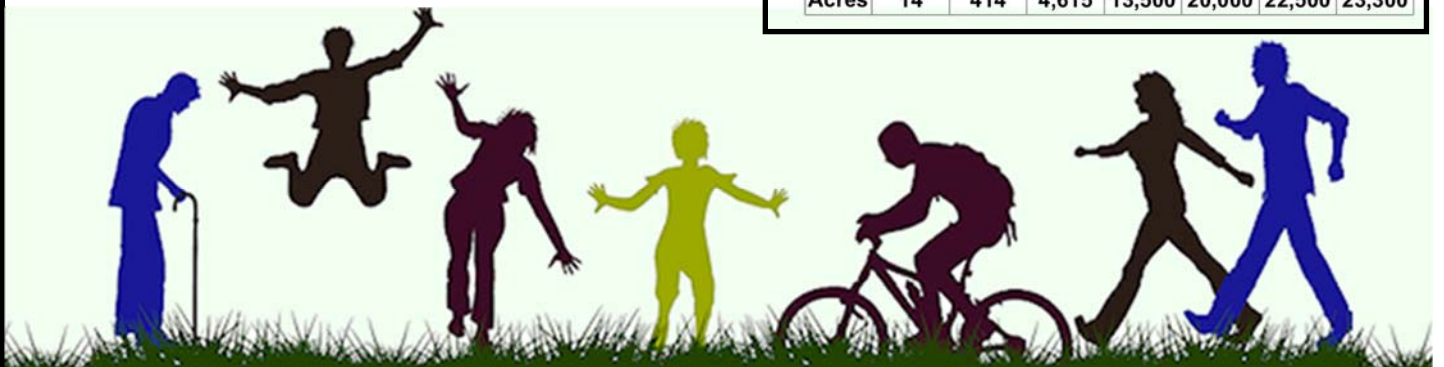
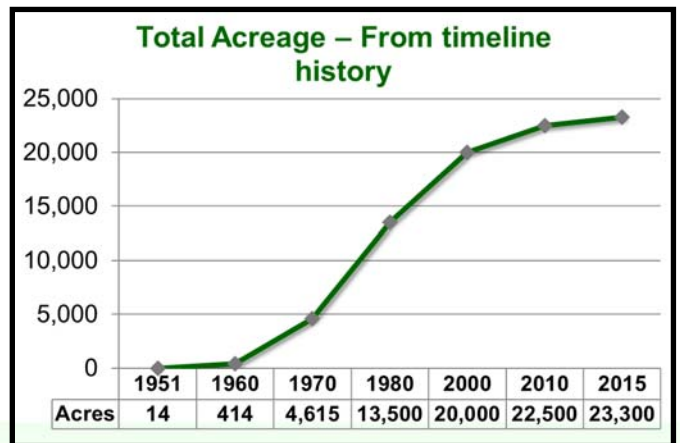


Great Parks, Great Communities

Preserving Open Space and Our Environment

The stewardship of natural resources and protection of open space is central to the Fairfax County Park Authority's mission. A 2015 survey identified preserving open space and environment as **the most important activity** undertaken by the Park Authority. In fact, **60%** of the recent Needs Assessment Survey respondents ranked the preservation of open space and the protection of the environment as vital to the future of Fairfax County.

- Fairfax County owns **23,346** acres of parkland
- **70%** of land holdings are natural and forested areas
- Volunteers are making a difference working as citizen stewards. In 2015, **1,823** volunteers, as part of the Invasive Management Area Volunteer Program, removed **1,315** trash bags full of invasive plants from our parks.
- Extensive greenways protect our water resources and stream valley access to **324** miles of multi-modal trails that span the community. At the heart of this trail network is the 41-mile Gerry Connolly Cross County Trail. Trails continue to be a key component of the park system.
- Stewardship education has created a new generation of young people eager to help sustain the natural world. In FY2015, **247,000** participants attended stewardship education programs and classes with the Park Authority. Over the years, the Park Authority has developed strong ties and partnerships with Fairfax County Public Schools, local and national environmental organizations, as well as Friends groups.



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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