

Great Parks, Great Communities

Collaborating for Stronger Communities

Expanding community engagement opportunities and partnerships are the hallmarks of a successful park system in today's ever-changing world. For the Fairfax County Park Authority, this has translated into collaboration and support for the Fairfax County Park Foundation, the nurturing of a transparent, community-centric park planning process, the strengthening and expansion of outreach to diverse cultural communities through our performance series as well as work with volunteers, Friends groups, non-profits and other public agencies.

Utilizing new technology has allowed new engagement with the community at-large through social media, blogs, web-based and mobile, as well as crowdsourcing and mass emails. In FY 2015, the Park Authority website had **37,649,958** page views, **3,956,524** of them were on mobile devices.

In Fiscal Year 2015, volunteers provided **180,642** hours of service to the Park Authority valued at **\$4.2 million** dollars according to IndependentSector.org

The Fairfax County Park Foundation transferred **\$681,562** to the Park Authority in FY2015 in support of a variety of programs such as camp scholarships, free summer concerts, trail improvement and open space acquisition and class scholarships for low income residents.

168 culturally diverse performances and five drive in movies, part of the free summer entertainment series drew **50,278** concertgoers this past summer. A survey of attendees found 90% satisfaction rate of the programs. Most concert-goers attended three to five performances during the summer with **17%** of attendees going to ten or more concerts during the season. *(cont'd on back)*



If accommodations or alternate formats are needed, please call 703-324-8563, TTY 703-803-3354. www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/ada-inclusion



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(Cont'd from front) The Park Authority witnessed significant growth in Friends groups affiliated with park sites or activities. These park advocates provide funding for items not tax supported, volunteer support and vital advocacy efforts. Currently there are over **two dozen** recognized organizations.

Farmers markets are a popular and healthful partnership that brings local produce to the community. **Eleven markets** are flourishing and during FY2015 **four markets**, supported by partnerships and grants, participated in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program known as SNAP, geared towards making markets accessible to low-income families.



The Park Authority and Department of Public Works and Environmental Services (DPWES) worked collaboratively to improve streams and water quality in Fairfax County. In FY2015 **eight projects** on park property were completed valued at roughly **\$5 million**. An additional **five projects** are currently under construction, valued at approximately **\$13 million**.

Mastenbrook grants tallied more than **\$85,159** last year as the Park Authority worked collaboratively with community groups on nine projects. There were also **122** full and partial (combined) adopt a field and **38** adopt a park agreements in place saving the agency and taxpayers millions in maintenance costs.

