



FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY



INFORMATION RELEASE

Judy Pedersen, PIO
E-mail: parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov
Inquiries: 703-324-8662

December 22, 2021
IR-201

Park Authority Purchases Historic Building in Old Colchester Area

On Dec. 3, 2021, the Fairfax County Park Authority purchased a historic property that was built in the mid-18th century in the Old Colchester area. The property is a 2.26-acre parcel of land with a home and barn. The home was built in 1750, and it is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Colchester was established in 1753 and became a thriving port town due to its proximity to the Occoquan River. The property, located in the Mount Vernon magisterial district, is adjacent to a cultural and natural resource park of the same name. The property had been owned privately by a family until it was sold to the Park Authority for \$1.1 million.

The historic building had served as the Colchester Inn and the Fairfax Arms Tavern. The structure was located on what was then Kings Highway, the route connecting Boston to Williamsburg, and was used as an ordinary, serving food and drink. The historic building has two doors that separated men and women. The doors remain to this day.

This property is an addition to the Old Colchester Park and Preserve, and the Park Authority will continue to preserve and interpret its historical significance.

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IR-202

Fairfax County Supervisors Convey 10.6 Acres of Land to Park Authority

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors voted at its meeting on Dec. 7, 2021, to convey two parcels of land in Alexandria, Virginia, to the Fairfax County Park Authority. The Board-owned property at 6318 Quander Road and the adjacent Fairchild property total approximately 10.6 acres and are located south of Richmond Highway and north of the Quander Road School.

Significant portions of both parcels are within a Resource Protection Area in the Little Hunting Creek watershed and have been subject to a recent stream restoration initiative by the Department of Public Works. As the land is conveyed to the Park Authority, a conservation easement will be placed over portions of it to preserve undisturbed natural features and secure water quality benefits. The easement will also allow for natural trails and open areas, where interpretive signs can be installed that discuss the ownership of the land by the Quander family, believed to be one of the oldest families of African descent in the United States. Additional smaller scale park amenities outside the conservation easement will be vetted with the community as the park goes through the park planning process.

“This transfer provides the opportunity for the Park Authority to preserve a wonderful ecologically sensitive area, to provide neighborhood park amenities and to also interpret a significant cultural site,” Park Authority Executive Director Jai Cole said. “This is another untold story that will now be heard in the Mount Vernon District thanks to the actions of the Board of Supervisors.”

The county’s Comprehensive Plan calls for the properties to be preserved and developed as public park space and include ecological enhancements. These properties provide a unique resource within an urban area, offering connections to a more naturalized and passive recreation space adjacent to the built environment.

With this acquisition, the Park Authority will manage 23,645 acres of land in Fairfax County.

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IR-203

Take a Sneak Peek at the New Online FCPA Camp Guide

Last year more than 95% of Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA) in-person camps filled up and had wait lists. With lower camp sizes still in place, plan now to guarantee a spot in your child's favorite spring break or summer camp. Although registration for spring break and summer camps does not open until Jan. 11, 2022, you can browse the [FCPA Spring and Summer Day Camps 2022 Guide](#) online now with your children, mark the camps you want, and be ready when registration begins. Find camps for all your children in one place this summer!

Voted as one of Northern Virginia Magazine's Best Summer Camps for several years in a row, the Park Authority offers more than 1,000 summer day camp options at dozens of convenient locations including Rec Centers, nature centers, historic sites, lakefront parks, golf courses and schools, as well as virtual camps for those who wish to stay at home. Children ages 3 to 17 can choose from an increased number of outdoor adventures, such as boating, fishing and biking camps; an array of skill-development camps, including international soccer, basketball, baseball, gymnastics, cheerleading and archery; and specialty camps such as STEM programs, chess, sewing and cooking. FCPA has something for everyone. Many camps offer swimming at Rec Centers each day.

Safety is our priority, and all of our camps follow guidelines established by the local health department, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the Virginia Governor's orders. Camp sizes are smaller, and children stay with a small group throughout the day. Likewise, our virtual camp providers maintain the same high standards with a focus on online safety and privacy protection.

Summer camps will be added to the searchable registration database at www.fairfax-county.gov/parks/camps on Dec. 28, 2021, ahead of the Jan. 11, 2022 registration.

For more information, call the registration hotline at 703-222-4664, Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. You can register with confidence knowing that you can receive a full refund for any camp should camp offerings change due to COVID-19 restrictions.

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PSA-222

Howl at the Full Moon at Hidden Oaks' Campfire and Hike

Winter full moons can be some of the most impressive with cold-clear skies. On Monday, Jan. 17, 2022 from 7 until 8 p.m., your Hidden Oaks naturalist guide will point out signs of creatures that glide, fly and tiptoe through the shadows of the woodland at night.

Enjoy a campfire with s'mores after your hike. This program is for participants ages 6 years and older. All participants must register; the fee is \$8 per person. This outdoor program will be canceled in case of inclement weather. Children must be accompanied by an adult who is also registered in the program.

Register at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes. The woodland trail is not stroller-accessible. Masks are required for all participants during the hike.

Hidden Oaks Nature Center is at 7701 Royce St., Annandale, Virginia. For information, call 703-941-1065; or visit online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/hidden-oaks.

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PSA-223

Preschoolers Explore Woodland Wonders Outdoors in Forest Fledglings

Now through February 2022, children ages 3 to 5 and an adult can learn about winter wonders near and far on Wednesdays at Hidden Oaks Nature Center. Explore woodland wonders while outdoors as part of the popular Forest Fledgling fun! Programs include a guided hike, story and activities. Attend the live animal meet-and-greet held inside.

Masks are required indoors. Masks are also required during outdoor programs unless you can maintain 6 feet of distance from other class participants and staff. Due to limited program numbers, only one adult is permitted per registered child and no siblings are allowed. The cost is \$8 per child. Join in the adventure most Wednesdays from 9:45-10:30 a.m. or 11-11:45 a.m.

This program may be canceled in case of inclement weather. Refunds will be provided for all canceled programs. Register for Forest Fledgling at Hidden Oaks at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes.

Hidden Oaks is located at 7701 Royce St. in Annandale, Virginia. For more information, call 703-941-1065; or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/hidden-oaks.

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PSA-224

Salute the Bald Eagle on Its National Day with a Detailed Look

In celebration of Bald Eagle Day, visit Hidden Oaks Nature Center for an indoor program to learn about the fascinating life of this American symbol. Get an up-close look at a specimen of a juvenile bald eagle and find out about the legal ramifications for most Americans just for possessing a single feather. Discover where you can see live bald eagles in the area and how to recognize their unusual call.

This informative presentation is scheduled for Friday, Jan. 14, 2022, from 7-8 p.m. for participants age 8 years and older. Children must be accompanied by an adult who is also registered in the program. The fee is \$7 for children and adults. Register at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes.

Hidden Oaks Nature Center is located at 7701 Royce St., in Annandale, Virginia. For more information, call 703-941-1065; or visit online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/hidden-oaks.

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