

Spring Volunteer Opportunities with the Fairfax County Park Authority

Here is a sample of spring opportunities at Hidden Oaks, Green Spring Gardens, International Dark Sky Awareness Week and Fairfax County lake parks. For other opportunities tailored to your interests, talk to the Volunteer Coordinator at your favorite Fairfax County park.

Hidden Oaks Nature Center

7701 Royce St., Annandale, VA

Contact: Suzanne Holland, Suzanne.holland@fairfaxcounty.gov

Sat. April 23 Culmore Community Day from 10-2 at Woodrow Wilson Library, Knollwood Dr., Falls Church, VA

Two opportunities include assisting showing native wildlife to visitors. This will be inside the library and helping children release live native ladybugs outside the side door directly from our nature display room. The other is to assist with surveying attendees as to their thoughts and behaviors regarding county parks with a goal of increasing equitable park opportunities.

Sat. April 23 from 11:30-12:30): Annandale Greenway Earth Day Cleanup at 7200 Columbia Pike, Annandale, VA

Assist FMN Marilyn Schroeder in presenting as well as representing for Hidden Oaks at the kickoff presentation for a clean-up between Green Spring Gardens and Annandale Community Park.

Sun. May 15 from 12:30-4:15 (multiple sessions) DinoFest

Need 3 volunteers . Low key program with need to assist preschool age kids with activity at separate stations outside in Nature Playce. Mostly sedentary.

Now through June 10: Creating Short Stories/Illustration for a young elementary StoryBook Trail.

Need 1 person to assist with developing young family stories of local wildlife for an equity/inclusion outdoor activity. Story to be approx. 8 pages long but short and simple enough to feature the copy in English, Spanish and Korean on one 8.5 x 11 page. Stories will be displayed outdoors along the ADA trail from Packard Center to Hidden Oaks parking lot. Will be creating 2 stories/quarter ongoing.

Mid- June- December, 2022: Volunteer on Duty

Either 9-1 or 1-5 p.m. as front desk volunteer, greeting public, answering phones, assisting with exploration with 3-D microscope. The VOD is the face of the park, the first and last chance to make an impression on visitors. Assist them in enjoying the park and understanding it's resources.

Record hours as: E111: FCPA Nature Center Visitor Information Desk

Now through fall: Adopt a Spot or Adopt a Garden

Adopt a small section of the park and remove invasive plants that threaten native plants and wildlife. Or adopt a native wildflower garden and help weed, identify plants, and water. Please bring your own work gloves and tools. Staff will train/orient you on your first day, then you will be able to work independently. Weekly or Bi-weekly schedules preferred. Contact kim.young@fairfaxcounty.gov to sign up!

Record hours as S109: FCPA Habitat and Parkland Management

Sat. July 16 from 9-3. Hidden Oaks Grand RE-Opening.

Need 5 volunteers to help with a range of activities from guiding public activities to behind-the-scenes set up. Stations will be option of inside or outside.

Record hours as E110: FCPA Nature Programs. In the Description, include Hidden Oaks Nature Center and the name of the program. In Direct Contacts, write the number of people you spoke to or who attended the program. Exceptions noted above for Information Desk and Parkland Management.

Green Spring Gardens

4603 Green Spring Rd, Alexandria, VA

Contact **Susan Eggerton** at Susan.eggerton@fairfaxcounty.gov or call Green Spring Gardens at 703-642-5173

Now – December 2022: Front Desk Helpers

Need volunteers to help at the Front Desk in the Horticulture Center to greet visitors and provide information. Assist them in enjoying the park and understanding it's resources.

Record hours as: E111: FCPA Nature Center Visitor Information Desk

Now through fall 2022: Youth & Family Education

Seeking volunteers to assist staff with program activities for children and families such as family fun, scavenger hunts, school field trips, and Scout projects.

Record hours as E110: FCPA Nature Programs. In the Description, include Green Spring Gardens and the name of the program. In Direct Contacts, write the number of people you spoke to or who attended the program.

International Dark Sky Awareness Week

Multiple locations

Contact Tammy Schwab, Tammy.schwab@fairfaxcounty.gov

Fairfax county parks will be celebrating international dark sky awareness week April 22-30th. FCPA will be having events needing volunteers on **April 22 and 23 and also the 29th**.

Record hours as E110: FCPA Nature Programs. In the Description, include the name of the park and the name of the program. In Direct Contacts, write the number of people you spoke to or who attended the program.

Burke Lake Park

7315 Ox Rd, Fairfax Station, VA

Contact Sarah Oberther, sarah.oberther@fairfaxcounty.gov

Campfire Saturdays

March 26, 7-8:30 pm

April 9, 7:30-9:00 pm

April 23, 8:00-9:30 pm

May 7, 8:00-9:30 pm

May 14, 8:00-9:30 pm

Help us teach our interpretive campfire programs. During the program we will explore the wonders of our natural world. Our programs may include nature walks, interactive activities, animal presentations, or other opportunities to learn about nature and our place in it. Be at site 30 min. prior.

Record hours as E110: FCPA Nature Programs. In the Description, include Burke Lake and the name of the program. In Direct Contacts, write the number of people you spoke to or who attended the program.

Lake Accotink Park

7500 Accotink Park Rd, Springfield, VA

Contact Sarah Oberther, sarah.oberther@fairfaxcounty.gov

Campfire Fridays-

April 1, 7:30-8:30 pm

April 15, 7:30-8:30 pm

May 6, 8-9:00 pm

May 13, 8-9:00 pm

May 27, 8:30-9:30 pm

Help us teach our interpretive campfire programs. During the program we will explore the wonders of our natural world. Our programs may include nature walks, interactive activities, animal presentations, or other opportunities to learn about nature and our place in it.

Record hours as E110: FCPA Nature Programs. In the Description, include Lake Accotink and the name of the program. In Direct Contacts, write the number of people you spoke to or who attended the program.

Lake Fairfax Park

1400 Lake Fairfax Drive, Reston, VA

Contact Sarah Oberther, sarah.oberther@fairfaxcounty.gov

Night Hike and Smores Campfire

April 23, 7-8:30 pm

Help us with a naturalist-led walk through the forest to listen for nocturnal animals and to look for evidence of wildlife.

Record hours as E110: FCPA Nature Programs. In the Description, include Lake Fairfax and the name of the program. In Direct Contacts, write the number of people you spoke to or who attended the program.