The Fair Parks Initiative is the first Initiative created, supported, and promoted by an Alliance of Park Friends.

We stand for investments in:

People:
Provide equitable access to parks, recreation centers and cultural resources.

Parks:
Fully fund best practices for management of Natural and Cultural Resources.

Protection:
Invest in healthy wildlife, streams, forests and cultural heritage.

We respectfully request the Board of Supervisors to listen to the FCPA Friends groups and FUND OUR PARKS:

- Restore FCPA’s allocated share of the General Fund from 0.6% to 1%
- Fully fund the long-awaited Equitable Access Program for $5 million
- Invest in protecting our parks natural resources by funding the full $751,954 requested
- Retain current bond funding levels to prevent divestment in our park facilities.

Keep the doors open
On opportunities for underserved populations.
Stop losing ground when it comes to resource management.

94% of the 2016 Needs Assessment Parks County Survey respondents indicated they either “strongly agree” or “agree” it is important to preserve open space and environment.

Visitors to the parks have increased 60% over the past two years.
People Need Parks. Parks Need People.

Equity ● Natural Resource Management ● Cultural Resource Management ● Sustainability
Currently FCPA resource management is funded at:

$159/managed acre  

The typical low service standard cost is $3,000-6,000/managed acre

The County’s advertised budget compares 15 Virginia jurisdictions’ spending on parks and libraries:

Fairfax County in the bottom third per capita

Fairfax County Park Authority Board requested:

$751,954 but only $50,000 is in the proposed budget for Natural Resource Sustainability

Funding requested by the Park Authority Board to meet the goals of ONE FAIRFAX to increase accessibility for all parks and programming:

$5 million

The County Executive proposes only $500,000

Many underserved residents will continue to lack equitable access to programs.

FCPA trail maintenance is funded at

$1,719/mile  

The Park Authority Maintenance Standard is $6,129 per mile

FCPA has:

24,000 acres of parkland /429 parks /5-8 ecologists.

Montgomery County has 1 ecologist for every 1,000 acres

As of FY20 there were:

450 merit employees

2,555 seasonal or part-time employees

4,099 volunteers

Currently, 40% of merit positions in resource management are vacant leaving vital work undone


Alliance of Park Friends

Strength is in our nature.

References:

2016 Fairfax County Park Authority Needs Assessment
2015 Fairfax County Advertised Budget
Online Fairfax County Budget Archives
Great Parks, Great Communities FY19-23 Strategic Plan Appendix
Fairfax County Park Authority Executive Director Recruitment Brochure
Fairfax County Park Authority Personal Communication
2016 Fairfax County Lines of Business