Hidden Oaks, FCPA’s first nature center is, at 53 years, getting a stunning makeover. Thanks to ongoing voter support of park bonds, visitors will enjoy a $1.6 million renovation that provides expanded educational space, enhanced outdoor features and fully accessible restrooms. One of the liveliest features will be the larger outdoor pond, a new home for thousands of frog and salamander eggs. One of the muddiest is the new child-friendly water pump in Nature Playce.

Each year, approximately 50,000 visitors benefit from the site’s programs and exhibits. The new classroom will connect more students to local natural and cultural history. The Nature Center’s larger rooms and updated kitchen area will be available for rentals, creating a perfect space for events such as workplace retreats and birthday celebrations.

Hidden Oaks Nature Center is a wonderful place for everyone who appreciates nature. As Mason District Supervisor Penny Gross remarked, “No matter the season, or age, Hidden Oaks is a special place to visit – often!”

Exciting new exhibits will be unveiled at the grand re-opening on July 16. Fluor-Transurban and the Rotary Club of Bailey’s Crossroads have funded a 3-D microscope for junior scientists to explore shed snake skins, seashells and other objects of interest. A memorial reading corner honors Elly Doyle Park Service Award-recipient, and longtime nature center volunteer, Jean Laub, encouraging discovery of nature’s wonders by young readers.

Find out all about the approaching grand opening, programs and park enhancements at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/hiddenoaks