

Friends of Arlington Parks

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This issue of the newsletter primarily focuses on trees in Arlington.

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New Parks Director in Arlington

Jane Rudolph, Arlington's new director for Department of Parks and Recreation, was hired in January. She comes with 10 years experience helping to lead the vast Department of Parks in New York City as well as other related experience.

Friends of Arlington Parks asked her to introduce herself to us and here she speaks about the challenges that she and the Department are taking on. Though she rightly touches on varied aspects of her job, we are pleased that she acknowledges the importance of the Parks Department's role as a steward of our natural resources.

Jane Rudolph's comments to Friends of Arlington Parks:

Am I lucky or what? I never dreamed when I moved to Arlington in April 2010 that less than three years later I would be back to my Parks and

Recreation roots and doing the work that I love every day. Coming from New York City, where our parks are our backyards, I've always valued what a great park system can provide a community – active recreation, connection to nature, a community gather spot, a place to learn to ride a bike, to learn about trees, to fly a kite and so much more.

But I knew taking this position wasn't going to be a walk in the park...it's a big responsibility. With tightening budgets and our natural resources threaten by invasive plants and general development, the parks and recreation department has to live up to our charge to be stewards of our natural areas. I believe we have laid that groundwork for stewarding our natural resources with our Wildlife of Arlington: A Natural Resource Heritage Technical Report, Natural Resources Management Plan, Urban



Jane Rudolph, new DPR director

Forest Master Plan and Public Spaces Master Plan. Our community partners and volunteers provide tremendous knowledge, time, and energy to help implement plans and protect our valuable resources.

When the FY 2014 budget was approved, the good news was that we will be able to continue to have our nature centers open for the same hours as FY 2013, fill our Natural Resources Specialist position, and continue our tree planting and watering program all as part of our base-budget. Further, invasive plant removal will be funded for one year. We will look to using an alternative funding source to continue our successful tree distribution program. Considering these difficult economic times, I think we got a strong sign from the Arlington County Board that they value our natural resources as much as you do.

*Even with these restored resources there is still so much more we need to do to tackle the problems facing Arlington's green infrastructure. There are still invasive plants all over the county that need to be removed, our tree canopy cover should increase, and we need to protect all our natural areas as Arlington increasingly becomes an urban village. How do we do this? How do we get the new residents along our metro corridors out to the parks to enjoy and appreciate our valuable resources? How do we ensure that all Arlington residents are leading healthy and active lives in our parks? How do we get our kids to experience our natural world and learn from it? And how do we protect our natural resources for the generations of Arlingtonians to come. **We do it together.***

County government can't do this alone nor can volunteers and community groups. We need to explore paths to collaborate even more and come up with innovative ways to engage people of all ages from across the County. Since joining the County in January, I've had the great pleasure of getting out into the parks and meeting so many terrific volunteers from tree lovers to invasive plant super-removers from softball coaches to active senior adults to my amazing team of parks and recreation employees who work day in and day out with limited resources to serve the public. We have valuable natural resources to protect and the best way to do that is by working with another valuable resource: Arlington County residents.



I'm looking forward to the months and years ahead where we can affect positive change together. My door is open to anyone with good ideas and a strong back to make things happen. Together we will make a difference.

County Board Restores Funding for Key Natural Resources Activities

The process leading to adoption of the County budget for Fiscal Year 2014 was particularly stressful for organizations and individuals concerned about trees, natural resources and environmental sustainability. The County Manager's proposed budget eliminated funding for several key activities:

- Tree watering by temporary employees in the summer
- Distribution of trees for residents to plant in their yards
- Removing invasive plants from natural areas
- A Natural Resources Specialist position at Long Branch Nature Center
- Temporary employees at Long Branch and Gulf Branch Nature Centers, reducing programs and operating hours

Through letters and public testimony, the County Board heard expressions of concern about these budget cuts from organizations and individuals advocating the preservation of Arlington's natural resources (see the Friends of Arlington Parks letter, which follows).

When the County Board approved the FY 2014 budget on April 20, funds for the following Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) programs were among those restored:

- \$62,804 for tree planting and watering
- \$100,000 for invasive plant removal
- \$99,328 for Natural Resources Specialist position at Long Branch Nature Center
- \$25,582 for staff to avoid reducing programs and operating hours at the two nature centers

With these additions to the DPR budget, the Board avoided major cuts in programs that are widely seen as vital to the preservation of natural areas across the County. Natural resources advocates – both organizations and individuals – wrote letters and spoke at the March 26 public hearing on the budget.

County Board members apparently found their arguments persuasive, restoring most of the cuts in key DPR programs for FY 2014.

Overall, advocates for preservation of natural resources were pleased by the budget decisions. There are concerns, however, that funding for removing invasive plants from natural areas was approved on a one-time basis. Accordingly, funding for that program probably will not be included in the County Manager's proposed budget for FY 2015, and advocates for environmental sustainability will have to campaign for adding those funds again next year.



What follows is the letter that Friends of Arlington Parks sent to the County Board during the budget process.

Friends of Arlington Park's letter to the County Board

Of the letters that Friends of Arlington Parks sent to the Arlington County Board this year, none was as important in support of our parks and programs as the budget letter we sent in February. We have included the letter in its entirety here.



Dear Chairman Tejada:

After reviewing the County Manager's proposed budget for FY 2014, Friends of Arlington Parks (FAP) is concerned about reductions in funding for some elements of parks and natural resources programs, particularly those relating to tree planting and maintenance, controlling invasive plants that threaten the health of natural areas, and operation of the nature centers. FAP recommendations follow:

Tree Planting and Maintenance

Restore \$40,000 to hire temporary employees to water trees in the summer. Good tree maintenance, including watering young trees, is important. In dry summers, watering young trees can significantly increase their prospects for surviving to maturity, and keeping young trees alive is far more cost-effective than replacing them after they die. Watering newly-planted trees for their first two summers is essential, but with increasingly hot, dry summers, trees may need to be watered for another year or two. In FY 2013, the Board provided \$40,000 to hire temporary employees to water trees during summer months, and FAP urges providing that level of funding in FY 2014 as well.

Restore \$11,000 for the Tree Distribution Program. Most of Arlington's tree canopy is on private property, primarily in single-family-home neighborhoods. For trees on private property, the County's primary role is to encourage homeowners to plant young trees and to maintain mature trees on their property, which provide a variety of benefits for the community as a whole. An outreach program that has proven particularly effective is the Tree Distribution Program, which involves providing residents tree whips to plant in their yards. To pick up their trees, residents visit the County nursery, where Tree Steward volunteers explain techniques for tree planting and maintenance. This program results in distribution of about 1,000 small tree whips annually at a cost of \$11,000. That corresponds to a cost of only \$11 per tree! If only half of the seedlings are successfully planted and maintained, the cost would still be only \$22 per tree. This is by far the most cost-effective way to foster planting trees on private property, and FAP recommends restoring funding for the Tree Distribution Program in FY 2014 budget.

Managing Invasive Species

Restore \$100,000 for controlling invasive species in natural areas. Three advisory commissions have endorsed a 10-year program for managing invasive plant species in natural areas, noting that "sustained, multi-year funding is critical to the continued success that has been achieved to date." The plan calls for funding of \$100,000 annually for 10 years, and FY 2014 will be the third year of the plan. In FY 2012, the combined efforts of Americorps, other volunteers, and County staff, resulted in clearing invasives from 102 acres. Without additional funding for contractor removal of invasives, only about 16 acres will be cleared in FY 2014. We cannot have healthy natural areas without successfully managing invasive species. FAP urges the Board to restore \$100,000 for this purpose in FY 2014.

Nature Center Programs

Restore \$26,000 for temporary employees and \$9,308 for operating expenses at the two nature centers, Long Branch and Gulf Branch. Restore the naturalist position at Long Branch, leaving it temporarily vacant if necessary. The proposed FY 2014 budget calls for several cuts at both nature centers, including elimination of a full-time naturalist position at Long Branch, eliminating part-time staff positions at both centers, and reducing operating funds at both centers. These cuts would result in both centers being open only 33 hours each week instead of 39. The nature centers are very effective in educating residents about nature and the environment. Last year, the two centers had almost 38,000 visitors and conducted some 832 programs that reached an additional 21,000 people. By leveraging limited resources, the two nature centers achieve a great deal with modest funding. The proposed funding cuts would represent a 29% reduction in the operating budget of the two centers from FY 2013, reducing programming and environmental education. Eliminating the naturalist position and part-time staff would leave only two naturalists at each center. It would significantly strengthen the programs to have the part-time employees at both centers. And when the full-time naturalist position at Long Branch could be filled, the naturalist could assist with programs at both centers.

Thank you for considering our recommendations concerning the FY 2014 budget.

Sincerely,

Suzanne Bolton
President, Friends of Arlington Parks

Bill Thomas Park Service Award Recipients for 2012

The Bill Thomas Park Service Award is dedicated to Colonel Bill Thomas, a long-time resident of South Arlington who exemplified a citizen's long-term commitment to the Parks and natural areas of Arlington and the surrounding area. Bill was a lifelong birder who was a presence as much on the paths and woods of Arlington parks as in the Board room and budget offices of Arlington County government. His understanding of natural history and financing of County Parks contributed to a wiser funding and focused activities in our park system. The Award was initially intended to recognize other Arlington residents who have a long history of dedication to the planning, management, and protection of our natural resources. For many years Bill was the backbone of the Friends of Arlington Parks organization, and we are happy to report on the award-winners for 2012 (awarded in 2013).



Steve Young was the recipient of the individual Bill Thomas Award this year. He has worked for more than 20 years clearing invasives from Long Branch and other parks, as well as clearing trash and debris from parks and

Steve Young, 2012 Bill Thomas Award Recipient

waterways in Arlington. He has been instrumental in training and supervising other volunteers as well. Like Bill Thomas, he is an avid birder, and shares his knowledge by leading birding groups. He also writes a blog about the natural areas of Arlington at <http://www.plantwhacker.com>.

Friends of Gulf Branch Nature Center was the recipient of the group award for the Bill Thomas Service Award. In 2009 Friends of Gulf Branch Nature Center raised \$10,000 to prevent the center from being closed, and the group has continued to support projects at Gulf Branch. Partly due to the efforts of this group, Gulf Branch Nature Center was able to celebrate its 47th birthday on June 8th. The weather was perfect for the celebration and volunteers counted more than 200 attendees.



Children waiting for a slice of the birthday cake at Gulf Branch Nature Center's 47th birthday party. The cake featured a picture of Ms. Owl, a popular resident of the nature center. (Photo by Toby Hayman)



Owl at Gulf Branch Nature Center. (Photo by Toby Hayman)

Declining Tree Canopy in Arlington and Why Trees and Parks Matter

Trees provide a variety of environmental, economic and psychological benefits, but the extent of those benefits depends on the number, species and health of the trees. GIS analyses provide the most effective means of estimating trends in numbers of trees and the services they provide. Arlington's urban foresters can now analyze trends in tree canopy for the County as a whole or by individual neighborhood.

Unfortunately, recent GIS analyses have shown declining tree canopy in Arlington. Those analyses indicate overall tree canopy of 43% in 2008 and 40% in 2011. A reduction of 3 percentage points corresponds to a 7% decline in canopy cover in just three years. Looking at trends in individual neighborhoods, a few showed modest increases but most lost canopy cover during this period. There is no single cause of the loss of tree canopy in Arlington. Many street trees have been lost to construction projects (recent VDOT activities along Arlington Blvd and Washington Blvd are good examples). Many trees on private property are lost to development: construction of new homes in residential neighborhoods usually involves loss of one or more mature trees. Other trees in yards are lost due to declining tree health as trees age, decisions by homeowners to remove healthy trees, damage to trees by unskilled tree crews, or removal of mature trees by developers in the course of in-fill redevelopment. Increased severity of storms also plays a part in tree-loss.

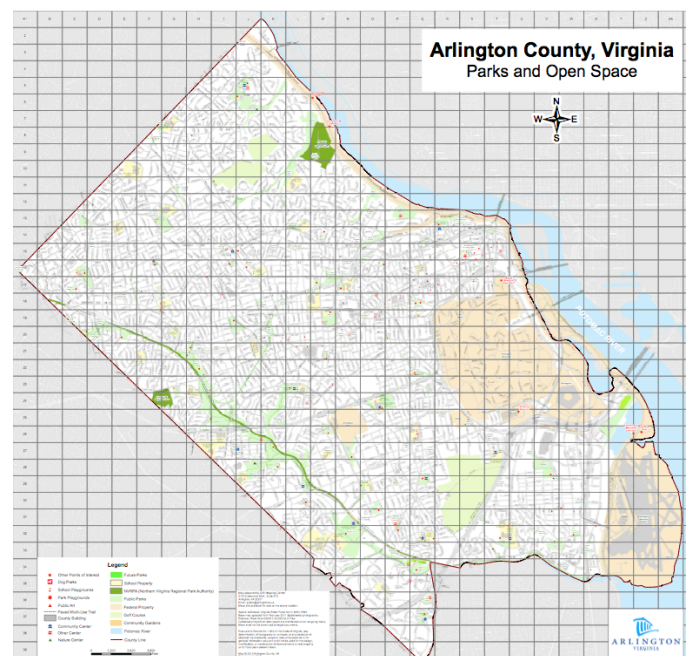
About 38% of Arlington's tree canopy is on public property. Measures for increasing tree canopy on public property include:

- Watering young street trees in the summer
- Providing proper maintenance for trees of all ages
- Controlling invasive plant and animal species that threaten the health of wooded parks
- Increased planting of young trees

About 62% of Arlington's tree canopy is on private property, mostly in residential neighborhoods. Measures for increasing tree canopy on private property include:

- Expanding the Tree Distribution Program, providing tree whips to residents and instructing them on how to plant and care for their trees. This program is very cost-effective and it brings residents into contact with trained volunteers to learn about trees
- Increasing the visibility of outreach programs to make residents aware of the benefits of trees in their yards
- Increasing efforts to alert residents to the damage to their trees that can result from invasive plants and hiring unskilled tree crews

To many of us, the benefits of trees and parks are so obvious that we cannot understand why securing funding for them can be such a challenge. After all, trees are essential to the very survival of humans. They reduce the greenhouse effect and exchange carbon dioxide with oxygen so that people and other animals can breathe. Trees improve water quality, increase soil permeability, and reduce flooding. Trees



Arlington County produced complete GIS maps of parks, open space, tree cover and other natural resource components. Some are available on the web at:

http://gis.arlingtonva.us/GIS/gis_MapsByTopic.asp

prevent soil erosion and sedimentation in streams, add organic matter to the soil, and preserve soil nutrients. They provide habitat for songbirds and other animals and plants and form the basis for entire ecosystems that link a diverse set of plants and animals in our universe. Trees and parks supply major educational opportunities to learn analytical skills while observing living systems. Trees absorb noise and beautify neighborhoods. They shade us from the sun on hot days and reduce the heat island effect in urban areas, allowing us to decrease energy use and reduce our utility bills. Trees and parks allow everyone to experience the joy of nature as we walk along trails and exercise, regardless of our ability to pay, and they can increase property values. Some trees have extra attributes; they are champion trees or have special links to historical events.

Arlington residents have long shown strong support for walking and biking trails and neighborhood parks. In 2008 a major survey of residents to help set priorities for future programs, walking and biking trails and neighborhood parks were viewed by residents as the county's most important outdoor park facilities. Almost 90% of Arlingtonians said they have a need for walking and biking trails and 81% for neighborhood parks--significantly higher than national benchmarks of 68% and 60%. When respondents were allowed to make multiple choices, most respondents selected preservation of open space and the environment as one of their top three choices than any other category. While it is important to emphasize that the survey results can be fully understood only by studying the complete report, it is clear that Arlingtonians value their links to nature and the outdoors.

Parks, trails, nature centers, and natural areas are enjoyed by a wide variety of Arlington residents. Walking and biking trails appeal to diverse groups, from seniors who want to walk in a pleasant environment to cyclists using the trails for recreation or for getting to work and back. Others who use the trails include adults walking their pets and young families who want their children to have some exposure to nature. Neighborhood parks vary widely in size and character. While some neighborhood parks have wooded areas that shade visitors on summer days, even small parks with just a few trees



Trees Lining Bluemont Park

that provide green space can be important to residents, especially those who live or work in high-density areas. Gulf Branch Nature Center and Long Branch Nature Center have programs that give adults and children many opportunities to learn about nature through courses and hands-on experience. Several of Arlington's stream valley parks include significant natural areas with good wildlife habitat.

Friends of Arlington Parks calls on county officials to provide funding levels that reflect the real value of parks and trees and recognize the importance of preserving them. The county urgently needs an effective policy for land acquisition and should use bond money to purchase parkland, including larger parcels that protect ecosystems and natural resources as well as small pocket parks in dense areas. Nature Centers must be appreciated as an integral component of public education deserving sufficient staff and hours of operation to carry out their important mission. County and school officials should coordinate efforts to increase the tree canopy and preserve natural areas on school property for dual use by schools and the

community; school officials and naturalists can work together to develop courses that make effective use of those natural areas to teach students about environmental science and provide additional natural areas accessible to the community.

How New York City Handles Storm Damage to Trees

Storm season is upon us and with climate change likely to increase storm damage, of special interest to Arlingtonians is a piece by National Public Radio (NPR) on November 20, 2012 describing how New York City's Parks and Recreation Department handled the record loss of almost 10,000 park trees and street trees from Superstorm Sandy and the nor'easter that followed. ("Thousands Of Trees Gone, Ripped Out By Sandy; <http://www.npr.org/2012/11/20>)

NPR quotes Bram Gunther, chief of forestry, horticulture and natural resources for the department: "The bigger the tree, the more carbon it captures, the more particulate matter it filters, the more storm water it captures...so it's a huge number in terms of environmental benefits and what it does for a community." NPR also notes that a study from the U.S. Department of Agriculture shows that the city's more than 5 million trees remove 42,000 tons of carbon and about 2,000 tons of air pollution per year and that the trees also have a monetary value of \$5.2 billion.

For several years, the Department had noted changes in weather that damaged trees in Central Park. Many of these trees were old, some with diameters up to 6 feet. The department created a map tracking each of the 20,000 trees in Central Park. Tree crews from around the country were contacted five days before Sandy. Twenty-four hours after the storm, volunteers with handheld computers reviewed the damage to trees in all 33,000 blocks of New York City. The data for each block was monitored from a mobile command center, and work was ordered. New York City plans to plant 1 million trees by 2017. Arlington may want to consider building a similar program involving monitoring of trees by volunteers, due to the loss of a significant portion of its tree canopy, as discussed in a previous article.

Friends of Arlington Parks weighs in on the Millennium Project

Although Arlington Cemetery is not Arlington County parkland, it includes one of the oldest wooded areas in Arlington. The Millennium Project, in trying to extend sites for burial, would see over 700 mature trees removed and replaced with smaller ones elsewhere, and a roadway built through ecologically delicate areas. Since there have been alternatives proposed that are not as environmentally damaging, Friends of Arlington Parks took the time to voice our opinion on this matter. Following is the letter that was sent in April.

Re: Arlington National Cemetery Millennium Project

Dear Ms. Connor:

Friends of Arlington Parks (FAP) is a volunteer organization dedicated to preserving Arlington's remaining natural areas. Most of those are found in County parks, but there are also important natural areas on land owned by the Federal Government and the State of Virginia.

We would like to comment on the proposed Millennium expansion project at Arlington National Cemetery. As currently planned, that project will involve extensive earthmoving activities and construction of retaining walls in areas that currently consist of old age forest. Every effort should be made to preserve these unique ecological resources, and that will require careful evaluation of suggestions for alternative designs.

Under the current plan, grading activities are significantly increased by building a loop road across the stream valley. It has been suggested that the loop road be redesigned so that it does not cross the stream, but instead passes through the section closest to Ft. Myer. This option appears to offer a way of significantly reducing damage to Arlington House Woods, while meeting the operational objectives of extending the longevity of the Cemetery. FAP urges careful study of this option.

The best way to fully evaluate alternative approaches to the Millennium project would be to prepare a full-fledged Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), with meaningful input from the public and other stakeholders, instead of the existing Environmental Analysis. The ecological and historical significance of Arlington House Woods fully justifies the extra effort involved in preparing the EIS.



*Part of the endangered woods at Arlington Cemetery
Photo by Steve Young*

Thank you for considering our suggestions.

*Suzanne Bolton
President, Friends of Arlington Parks*

*cc: Arlington County Board
Senators Mark Warner and Tim Kaine
Congressman Jim Moran*

Calling All Volunteers

Friends of Arlington Parks is dedicated to preserving the County's remaining natural resources and enhancing opportunities for Arlingtonians to have direct contact with nature. Residents of urban areas such as Arlington derive many benefits from their interactions with nature, by walking in wooded parks or visiting nature centers, for example. Residents can help shape parks programs through regular interactions with the Department of Parks and Recreation. Residents can also help shape County programs by influencing budget priorities. Maintaining natural resources is relatively inexpensive, but the County often faces difficult budget choices. To avoid reduced funding for such activities as tree maintenance, removing invasive plants from wooded parks, or nature center operations, it is important for residents to let the County Board know that they view sustainability as one of their top priorities. One way to do that is to be an active participant in Friends of Arlington Parks. If you share these goals, we urge you to submit the membership application on page 12 and join forces with like-minded Arlingtonians. Your participation can make a real difference.

Park Events in Arlington

Don't forget to check out Arlington County's Park and Recreation website for upcoming events in the parks, including:

- ❖ Music and movies
- ❖ Volunteer opportunities such as invasive plant removal
- ❖ Nature center activities
- ❖ Park activities

Some examples of what can be found on the Arlington County website.

<http://www.arlingtonva.us/departments/parksrecreation/parksrecreationmain.aspx>



Virginia Highlands Ribbon Cutting

Come celebrate the opening of the new [Virginia Highlands Sprayground](#) (1600 S. Hayes Street, Arlington, VA 22202) on **Wednesday, June 19** at 6pm! Event attendees can enjoy the cool water features, as well as recreation activities, balloon art, light refreshments, and more! View the [event flyer](#) (PDF) for details.



5th Annual Firefly Festival

All ages are invited to [Fort C.F. Smith Park, 2411 24th St. N., Sunday, June 30, 7:30-9:30pm](#) to celebrate summer's natural night lights with us! Learn all about the critters that light up the night. Events include: bug hunts, games, crafts, walks, and talks about fireflies. Bring your picnic blanket and dinner to enjoy as we wait for the sun to go down and the lights to come out. \$7 fee per participant; children 2 and under are free. To preregister: visit <https://registration.arlingtonva.us> or call 703-228-4747, Program #642953-A. You may also pay at the event. *Cancelled if raining.* For more information, call 703-228-6535.



July 4th Event

Arlington's signature July 4th event will return in 2013! On **Thursday, July 4**, all are welcome to participate in the festivities at [Long Bridge Park](#) (475 Long Bridge Drive). The event will begin at 3pm with a food truck rally, arts and crafts market, free fitness activities for all ages, live music, and lots more. Interested in being an event partner or vendor? Email lbarragan@arlingtonva.us or call 703-228-3329 for details on how to get involved.



Family Fun: Campfires at Long Branch and Gulf Branch Nature Centers!

The whole family is invited to join us every **Saturday this summer (except Aug. 24), 7-8pm**, for some old-fashioned fun! Campfire programs include stories, songs, games, special live animal guests and of course, S'mores! This summer topics will range from Rascally Raccoons to High-flying Hawks to Buzzing Bees. \$5 fee per participant, registration not required for children age 2 and under. For more information, contact the [Nature Centers](#).



Arlington Parks and Recreation Enhances Your Digital Experience!

You can now access facility, registration and league information easily from your mobile phone. Plus, your web experience to get things done online with the Parks and Recreation Department has improved too! Check field availability, find a court to play on, double check class registration or get up-to-the-minute league standings on your mobile phone or tablet. Just go to <https://registration.arlingtonva.us>, and you will automatically be re-directed to *Mobile WebTrac*. Then tap on the option you are looking for. If you go to that same address on your computer, you'll see the our new look too. Our Parks & Recreation Online Services landing page is redesigned to give you quick access to the things you do most often. You'll also find links to other online services, like online publications, and newsletter subscriptions, in addition to field availability schedules for our diamond and rectangular fields!



Spraygrounds Are Open

Have fun and keep the kids cool this summer at one of Arlington County's four spraygrounds located at [Drew Park](#), [Hayes Park](#), [Lyons Village Park](#), and [Virginia Highlands Park](#). Sprayground hours vary throughout the summer. For more information, visit our [Spraygrounds](#) page.



Nominate an Arlington Garden

It's time to nominate the prettiest gardens in Arlington for the Landscape Recognition Awards! These awards recognize the extraordinary efforts of commercial, professional and non-profit properties for installing and maintaining attractive landscaping that enhance Arlington's streetscapes. Winners are selected by the Arlington Beautification Committee on the basis of things such as their use of native plants (gardens with [invasive plants](#) lose points), the use of landscape design principles, effective year-round maintenance, and effective use of trees, shrubs or perennial plantings. **Nominations due June 15.** [Learn more](#) and [download](#) the nomination form.



iCan Bike Camp Volunteers Wanted!

Volunteer to change a child's life! [iCan Bike](#) (formerly Lose the Training Wheels) is designed to help individuals with disabilities learn how to ride a bike independently. Spotters are needed **July 29-August 2, 2013** at Kenmore Middle School (200 S. Carlin Springs Road) to run alongside the child as they learn, providing physical and emotional support. Volunteers must be 16 years or older and have sufficient stamina and strength to walk and run alongside a bike for 75 minutes. For more information or to volunteer, contact April Rosenthal at arosenthal@arlingtonva.us or 703-228-4736. [Read the volunteer PDF.](#)



Enjoy Arlington Summer 2013

Beat the heat and refresh with [Enjoy Arlington classes](#). With classes for all ages—from tot to senior, you are sure to find a perfect fit. We offer a variety of times, locations and topics to accommodate your busy schedule. Focus on fitness with body sculpting, yoga, cardio or dance aerobics for the whole family. Channel your inner artist with Do-It-Yourself projects making jewelry pieces. Browse all of our offerings: introduce your child to a new sport, sharpen social skills, train your dog and more! We also offer adapted programs for individuals with disabilities. Online and mail-in registration begin 5/22 (please note that we will no longer accept faxed registrations or American Express). Phone and walk-in registration begin 5/29. Fee reductions available see page 17 and 19 for more information. Non-resident registration begins 6/5.



Tree Canopy Fund

Want to plant a tree in your yard or common ground? Entering its 4th year, The [Tree Canopy Fund](#) gives grants to community groups to plant and maintain trees on private property. Eligible groups include civic and homeowner associations, community nonprofit organizations, civic service clubs, school-related groups, and ad hoc neighborhood groups. Individuals may also apply for grants for maintenance to be performed on specific trees that have been designated by Arlington County through their Champion Tree Program and Tree and Shrub Ordinance. Grant applications will be accepted through **June 22**. The goal of the fund, which is administered by Arlingtonians for a Clean Environment and the Arlington County Urban Forestry Commission, is to preserve and develop Arlington's tree canopy. For more information visit the [Tree Canopy Fund website](#).

Friends of Arlington Parks Membership form

To join friend of Arlington Parks or to renew your membership, mail this form and payment to:

Terry Hillerich, Treasurer, 3555 North Somerset Street, Arlington, VA 22213

Name: _____

Street address: _____

Cit, State and Zip _____

email address: _____

Individual, \$10.00 _____ Family, \$15.00 _____ Organization, \$25.00 _____ Other Contribution _____

Check here to get your newsletter by email _____ Add me to the volunteer list and contact. _____

You may also renew your membership online with a credit card.

at www.foap.org

Visit us on the web

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