream. Bull Neck Run Stream Restoration construction began, and Indian Run Stream Valley Stream Restoration was in planning/preconstruction phase at the time.

25 Parkland stream restoration projects currently in the construction or planning phases with the Fairfax County Department of Public Works & Environmental Services.

An Innovative Approach to Historic Preservation



Fairfax County is looking for preservation heroes. The Resident Curator Program (RCP) is designed to preserve historic properties by offering long-term leases to qualified tenants who rehabilitate and maintain these historic resources. A curator can be a private citizen, a non-profit entity or a for-profit entity.

FY2018 saw the program coming into its own. RCP welcomed its first curator to Stempson House in Lorton in December 2017 with a nine-year lease and estimated investment of \$165,000 for rehabilitation. A second application was in process with Turner Farmhouse in Great Falls. An Open House was held at Ash Grove in Vienna.

Several other properties are getting closer to curatorship with historic inventories, a variety of reports, soil and septic testing, urgent repairs, and archaeology reports underway.

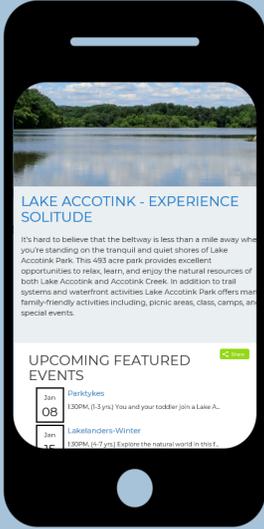


There are **16** historic properties in the Resident Curator Program



LEVERAGE TECHNOLOGY

New Website Offers Mobile-First Approach



In December 2017, the agency completed the transition to a new Web Content Management System, Drupal, replacing the old one, Documentum. Drupal 8 is an open-source, no cost solution. This feature-rich platform offers a mobile-first approach, role-based access, and integrated modules. The website migration was not automated. All agency content had to be reconstructed. It was a team-driven effort (with cross-agency representation) to redesign and rebuild the website from the ground up.

Since the launch of the redesigned website, we have had:

2,600
WEB PAGES
CREATED

2.4
MILLION
PAGE VIEWS

5.9
MILLION
UNIQUE VISITS

Social Media Amplifies FCPA Messages

Since FY2014, Fairfax County Park Authority's total social media followers have grown by 290 percent. FCPA accounts now reach more than 29,000 followers.

Social Media Audience



Park Authority Transitions to Cloud based Registration

In May 2018, the agency completed a long awaited transition to a new point of sale software system that replaced the ParkNet software that had been in place since 1995. Recreation Dynamics is a cloud based solution used by all sites other than golf courses to process merchandise sales, admission fees, class registrations, facility reservations and more. Online services include class registration, RECenter membership sales and renewals, and some facility reservations, with more capabilities being planned for the future. The system is PCI compliant and provides around the clock public access to online services.

In the average year, the Park Authority's registration system supports:

\$37,000,000
in sales revenue

350,000+
customers maintained
in database

150,000+
program, class and
camp registrations



ACCOMMODATIONS & ADAPTED RECREATION

- Adapted Programs →
- Leisure Coaching & Inclusion Support →
- Summer Rec-PAC Inclusion Camps →
- Volunteer →
- Forms & Documents →
- Pool Accessibility Chart →



Activities Search

Home / Activities / Search

Search Text/Catalog ID:

Category of Activity:

Place:

Day of the week:

Instructor:

Starting On or After:

Month:

Age:

The Fairfax County Park Authority offers a variety of activities such as classes, camps and tours in a wide variety of fitness, nature, dance, outdoor recreation, performing arts, history and many more. Special events, hip-hop tours and ParkTales, the Park Authority's quarterly guide, available through free subscription to county citizens.

BLACKWATER BIRDS, MD

Travel to Blackwater Wildlife Refuge on the Delmarva Peninsula. View endangered fox squirrels, waterfowl, herons and a bag lunch. Dress for the weather. Van departs from Packard Center, Anneandale District Park at 7am on November 3, 2018.

Understanding Total Cost of Ownership

It's one thing to know how much it costs to build something, but it's a whole other ballgame to fully understand the total costs of operating and maintaining those structures in order to plan appropriately to cover those costs. TCO costing, or life cycle costing, is an integral part of asset management. While TCO can be complex, the goal remains simple - to capture all pertinent cost data and analyze it in order to identify opportunities to streamline operations and ultimately sustain park

assets, especially when budgets are tight.

The Park Authority has now invested in personnel and asset management software upgrades necessary to properly evaluate our total cost of ownership across the agency. The next generation of asset information management will provide vital information that will assist in park planning and facility maintenance.

New Datasets Added to Geographic Information Systems

Several new park-specific GIS datasets were added to the county's enterprise geodatabase during FY2018. This included datasets on recreation facilities (athletic fields, playgrounds, sports courts) for both county and non-county facilities. More than 2,700 records were added or updated as part of this project. A preliminary analysis was performed to determine ¼-mile and ½-mile walk times to park entrances. This analysis was used to inform the new agency strategic plan and to identify additional data requirements for improving subsequent analysis projects. New web mapping applications were developed and added to the public website, including one for locating parks & amenities and one for identifying picnic facility rental locations based on rental criteria.

After One Year of DriveCam, the Proof is in the Numbers

FPCA celebrated its one-year anniversary of DriveCam implementation to its fleet vehicles on July 1, 2018. In 2018, the Park Authority worked with the vendor to produce its first return on investment (ROI) report. The results were very positive:

Avg. monthly auto liability claim cost per active vehicle decreased by **52 percent** while the per claim cost decreased by **18 percent** (reflecting a reduced number of collisions and a reduction in the severity of the damage when collisions did occur)

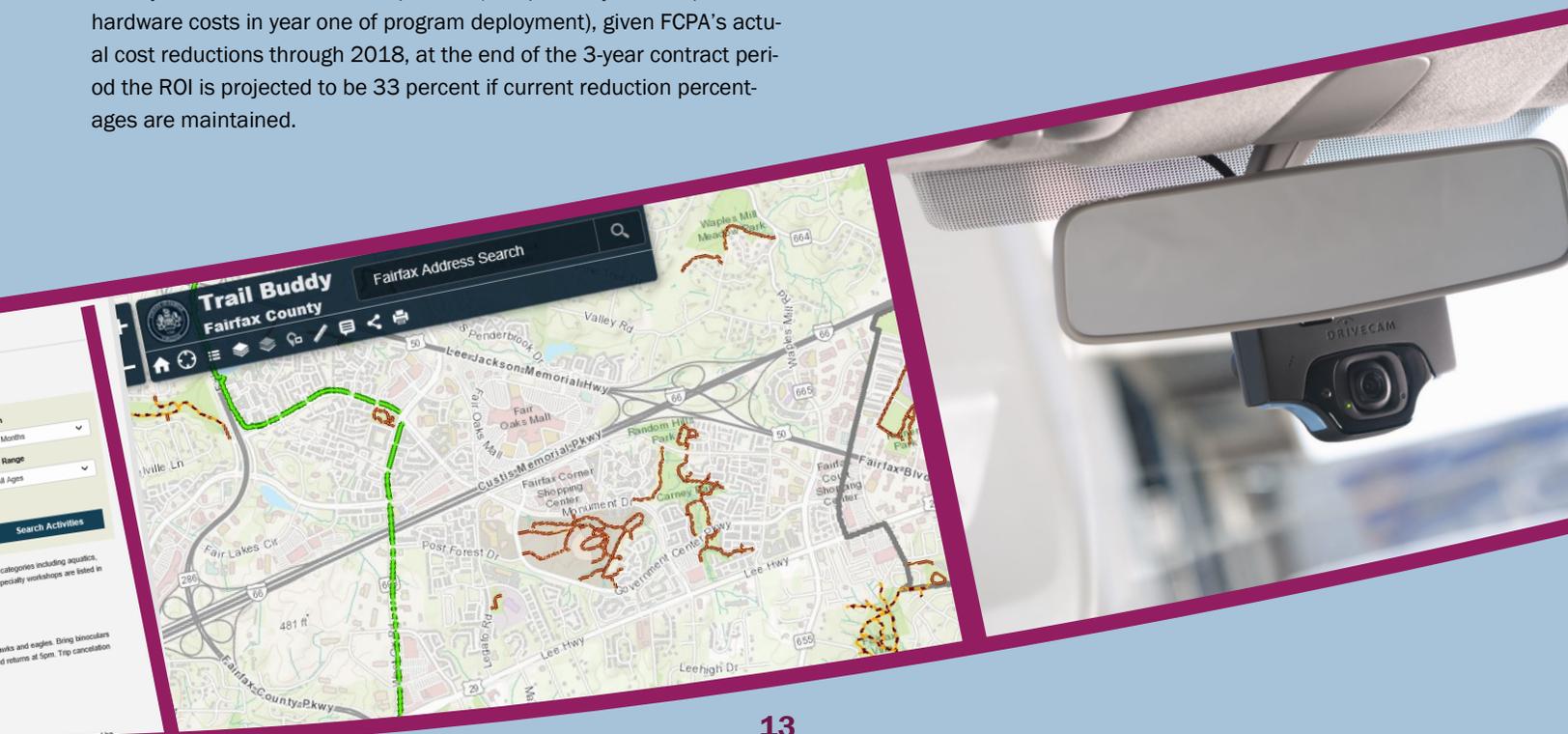
- ▶ Normalized maintenance costs decreased by **11 percent** Pre-Post.
- ▶ Fleet-wide fuel economy has improved by **4 percent** Pre-Post.
- ▶ Avg. fuel consumption decreased by **6 percent** Pre-Post while average mileage decreased by **2 percent**.

While year-to-date ROI is at -25 percent (due primarily to the upfront hardware costs in year one of program deployment), given FPCA's actual cost reductions through 2018, at the end of the 3-year contract period the ROI is projected to be 33 percent if current reduction percentages are maintained.

In addition, on July 17, 2018 the Park Authority hosted three other county agencies that have implemented the DriveCam technology—DPWES, LDS, and Code Compliance—to celebrate the program's success with the second Joint Agency DriveCam Performance Review and Recognition Breakfast at the Twin Lakes Golf facility. At this event, the Park Authority recognized 20 drivers and coaches for their on-going compliance and effectiveness in reducing driving risk.

In summary, in 2018 the use of DriveCam technology demonstrated improved safety to Park Authority drivers, passengers, and the community that the Park Authority serves, and improved route efficiencies (reflected in reduced mileage and fuel usage).

DriveCam proved to be a sound financial investment for the Park Authority in 2018 and, at the current projections, beyond.



Parks Thrive Through Engagement



Discovery Trail

Thanks to the Discovery Trail program, county residents have discovered new parks in their back yards, and the Park Authority has discovered a new way to bring people to parks that they haven't ever seen. Discovery Trail has been an excellent response to a comment from residents that is frequently heard by park staff: "I didn't know that was here!" Now in its third year, 2018 was, by far, the most successful. With an invitation for kids and adults to win prizes by visiting 8 of 12 select parks over the summer, Discovery Trail locations recorded 20,440 park visits — up from 14,752 in 2017.

21,013

Discovery Trail maps distributed in 2018.



Summer Camp Fair

Fairfax County Park Authority's Camp Fair provided customers a one-stop opportunity to meet with representatives from the county's RECenters as well as lakefront parks, nature centers, golf courses, historic sites and contract partners to get information about the hundreds of camps being offered. About 500 people attended the fair, which included 30 booths that used games, interactive displays and prizes to highlight camp programs. The fair allows parents to gather details of camp logistics while children have fun and discover new and exciting camp options in Fairfax County parks.

16,777

Rec-PAC camp registrations processed in 2018.



Empowering Friends of the Parks

Friends groups have supported, enhanced and advocated for Fairfax County's parks, facilities and services for more than 50 years. In order to acknowledge and expand these relationships, the Park Authority's 2013-2018 Strategic Plan included a project to develop agency-wide consistency in how the Park Authority partners with and supports all of our Friends groups. The Friends Group Project outcomes are a Friends Group Handbook, a new Park Authority Board Policy, and a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The input and responsiveness of the Friends groups during this project was tremendously helpful and influential in the development of these materials.

400+

People attended the Friends of Green Spring Gardens' 25th Anniversary Concert.



Naming of Jack Nolan Field

An athletic field at South Run District Park now bears the name of Jack Nolan. The field, named in Nolan's honor, recognizes his longtime leadership in athletic organizations and his support for youth soccer in the Springfield District. As a coach, he believed in developing players and "letting players play." He advocated for need-based athletic scholarships which over the years have enabled hundreds of financially-challenged players to participate.

50

Turf fields are maintained by the Fairfax County Park Authority.



Clean-Up Blitzes

The Park Operations Division recruited and engaged hundreds of volunteers to help improve neighborhood parks including Dunn Loring, Luria, Franconia, Monticello Woods, Brentwood, Centre Ridge, Carney, Alabama Drive, Backlick, Laurel Hill and Jefferson Manner. FCPA provided materials, supplies and guidance for projects that included mulch replacement, picnic shelter painting, re-staining tables and clean-up efforts. Based on the initial success of the clean-up blitzes, the program will expand in FY2019 to include additional parks and even more volunteers.

419

Number of one-time volunteer service opportunities that were held in FY2018.

Park Icons Remembered

Throughout its history, the Park Authority has thrived due to the outstanding work and dedication of its leaders and enthusiastic advocates in the community. Sadly, four of those remarkable individuals died during the last year but are being remembered fondly for the legacy they leave behind.



Former Park Authority Director **William C. Beckner** brought national honors to the agency and devoted his entire career to the field of parks, recreation, and

interpretation of the natural world. Beckner joined the Park Authority in 1977 as the agency's chief naturalist. Eight years later, he led the agency's detailed strategic planning process, and in February of 1989, he was named the Park Authority's director. He served in that post until December of 1993, when he left the FCPA to establish his own consulting business. Upon his resignation, Board Chairman Gregory C. Evans praised Beckner for his great vision as director and said he "placed the Park Authority in an excellent position to continue as one of the leading park systems in the nation."

Frank de la Fe supported parks as a County Planning Commissioner and a former at-



large Member and Chairman of the Park Authority Board. He was remembered by Park Authority Director Kirk Kincannon as a man who brought "a unique

brand and style of leadership which allowed the Park Authority to thrive under his care."

During de la Fe's tenure, the Park Authority acquired its 20,000th acre of parkland and created invaluable partnerships with the community, businesses and other government agencies. Under his leadership, the Park Foundation was created, a Strategic Plan was adopted, a new vision statement embraced and bond referenda were approved by voters.

Former Lee District Park Board representative **Harold Henderson** served on the Board



from 1997 to 2003 and was a stalwart advocate for parks and recreation. Lee District Supervisor Jeff McKay credited Henderson with playing a "large role in mak-

ing our world-class parks what they are today." Board Chairman Bill Bouie remembered Henderson as a "man of vision and a dedicated volunteer who understood the importance of public service." He also noted that Henderson "worked closely with the Board of Supervisors and fellow members of the Park Authority Board, helping to establish a more harmonious relationship that has benefited all residents."

Margaret C. Peck was a local historian who had a major impact on Sully Historic Site. She served 18 years with the Park Authority,

including Sully manager from 1971–1988. She spent another 22 years as a board member of the Sully Foundation, Ltd. On her



retirement from the Sully Foundation Board in 2012, Peck said she was most proud of the preservation of Sully when Dulles International Airport was built;

she was partially responsible for the fight to save Sully from becoming part of the buffer area for the airport. As manager at Sully, she helped develop a successful school-aged museum education program, including the four learning centers at the site today.

Considered a political maverick in the 1970s, Annandale Supervisor **Audrey Moore**



was a slow-growth proponent, battling developers and, sometimes, other supervisors. Moore played a pivotal role in the creation of Wakefield Park, which

she said spurred her interested in the slow-growth movement. Moore passed away in late 2018, but her legacy lives on at Annandale's Audrey Moore RECenter, which was renamed in her honor in 2002.

Tyson's Park Named for Planning Commissioner Ken Lawrence



Long-time community planner and park advocate Ken Lawrence was warmly remembered at the dedication of a park that now bears his name. The former Providence District Planning Commissioner died in 2016 after years of tireless support for parks and the recognition of the need for more athletic fields. He championed the creation of urban parks with wooded areas, open space and recreational amenities in rapidly growing areas in Fairfax County. In 2017, Jones Branch and Arbor Row parks in Tysons were consolidated to form the new Ken Lawrence Park.



Celebrating Completion of the Lee District Family Recreation Area

Seven years in the making, the Lee District Family Recreation Area was completed last spring with a ribbon-cutting for the kid-friendly Chessie's Trail. At the park, visitors will also find Our Special Harbor sprayground, a tree house, Chessie's Big Backyard playground, and a Chesapeake Bay-themed carousel.

This family recreation area was designed to be accessible for park-goers of all ages and allow children of all abilities to play side-by-side. On top of that, there's no charge to use any of the facilities.

In 2018, Chessie's Trail was honored by the Virginia Recreation & Park Society as the Best New Trail for populations larger than 100,000.

Making History on the Greens



7,058 participants in golf classes
175 women participated in the new Women & Golf Event
14,604 attended special events at FCPA Golf Courses
2,746 FootGolf rounds played

297,622 buckets of range balls purchased

Mid-Atlantic Amateur Championship

September 2017's Mid-Atlantic Amateur Championship at Laurel Hill Golf Club concluded with an unforgettable finish. Michael Brennan of Leesburg, Virginia won a playoff on the last hole. This event was one of firsts: the first time a public course has hosted this prestigious event in its 111-year history and the first time a 15-year-old was crowned champion.

Twin Lakes' 50th Anniversary

In 2018, Twin Lakes Golf Course celebrated 50 years of golf excellence with a 50th Anniversary Golf Tournament. Opened in the fall of 1967, Twin Lakes was the Park Authority's first golf operation. The course expanded from 18 holes to 36 with the addition of the Oaks Course in 1998. It is Northern Virginia's largest public access golf facility.

Women & Golf

On June 13, 2018, more than 50 people gathered at Laurel Hill Golf Club for Golf Fairfax's Laurel Hill Women & Golf Reception in honor of Women's Golf Month. This fun and educational event promoted the health and social benefits of golf, introduced new social events and showcased the Fairfax County Park Authority's seven unique golf facilities.

The Great American Eclipse

In August 2017, county residents poured into parks to witness The Great American Eclipse.



7,000

pairs of eclipse safety glasses distributed by the Fairfax County Park Foundation for use in Fairfax County Parks.

The Fairfax County Park Foundation generously provided eclipse glasses to parks, programs and camps to ensure safe viewing. Hundreds of people registered for eclipse-related park programs. Park staff built on eclipse excitement and helped visitors

recognize that county parks are a great place to delve into science and experience nature close to home.



FARMERS MARKETS



Locally-grown food contributes to a healthy life, and the Park Authority oversees 10 markets that help improve the health of residents, support local food producers and protect the environment. The producer-only markets require that all farmers and producers come from within a 125-mile radius of Fairfax County. This year, four markets opened early to provide early spring vegetables, several markets piloted a locally roasted coffee program, and three markets hosted family-oriented fall harvest celebrations.

SUMMER CONCERTS



Toes were tapping at Burke Lake Park this summer – the newest venue for the Park Authority’s popular Summer Entertainment Series. The Springfield Nights concert series brought professional musicians to the park for shows that also featured performances by Fairfax County high school musicians. Over the years, tens of thousands of Fairfax County families have enjoyed this summer tradition of free music in the parks with performances ranging in style from acoustic to Zydeco. The Park Authority now offers 11 series, including Arts in the Park for children.

POP UP PARK



To give Annandale residents a better idea of what a proposed new park/civic space might be like, the Park Authority and community partners hosted a “demonstration park” in October 2017. Visitors were invited to stop by for family-friendly programming such as fitness activities, educational classes and games. Visitors could learn more about the proposal, review draft design concepts and share their thoughts on the vision for the proposed space in downtown Annandale.

HEALTHY STRIDES



This was a great year for making healthy strides – literally and figuratively! More than 10,000 Healthy Strides annual calendars were distributed, and the photo-laden, informative calendar won a national award for excellence from the National Association of Government Communicators. The Park Authority established a new partnership with the Fairfax County Public Libraries to hold a monthly Wellness Book Club to encourage residents to get in the know about health and fitness. Quarterly mini-health fairs have been held at select RECenters with focuses on balance, men’s health, family physical activity and stress management.

SNOW DAY CAMPS



When a winter storm resulted in an extended school closure, residents asked the Board of Supervisors for help. Parents were looking for a means to get back to work while students were out of school yet worried about where their children would go. The Supervisors turned to the Park Authority for help, and Snow Day Camps were born. Using four RECenters, a day camp was created that could be activated on extremely short notice in difficult conditions. Snow Day Camps are entering their third year of providing solutions for Fairfax families and full-day fun for kids.

DRONES IN THE PARKS



Change is inevitable, including the way we recreate. Recent legislative changes in Virginia have opened up our parks to UAS (unmanned aerial system) activity. Not a day goes by that we don’t receive an inquiry about drones in our parks. While there’s no longer a ban on the use of drones in county parks, FCPA is encouraging users to be considerate of wildlife and fellow park visitors as well as our valuable natural and cultural resources. Drone operators must still abide by Federal Aviation Administration regulations which generally prohibit drone use in a 15-mile DC Flight Restricted Zone. Many park properties fall within that zone.



Fairfax County Park Authority is an award-winning park system that has been recognized nationally for excellence in facilities, programming, partners and staff. We are proud to be industry leaders in parks and recreation and humbly accepted the following awards for our work in 2018.

AWARDS

National Association of County Park & Recreation Officials (NACPRO)

- 2018 Outstanding Contributor Award for Jean & Ric Edelman
- 2018 Park & Recreation Facility Class II Award for Lee District Family Recreation Center

National Association of Government Communicators (NAGC)

- 2018 Award of Excellence for the 2017 Strategic Plan and Annual Report
- 2018 Award of Excellence for the 2018 Healthy Strides Calendar
- 2018 2nd Place Award for Karen Thayer's Writer's Portfolio
- 2018 Award of Excellence for David Ochs' Writer's Portfolio
- 2018 Award of Excellence for Burke Lake Golf Center's Promotional Campaign
- 2018 Award of Excellence for the Golf Fairfax E-Newsletter
- 2018 Award of Excellence for the Discovery Trail Maps 2017 #whereislordfairfax campaign
- 2018 Award of Excellence for "Why Are There Leash Laws?" blog (Dave Ochs & John Shafer)

Aquatics International

- 2018 Best of Aquatics Winner for the Virginia Swims learn-to-swim collaboration

Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA)

- 2018 Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the 2017 Fiscal Year Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR)

National Association for Interpretation (NAI)

- 2018 Shining Star of Interpretation Award for Hidden Oaks Nature Center's Suzanne Holland
- Region 2 2018 Meritorious Service Award for Frying Pan Farm Park's Yvonne Johnson
- Region 2 2018 Outstanding Frontline Interpreter Award for Frying Pan Farm Park's Claire Thomas
- Region 2 2018 Outstanding New Interpreter Award for Huntley Meadows' Margaret Wohler
- Region 2 2018 Outstanding Interpretive Volunteer Award for Huntley Meadows' Tara Miller and Hidden Oaks Nature Center's Marilyn Schroeder

Virginia Recreation & Park Society (VRPS)

- 2018 Distinguished Volunteer Award for Huntley Meadows' Shannon Dart
- 2018 Best New Facility for Chessie's Trail
- 2018 Snapshot Moment for Cristin Bratt's Dog Daze photo

Fairfax County

- 2017 Environmental Stewardship Award presented to the Churchill Road Elementary School and Fairfax County Park Authority's Invasive Management Partnership
- 2017 Tree Commission Friends of Trees Award to the Invasive Management Area Program.

Employees Crucial to Success of Fairfax Parks

Staff members who make outstanding contributions to the Park Authority in a wide variety of ways are selected each year for Director's Leadership Awards. In FY2018, Kylie Starck, Anna Finch, Halley Johnson and Jennifer Crawford of Huntley Meadows Park were commended for helping to save an intern's life and ensuring that camp children and their parents received timely, positive information following a bee attack. Cindy Fortuno of Promotional Services was honored for saving production costs for Parktakes magazine. Park Operations' Michelle Dawson received an award for her work with a vendor who failed to get port-a-potties in place before the spring athletic season.

Park Authority staff also honor their own each year at the Trailblazers luncheon and awards ceremony. Everyone's invited to hear a State of the Parks address from Director Kirk Kincannon and see who went above and beyond in the past year to win a Trailblazer award. Awards are given to sites, individuals and teams for outstanding performance in a variety of categories.

2017 Trailblazers:

- Site of the Year Award: Burke Lake Park
- Supervisor of the Year Award: Sara Baldwin
- Employee of the Year Award: Patrick McNamara



Kirk Kincannon and the aquatics team celebrate FCPA's Best of Aquatics recognition.



Burke Lake Staff earns Site of the Year honors at the 2017 Trailblazers Awards.

165
FCPA PRAISE Awards given in 2017 18 in recognition of outstanding customer service

Hidden Oaks Assistant Manager Suzanne Holland was honored by the National Association for Interpretation (NAI) as one of its 30 Shining Stars of Interpretation.



8
FCPA Director's Leadership Awards



Erin Stocksclaeder accepts a 2017 Fairfax County Friends of Trees Award on behalf of the Invasive Management Area Program.



7 Employees recognized with Fairfax County Team Excellence Awards

Fairfax County Park Authority staff and board members gather at the Fairfax County Government Center to celebrate the Board of Supervisors proclamation of July 2018 as National Parks & Recreation Month in Fairfax County.

18
Employees received Fairfax County Outstanding Performance Awards in FY2018.

New Master Plan Establishes Guiding Principles

The 2017 Parks and Recreation System Master Plan establishes long-term goals for the park system, beginning with guiding principles that capture what the park system strives to be in the future. The 12 Strategic Objectives in the new strategic plan align with the below guiding principles and goals established in the 2017 Parks and Recreation System Master Plan.

As part of the strategic planning process, staff and Park Authority Board members reviewed and updated the mission and vision with the master plan guiding principles and goals in mind. The new mission and vision reflect the future direction of the Park Authority and emphasize health, equity and inclusion, while also reinforcing the Park Authority's longstanding focus on stewardship and recreation.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

 <p>Inspire a Passion for Parks</p> <p>Communicate the benefits of parks and recreation; provide great park experiences; create an enduring park system legacy; provide great park destinations that connect and help build community; impart a passion for parks from generation to generation.</p>	 <p>Meet Changing Recreation Needs</p> <p>Proactively respond to changing needs and trends; proactively manage facilities and program assets; engage and listen to the community.</p>	 <p>Advance Park System Excellence</p> <p>Provide targeted, high quality programs and services; be mission-focused; maintain system quality and condition; embrace, lead and implement new ideas and best practices; leverage technology, make data-driven decisions and measure performance.</p>	 <p>Strengthen and Foster Partnerships</p> <p>Collaborate with schools and other public agencies and non-profits; co-locate facilities, programs and services with others; expand relationships with the private sector; contribute to the local economy; empower volunteers and the community.</p>	 <p>Be Equitable and Inclusive</p> <p>Provide quality facilities, programs and services to all communities; balance the distribution of parks, programs and facilities; ensure these are accessible and affordable.</p>	 <p>Be Great Stewards</p> <p>Integrate stewardship and sustainability ethics in all plans and actions; raise awareness and appreciation for natural and cultural resources; serve as a model for urban nature conservation; protect and actively manage natural and cultural resources; be transparent, accountable and committed to responsible management.</p>	 <p>Promote Healthy Lifestyles</p> <p>Provide facilities and programs for all ages to promote life-long activity and wellness; improve park access; expand trail system connections; provide an opportunity to connect with nature.</p>
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GREAT PARKS, GREAT COMMUNITIES



In June 2018, the Park Authority Board approved a new Strategic Plan for Fiscal Years 2019-2023. The FY19-FY23 strategic plan was developed through a multiyear planning process that began with the extensive outreach, analysis, and findings of the 2016 Parks Count! Needs Assessment and 2017 Parks and Recreation System Master Plan. The needs voiced by residents, park users and community partners through the Needs Assessment form the foundation of the FY19-FY23 strategic plan.



The FY19-23 Strategic Plan includes 12 Strategic Objectives to guide agency staff in the implementation of the 2017 Parks and Recreation System Master Plan and provide a roadmap to further community priorities based on the findings from the 2016 Parks Count! Needs Assessment:



- ▶ Increase the Park Authority's land holdings based on a proactive and informed decision-making strategy.
- ▶ Balance natural resources, cultural resources, recreational needs and equity in planning and developing a sustainable park system.
- ▶ Position the Park Authority as the model organization for increasing physical activity and wellness in Fairfax County.
- ▶ Increase walkable access (¼-mile or 5 minute-walk (urban) and ½-mile or 10-minute walk (county-wide) by County residents to park or facility entrances, or trailheads, to connect people to nature and recreational experiences.
- ▶ Implement an asset management program to guide reinvestment, maintenance and upgrades to infrastructure and capital equipment.
- ▶ Develop an IT structure that coordinates data management, analysis, technology and business needs to support the operations and goals of the Park Authority and enables sound decision-making and transparency.
- ▶ Provide training and leadership development for employees at all levels to ensure a high-performing organization.
- ▶ Reinforce and sustain a culture of accountability to advance the mission and vision.
- ▶ Develop and implement an advocacy strategy to increase dedicated funding and resources from the County.
- ▶ Establish a sponsorship program to secure, sustain and continually increase alternative funding available for agency priorities.
- ▶ Collaborate with the Park Foundation to increase annual donations and provide greater support for the Park Authority.



PARKS

BY THE NUMBERS | 2018



All 151 standards met to achieve **national** reaccreditation

25,795
camp
registrations



23,548
acres
of parkland



177
FREE
summer
performances



10 Farmers
Markets

334
miles
of trails



90%
of residents
live within a
1/2 mile
proximity to
parkland

427
PARKS

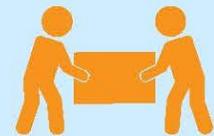


14 new
or renovated
parks/playgrounds



235,287
rounds of
golf played

11 dog
parks

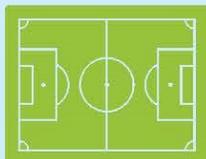


196,162
volunteer service hours
from 7,355 volunteers

670 athletic fields
maintained

408
schools or fields
on non-parkland

262
Park Authority
fields



2,273,320
total web visits



45,734
artifacts
catalogued

PLANNING FOR TOMORROW'S PARKS



Kirk W. Kincannon
Executive Director
Fairfax County Park Authority

The residents of this community have great expectations of their park system, and the Fairfax County Park Authority is working hard not just to meet these expectations but to exceed them and lead the way nationally as a model park system. Those are ambitious goals, but we are poised to meet them with new park planning tools in hand, a greater focus on wellness and healthful recreational opportunities, and a strong commitment to diversity and inclusion.

The Park Authority endeavors to address the nationwide epidemic of obesity by ensuring proximity to local parks community-wide. People who live near parks are healthier and happier. Playgrounds, dog parks, outdoor urban spaces and trails help build community. Proximity to open space can be found just outside your backdoor in stream valley parks. Lakefront parks, places like Huntley Meadows, or Riverbend Park fill us with wonder. Preserving these green corridors is a testament to the vision of early park planners and community leadership.

We have embraced a new agency-wide Master Plan that will move this agency forward. We have a new five-year Strategic Plan filled with ambitious goals. We are crafting a capital projects plan to serve the ever-growing needs of this community with new facilities as well as an emphasis on updated RECenters and fields throughout Fairfax County. Recently updated Cultural and Natural Resource Management plans are yet another element of our planning initiatives.

Let me close with a shout-out to our numerous partners including the Park Foundation, our Park Volunteer Teams (PVTs) and Friends groups, as well as the numerous agencies, corporations and non-profits who work closely with the Park Authority. We all know that tax dollars cannot provide for everything. Therefore, we depend on fee-based programs as well as the largess of donors and voters who support park bonds. It's a combination that has served us well in the past and holds promise for the future.

You are in good hands with the support of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, the determination of the Park Authority Board and dedication of park staff. With the support of local leadership and the countless residents who simply love Fairfax County parks, the future, while ever challenging, remains very bright.

Warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "K.W. Kincannon". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Kirk W. Kincannon, CPRP, FAAPRA, FULI
Executive Director, Fairfax County Park Authority

MISSION

To enrich quality of life for all members of the community through an enduring park system that provides a healthy environment, preserves natural and cultural heritage, offers inspiring recreational experiences, and promotes healthy lifestyles.

VISION

Inspire a passion for parks, healthy lifestyles, and stewardship by providing a sustainable, dynamic, and inclusive park system to support a thriving community.

CONNECT WITH FAIRFAX PARKS

Fairfax County residents are invited to speak at the beginning of regular Park Authority Board meetings on any park topic, with the exception of issues related to litigation or personnel matters, which are confidential. Meetings begin at 7:30 p.m. in Suite 941 of the Herry Building located at 12055 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax, Virginia. To learn more, visit the Board calendar page at: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/board/meetings



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Alliance of
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