



# FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY



## MEMORANDUM

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**Date:** November 1, 2022  
**To:** Mount Vernon Rec Center Customers  
**From:** Sara Baldwin, Deputy Director  
**Subject:** A Message to Mount Vernon Rec Center Customers

Dear Mount Vernon Rec Center Customer:

Earlier this year, the Park Authority held a public meeting and provided a status report to all customers regarding the Mount Vernon Rec Center renovation and expansion project. At that time, we announced the impending closure of the site for two years, a difficult decision made by the Park Authority Board upon the recommendation of planning staff. In the interest of continued transparency and to better inform our customers, we wish to provide a further update and timeframe.

Rest assured that this project remains an agency priority, and while the decision to close for the duration of construction was difficult, we stand by that call and look forward to providing our community with the promised renovations and facility expansions, including a second sheet of ice and a dedicated fitness center.

We are pleased to report the project remains on schedule, with site closure set for the beginning of 2023. The bid process is underway. The ad ran in early September and nine pre-qualified contractors sought additional project information and closed on October 27.

We anticipate the announcement of the successful bidder soon but are still completing contractual processes. Our timelines remain intact with no changes. And we remain on target to begin this renovation project in early 2023.

We recognize the impending impact on our customers and to that end will work diligently to keep construction on schedule. Additionally, it is our intention to work closely with customers to ensure access to other FCPA facilities that meet their fitness and recreational goals. As always customers may access any of FCPA's nine Rec Centers during the closure. Additionally, FCPA will extend hours at a nearby Rec Center, provide flexibility regarding refunds or membership extensions and will work closely with swim teams and ice users to find other venues wherever possible.

We thank you in advance for your understanding and pledge to keep you informed as the project moves forward.

Warmest regards,



Sara Baldwin  
Deputy Director  
Fairfax County Park Authority

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### **Why is Mount Vernon Rec Center (MVRC) being renovated?**

MVRC is one of our oldest Rec Centers and is unique in that it is the only Park Authority facility with an ice rink. MVRC was built in 1978 and is suffering from an aging infrastructure, including a failed chiller, failed rink dehumidification system and critical end-of-life cycle repairs for the roof, electrical system and bleachers. These represent \$4.9 million in unfunded critical maintenance needs.

### **What is included in the renovation project?**

The scope includes an approximately 75,000-square foot addition to include a two-story fitness center, multi-purpose areas, upgrades to the existing pool and building and a second sheet of ice, for a total project size of approximately 139,000 square feet.

### **What option did the Park Authority staff recommend?**

Park Authority staff recommendations favor a two-year closure based on estimated savings on the bond project, limited revenue loss, infrastructure and systems operation failures, customer needs and a desire to minimize length of closure. The Park Authority Board approved this option on March 23, 2022.

### **What will happen to the Mount Vernon staff members when the facility closes for two years?**

The Park Authority values the experience and expertise of the current Mount Vernon Rec Center staff. All merit staff will be reassigned, and an effort will be made to place seasonal employees at other Park Authority facilities.

### **When will the Rec Center close and reopen?**

The closure of MVRC will begin in January 2023. A 24-month construction timeline will be developed. We anticipate reopening MVRC in 2025.

### **During the closure, can members utilize other Rec Centers in the system?**

The Park Authority will work closely with our passholders to ensure that they have access to facilities that meet their fitness and recreational goals. MVRC is one of the Park Authority's nine Rec Centers across Fairfax County. Passholders may use any of the other Park Authority Rec Centers during any closure; the closest two Rec Centers are George Washington Rec Center and Lee District Rec Center, both in Alexandria and both less than five miles away.

George Washington Rec Center's hours of operations will be extended to accommodate the closure.

**Where do you go for information on passes, classes, rentals, refunds, etc.?**

Despite our best efforts, we understand that some customers may not wish to continue their memberships at this time. We will provide prorated refunds or place passes on hold as desired. Call MVRC for more information. You may also send your requests to [Parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov) (with Mount Vernon in the subject line) for expedited service.

**Additional Information:**

- [MVRC Expansion & Renovation Web Page](#)
- [Park Authority Board - Meetings Page](#)

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we navigate these unprecedented market conditions.

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