

Welcome Back Summer Fun and Fitness!



Get ready to make a splash this summer at the Water Mine! The beloved water park will open this season with some pandemic-related safety protocols and modifications. Advance reservations will be required, and occupancy will be limited to allow for social distancing. For full details, rates and to reserve your spot, visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/watermine.

Escape to fun this summer with boat, train and carousel rides at your favorite park! Enhanced cleaning and limited capacity are among the pandemic-related safety protocols. For details and to reserve your tickets online, visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/popular-activities.

Drop-in group fitness classes are back at Park Authority RECenters! Drop-in classes are free to RECenter members and available to non-members with daily admission. Capacity is limited, and advance reservations and face masks are required for indoor classes. For class schedules and to make a reservation, visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/recenter or call the RECenter of your choice.



Park Preschool Program Expands



It's easy to see why Park Authority preschool programs at Lee District and Spring Hill RECenters are so popular – even in the midst of a pandemic. Spacious, colorful classrooms and a cheerful welcoming atmosphere make our licensed, accredited preschools seem like home away from home for children ages 3 to 5. Child-sized furniture, kid-friendly activities and dedicated instructors make for fun and nurturing places to learn.

“It’s phenomenal,” said Héctor Salazar Salame who enrolled his 4-year-old son, Xavier, in the Spring Hill preschool in September. “The program has been top-notch, the facility is very clean and there are a lot of [COVID-19] safety protocols in place, which gave us a lot of confidence from day one.”

Parents whose children are enrolled in the Lee District program say they are equally impressed with both the instruction and the preschool environment.

“This program has been a lifesaver for our family,” said one parent who responded to a recent preschool satisfaction survey. “The staff is very professional and so great with the kids. I also feel that the education my child is getting is top notch. Thank you for your effort in making this a fun and safe environment during these times.”

Plans to expand the half-day preschool programs were in the works prior to the pandemic to accommodate a growing number of children who were on waiting lists. Beginning this fall, both programs will add classrooms, and both will continue to follow health safety protocols recommended by the CDC and the Fairfax County Health Department.

“So far, I feel comfortable with the COVID-19 [safety] procedures put in place,” said another parent who responded to the survey. “My child always comes home excited to tell me all that was done/learned each day of school.”

Class sizes are kept small so that students can receive more personalized instruction. Both two-day and three-day programs are offered at both locations. By the time the children graduate, parents say they are well prepared for the next step.

“After two kids attending five years apart, we honestly couldn't be happier,” reported a veteran parent who responded to the survey. “Both kids came out confident, happy and ready for kindergarten. Just keep it up! The program is fabulous!”

Registration for the fall program is underway. To learn more about the program, visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/recenter/preschool. To register, call Lee District RECenter at (703) 922-9841 or Spring Hill RECenter at (703) 327-0989 and ask to speak to the preschool director.

