

Block #: _____
12/2023 Herald

Date: _____

Kings Park West Civic Association

— 2024 Membership Form —

STEP 1: MEMBER INFORMATION

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Email: _____

Would you like to receive email updates from KPWCA? Circle: YES or NO

STEP 2: ADDITIONAL DONATIONS

Kings Park West Civic Association Activities

- | | |
|------|-------------------------------|
| \$25 | 1. Membership Dues (Required) |
| | 2. Herald Newsletter |
| | 3. Common Grounds Maintenance |
| | 4. Parks & Lake |
| | 5. Scholarships |
| | 6. Scout Packs & Troop |
| | 7. Halloween Fall Festival |
| | 8. Spring Egg Hunt |
| | 9. Unrestricted Community Use |

Other Community Support

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| | 10. Volunteer Fire Department |
| | 11. Robinson All Night Grad Party |
| | 12. Pools in Our Community |
| | 13. Braddock Nights |
| | TOTAL DOLLAR AMOUNT |

I'm Interested in Volunteering:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Block Captain/Membership | <input type="checkbox"/> Welcome Committee |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Herald Newsletter | <input type="checkbox"/> Streets & Signboards |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Parks & Lake | <input type="checkbox"/> Dumpster Day |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Spring Egg Hunt | <input type="checkbox"/> Fall Festival |

Paying Online?

You can complete this form and pay via PayPal using the QR code or at kpwca.org

Paying by Check?

Please make checks payable to KPWCA and return to your Block Captain or mail to:

KPWCA, P.O. Box 7114
Fairfax Station, VA 22039



STEP 3: PAYMENT TYPE

Cash Check (# _____) Online (PayPal Payer's Name: _____)

Contributions to KPWCA are not deductible for federal income tax purposes as charitable contributions.

Kings Park West Civic Association

The KPW Civic Association serves all of Kings Park West and membership in the Civic Association is for everyone! Whether you're an original owner or new to the neighborhood, whether you plan to stay for decades or just a couple of years, whether you rent or own your home, and whether you live in an HOA section or not, **you** benefit from the work of the Civic Association.

The KPW Civic Association is not an HOA. Membership is voluntary, but for just \$25 each year, you can connect with your neighbors and help us build a better community for all. Here are some of the many benefits sponsored or brought to you by the KPW Civic Association:

| Community Services & Events | Keeping KPW Beautiful | Neighborhood Communications |
|---|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spring Egg Hunt • Halloween Fall Festival • Spring & Fall Dumpster Days • College Scholarships • Scouting Troops • Park Restrooms & Dog Waste Stations | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Entrance & Common Area Landscaping • Royal Lake Community Clean-ups • Sidewalk & Trail Maintenance | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The <i>Herald</i> Newsletter • Neighborhood Signboards • KPWCA Website (kpwca.org) |



Scan this code or visit kpwca.org to learn more about the Kings Park West Civic Association and to join or renew your membership today!

If you have any questions, please contact us at membership@kpwca.org.



Hey neighbors!

Happy Holidays to all as we move into the latter half of December.

I'm writing this on Giving Tuesday, and I hope that by the time you're reading this, you've already taken a moment to pay your Civic Association dues for 2024. If not, we've made it as easy as pie (and I've certainly eaten my share of pie recently!). Fill out a hard copy by hand; pay by check, credit card, or even cash; or scan the QR code or go to kpwca.org. If you pay using PayPal, please be sure to fill out the membership form as well.

Community Calendar

KPWCA Board Meeting – December 19
 Herald Content Deadline – January 3

2023 was a good year for the Civic Association with fun events in the spring and fall, organizing parks and lake clean-ups to keep our green spaces looking great, supporting a few amazing Robinson seniors with scholarships (mostly made possible with your generous donations!), removal of invasive species to protect the environment ... and so much more!

I love walking or driving around the neighborhood to see all the fun and festive decorations, and I hope you and your family can enjoy them as well. I wish everyone the best for the coming year and I look forward to new ideas and new energy in 2024!

As always, feel free to email me at president@kpwca.org or message me on Facebook. See you around the neighborhood!

Sarah G.J. Lennon
President, KPWCA

| Kings Park West Civic Association P.O. Box 7114, Fairfax Station, VA 22039-7114 General Information: info@kpwca.org Community Association: kpwhoa@yahoo.com Website: kpwca.org | | | |
|--|--|--|----------------------------------|
| Officers | | Email | Phone |
| President | Sarah Lennon | president@kpwca.org | (703) 978-5608 |
| Vice President | Merideth Manella | vp@kpwca.org | |
| Secretary | Pamela Thibodeau | secretary@kpwca.org | |
| Treasurer | Dan Joyce | treasurer@kpwca.org | |
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| Committees | | | |
| Common Grounds Maintenance | Laura Hall Linda Reamy | | (703) 978-6641 (703) 978-1564 |
| Community Support Services | | | |
| Consumer Affairs | Mary Hovland | | |
| Dumpster Day | Mary Hovland | | |
| GMU Student Liaison | Vacant | | |
| Neighbor Assist | Bruce Wallachy | KPWNeighborAssist@gmail.com | |
| Welcoming | Natalie Croitoru | welcome@kpwca.org | |
| Communications | | | |
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| Herald Communications Editor | Rose Luczak | editor@kpwca.org | |
| Herald Advertising and Classifieds | Gayle Ostrom | classified@kpwca.org | |
| Signboards | Jonathan Reiser | boardmember3@kpwca.org | (571) 423-8030 |
| Web Admin | Tim Hartle | website@kpwca.org | (703) 200-8375 |
| Membership | Nick Schumaker | membership@kpwca.org | |
| Parks and Lake | Tom McCook | parks@kpwca.org | |
| Invasive Species | Greg Sykes | greg@grsykes.com | |
| Special Activities | | | |
| Spring Egg Hunt | Pack 1967 | vp@kpwca.org | (703) 509-9725 |
| Halloween Festival | Keith Jodoin | kjodoin@gmail.com | |
| Scholarships | Gayle Ostrom | geeostrom@gmail.com | |
| How do I join the Kings Park West Civic Association? Send your name, address, and phone number, along with a check for \$25 to KPWCA, P.O. Box 7114, Fairfax Station, VA 22039-7114, or visit kpwca.org and pay via PayPal. Members receive the Community Directory and support from community programs like Scholarship Awards, community school activities, parks and lakes clean-up, and a free subscription to The Herald. | | How do I get my news in The Herald? The easiest way to get your news items in The Herald is to email the editor at editor@kpwca.org . We invite items on neighborhood schools, churches, organizations, and other noteworthy neighborhood news. News items and letters will be published if deemed suitable and as space permits. We reserve the right to edit any item submitted to The Herald. Acceptance of news items does not constitute an endorsement by the KPWCA. | |
| The Herald Published eight times a year by the KPWCA. Next deadline: October 4 2023, for online publishing in the website. Note: Acceptance of articles and advertising does not constitute an endorsement by the KPWCA nor liability for products or services advertised in its publications. Subscriptions: If you are moving out of the neighborhood and want to keep in touch with community news, get a subscription. Send \$25 per year to: Kings Park West Civic Association, P.O. Box 7114, Fairfax Station, VA 22039-7114. | | How do I advertise in The Herald? Classifieds: Classified ads for the January issue must be received no later than October 4, 2023, to Gayle Ostrom, 4912 Gainsborough Drive, Fairfax, VA 22032, or at classified@kpwca.org . Please print clearly and include payment to KPWCA. Provide your name, address, and phone number. Rates: \$5 per issue for 35 words or \$40 per year (8 issues/35-word ad). Found items listed free. Advertisements: Advertisements are received by Gayle Ostrom; please email classifieds@kpwca.org for rates. | |

The Garden Corner
by Charlie Boring

As winter is approaching, there are a few tasks that I, as an urban gardener, have been involved in accomplishing. The most pressing task was the harvest of the persimmon fruit from our Fuyu persimmon tree. This year, the harvest was unbelievably large.

The picture shows perhaps 50 persimmons; however, we harvested over one thousand fruit and provided many to friends and neighbors. Normally, our tree experiences a large number of fruits that fall off during the months of June and July, due to stress placed on the tree from too much heat, too cool temperatures, or too little or too much rain. This year there were only a few fruits that fell off.



We still must harvest our kiwi fruit. We have two female kiwi vines and one male vine growing over our patio pergola.

This year, the fruits are much smaller than usual, as shown in the picture. It should be a medium size harvest of perhaps 200 kiwi fruit.

One problem that we have encountered regarding our kiwi vines is that our pergola has begun to deteriorate and will require repair soon. We first built our pergola in 2013; so, it has lasted 10 years. These pictures show our mature kiwi fruit and our pergola with vines.



I planted Siberian hard-neck garlic in late October. This year, I decided to plant my garlic in two raised beds, vice planting in my in-ground garden, as I normally have done. This year, my raised beds were used to grow a green called Rau Mung, some peppers, and a couple of tomato plants. The soil had settled, so I added some potting soil to each bed. (Continued.)

Then I planted my garlic cloves. I covered each bed with about an inch of composted cow manure to increase fertility and add organic material. I added an inch of shredded paper and an inch of garden soil to prevent the shredded paper from blowing away. As of November 20, many of the garlic cloves have broken the surface, as shown in the pictures.



During the winter months, the garlic plants will continue to grow when the soil is not frozen. Planting in the fall usually yields larger bulbs than if garlic is planted in the spring. Happy gardening!

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KPW Recommends



by cathy deloach

The Holidays Are Here! Clean Yo House!

Company coming for the holidays? Hosting the work holiday party? Simply overwhelmed with it all? Trust your neighbors for great home contractor recommendations!

👉 **House Cleaner Recommendation:** KJC Multiservices, LLC



Phone: (571) 882-4411
Email: Kjcmultiservicesllc@gmail.com
Recommended by: Alicia Clark

Comments: I would like to recommend KJC Multiservices LLC! I have used them twice now, once in April and once again today to clean my house and I am so happy with them. The women are wonderful. They do a great job, they're friendly and it's a really nice company! I would greatly recommend them and I think the price is good! And they came recommended to me from a friend in the neighborhood! Having someone clean my house before Thanksgiving is awesome! I would recommend that too!

👉 **Carpet Cleaning:** JCB Carpet and Upholstery Cleaning, Inc.



Phone: (703) 989-9635
Recommended by: Alicia Clark

Comments: I had JCB Carpet & Upholstery Cleaners clean my carpet and they did an excellent job again! They are friendly, prompt, great price and my carpet always looks so great. I'm ready for the holidays! This is the third time I've used them! I highly recommend them!

👉 **Window Washing:** E&R Services, Inc.



Phone: (888) 329-8859
Recommended by: Natalie Bohuslaw

Comments: A little late, but I would like to give a big thank you to Cathy Besley DeLoach and her team for the window washing contest prize. My windows have finally been washed, after a long delay, due to renovations being done. ER Services did a fantastic job. My windows are spotless. I truly can see clearly now. Thank you!

Braddock District's First-Ever Climate Action Conference Was a Huge Success!

by Sarah G.J. Lennon

Braddock District Supervisor James Walkinshaw hosted the 1st Annual Climate Action Conference on Saturday, September 30, 2023 at Lake Braddock Secondary School. Attendees (numbering close to 200) heard from experts in climate change and learned how to save money while minimizing their carbon footprint. If you were not able to attend, you can watch a recap on the Fairfax County Government YouTube Channel (youtube.com/@fairfaxcounty).

Walkinshaw kicked off the event noting that our collective action here in the Braddock District can change the national footprint. Each and every one of us can do something; no one needs to do everything! As one example, he noted that if every person in Fairfax County changed 10 light bulbs to energy-efficient ones, it could reduce the need for another power plant!

Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Jeff McKay congratulated those in attendance for taking the time on a Saturday morning to make a difference. He noted that the message being discussed that morning was important, but the messengers (those in attendance) are "way, way more important!"

The first step to addressing climate change is to reduce the amount of energy used. A good start is to get an energy audit of one's home to find out where the real problems might be. There are many companies that can provide this service. Attendees learned how to improve energy efficiency, reducing emissions, and realizing long-term savings. The Inflation Reduction Act provides for a number of critical tax incentives for energy efficient investments. There was discussion around electric vehicles (including school busses), weatherization assistance, HVAC upgrades, air sealing and insulation.

The Department of Energy (DOE) website (energy.gov) has incredible amounts of information! Additionally, you can read the Fifth National Climate Assessment, which is the U.S. government's preeminent report on climate change impacts, risks, and responses, at globalchange.gov. It is a congressionally mandated report and provides the scientific foundation to support informed decision making for the government.

Supervisor Walkinshaw closed the conference with a bold call for action and hoped that next year's conference would have twice the attendance!

Learn more at fairfaxcounty.gov/braddock/cac.

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Kings Park West Neighbor Assist

By most forecasts, we are in for a snowy winter. The task of keeping sidewalks and driveways clear can be a good source of exercise. However, it could also overstress others not prepared for the task.

So, what to do? One of the first things often forgotten is to **hydrate**. Make sure you take water breaks. It's amazing when you realize that how much water your body needs to work in cold weather.

The second thing is to **take breaks**. Either stay outside and enjoy the snowscape or go inside for some warmth. Fingertips and toes can become uncomfortably cold before you realize.

Once you have taken care of your property, it would be great if you looked out at your neighbors to see if they might need some help. This is especially important for older residents who physically cannot clear the snow. We often see neighbors helping neighbors or clearing snow for older ones. That spirit is what Kings Park West is known for.

We do have a number of older KPW residents who are willing to pay for snow removal. And we have some teens and others who could make some spending money by offering to work.

To help connect those who need help and those who want to make some money, KPW Neighbor Assist is collecting names of workers and residents willing to pay for the snow removal service. We will try to link the two based on location.

Residents willing to pay or willing to work need to send information. What we need is **name, street address, and contact number and/or email address**. Please send your information to kpwneighborassist@gmail.com. That way we have a record to call up once the snow arrives.

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Completing Shanes Creek's Stream Restoration: Part 1

by Greg Sykes (greg@grsykes.com)

The Shanes Creek stream restoration within Royal Lake Park is in its final stages! All the major work and rechanneling that started in spring 2022 is complete. The final price: \$2,905,914. Background on the history and strategy behind the restoration efforts are in this series' reference section (in Part 2's e-version). Now and looking ahead, many neighbors ask how the job went and what is next? The following are some answers and observations. (Continued.)



Figure 1. A major factor driving the stream restoration was Shanes Creek's heavily eroded and sunken streambed (A), also seen in some of its tributaries. Years earlier, the creek flowed to the right of the then mostly buried sewer manhole tower. The project elevated streambeds and water tables (B, photographed at the same location after restoration). Some sections were rechanneled. Strategic combinations of stones, logs, and native plants now line and reinforce the streambanks. The concrete-filled, four-inch-diameter PVC tubes are permanent stream stability monitoring stations (C), installed at several places along the restored waterway.

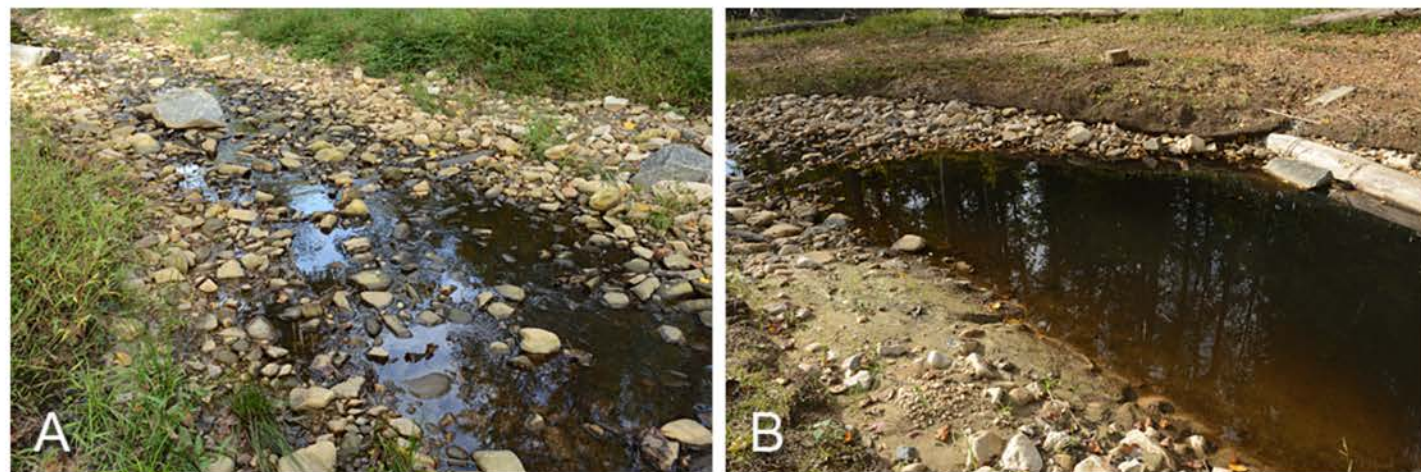


Figure 2. Much of the creek has either shallow rocky areas called riffles (A) or deep pools (B). The water running through the riffles gets oxygenated while the pools offer cooler spots for heat-sensitive critters. You can play a vital role in the restoration effort! Please leave all stones where they are because they serve important purposes such as stabilizing the streambed and holding the underlying geotextiles in place that could otherwise washout during a severe storm.



Figure 3. The pre-restoration bridge across Shanes Creek trail was removed. Where trails cross the stream, elevated, fair weather stepping stones are in place (A). Plan your walk accordingly if heavy rain is in the forecast. Carved, partially submerged boulder arrangements called "sills" (B) control the stream. They might look like rustic sidewalks but are not and can be dangerously slippery with algae. Please stay off the sills. Water levels are low in both images due to a drought.

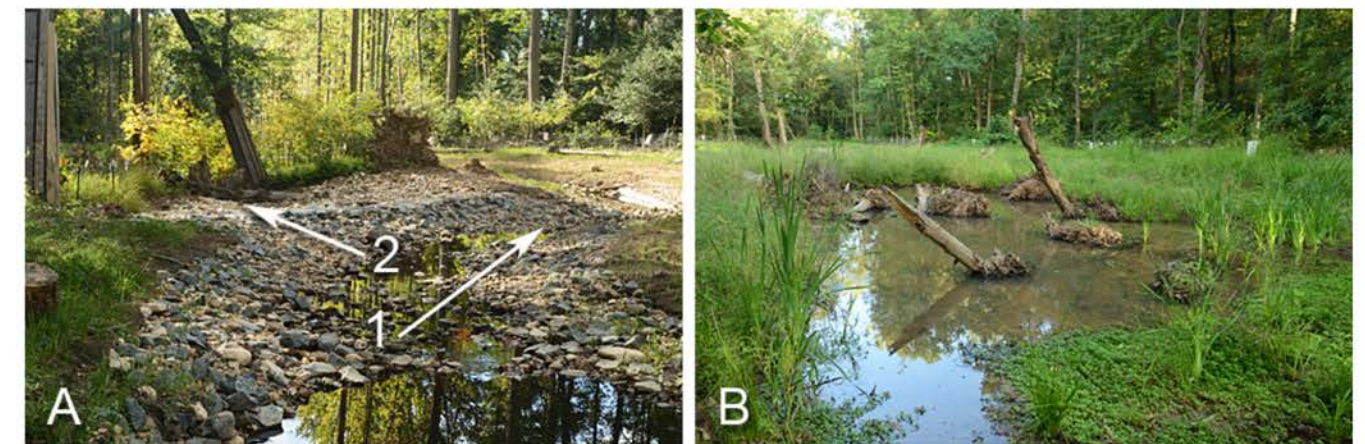


Figure 4. The centuries-old thoughts of digging ditches to quickly drain water and filling depressions are replaced by the new school of wetland preservation and the benefits that come with it. This restoration project adds creek overflows and pools close to the main waterway. In image (A), Arrow 1 indicates the primary stream's flow direction and Arrow 2 shows where stormwaters flood an artificial wetland. These features slow and disperse water across a wider area than the narrow, deep-trenched, pre-restoration creek that was prone to eroded banks. The shallow wetlands hold some of the surplus stormwater (B). More water in the ground recharges the aquifers and helps the area through droughts when that water slowly releases. Additionally, these water-capture devices are superb amphibian habitats! Already, frog and salamander populations are on the rise here (C, a young green frog, *Lithobates clamitans*)!

At presstime, the single trail running between Roberts Road and Royal Lake still needs work. Pre-planning discussions with County officials indicated the surface will be natural and unpaved. It should be wide enough to accommodate a Gator for staff to haul repair equipment—a good width for two people to pass each other. Low spots where water collects will be addressed. Final implementation was escalated. The e-version is available at grsykes.com/pdf/eo-articles/126_2023-12.pdf. Part 2 of this series examines Shanes Creek's new largest wetland, looks at revegetation, and contains the reference section.

Supervisor Walkinshaw Announces \$1 Million to Fund Royal Lake Parks' Improvements by Paul Gross

At the Friends of Royal Lake (FORL) community meeting on October 25, Supervisor James Walkinshaw announced that \$1 million of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds have been designated for Royal Lake parks' capital improvement projects. Also, an additional \$300,000 in Fairfax County bond trails money has been allocated by the Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA).

This influx of APRA money is a result of the strong support of Delegate Eileen Filler-Corn and Supervisor Walkinshaw who advocated and supported our documented park needs. We thank both for their tremendous support that makes our parks and community stronger.

You may wonder: How were the projects selected? In 2017, the FORL asked the community through a series of meetings and a survey what would the community like to see at Royal Lake parks. Using extensive KPWCA and other communities' input, we wrote a "Community Vision Plan for Royal Lake." The vision plan highlighted many potential capital improvement and maintenance projects. FORL then reached out to our elected and FCPA officials and presented your consensus views. Using that information updated from a similar needs assessment undertaken two years ago, we recommended seven priority projects. These ARPA funds will support five Royal Lake Parks' capital improvement projects:

- Replace the bridge and upgrade the surrounding trail crossing Rabbit Branch
- Develop a trail from Commonwealth Blvd to the Royal Lake circuit trail
- Upgrade the Richardson Drive entrance to the soccer and baseball fields
- Improve the trail from the top of Royal Lake dam and Lakepointe neighborhood to the Royal Lake circuit trail
- Install a shade structure for the Lakeside Park picnic area

These projects should be completed by 2026.

FORL is making a difference!
Your voice can be heard and magnified when we come together and gain the support of our elected officials and county staff.

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Cub Scout Pack 1967 News

Pack 1967 has had a fun and busy 2023 fall season.

Our October Pack Meeting featured our Bear Carnival—an always anticipated event—where our Bear scouts made and ran a variety of carnival style games for the Pack. This was followed by our fall Pack Campout to Bull Run Regional Park, where earlier in the morning our Bear Den toured Manassas Battlefield and learned about the history of the battles fought there during the Civil War. In November, the scouts participated in Scouting for Food collection. They also learned land navigation skills at the November Pack Meeting.



Support Cub Scout Pack 1967



Purchase your Kings Park West Ornament and help support your local KPW Cub Scouts. Only \$20 each.

To purchase, visit pack1967.org/ornament

Troop 1966 Update

This past November, Noah Lowe and the scouts from KPW's Troop 1966 completed restoration work on one of the footbridges at Lake Royal.



Over the past year, Noah worked with the Friends of Royal Lake, KPW Civic Association, and Fairfax County Park Authority planning, fundraising, and completing the restoration work as part of his Eagle Scout requirements.

Noah received a bridge assessment from Fairfax County Park Authority detailing the needed repairs. He then devised a plan to accomplish the work, had his plan approved, and raised the necessary funding.

Over four weekends, the scouts of Troop 1966 cut and painted lumber to replace all of the handrails and footboards of the bridge and completed installation. They also added extra support beams under the deck of the bridge, installed protective sleeves around the most worn support posts, and painted existing parts of the bridge.

Road Raiders Update

The Road Raider plans for January and February revolve around protecting and cleaning the northern reaches of the Royal Lake Park watershed.

On Dr. Martin Luther King Day, January 15 (federal and student holiday), we will explore nature and protect this park by cleaning up trash and debris. We'll start at 9 to 11 a.m. at Rabbit Branch Park off Tapestry. A great opportunity for service to the community.

On President's Day, February 19, we will continue down the watershed towards Royal Lake by continuing to explore nature at Crooked Creek Park. We will have additional information on the plans and progress for FCPA to create a new path from Commonwealth Ave to Royal Lake to tie into existing trails. And we will provide an opportunity to improve this hidden gem of a park. Similar to January, we will start at 9 a.m.

I hope you can support us in these two events. Although structured for a two-hour effort, we can adapt to as many minutes or hours you can donate of your time.

More information to be provided in our reminder email system. If you would like to join this information distribution, please send an email to KPWRoadRaiders@gmail.com.

Girl Scouts Update

In October, Troop 4914 hosted a Movie Night and Trunk or Treat featuring Hotel Transylvania at the Lake Braddock Community Center on October 28. Almost 100 community members and Scouts attended, enjoying pizza, popcorn, cotton candy and face painting.

Also in October, Girl Scout Troop 1356 Cadettes blended their camping experiences with a ghoulish twist and led trunk-or-treaters at Laurel Ridge Elementary through "Life of a Girl Scout Zombie," ending in a short "hike" through the spooky forest.

In November, Girl Scout Troop 54021 Cadettes helped to run Kindness Night at Laurel Ridge, where they led elementary school participants to paint rocks, make cards, and put together food donation bags.



Friends of Royal Lake Significantly Improves Pommeroy Trail

by Tony Vellucci



On Saturday, October 28, 12 volunteers worked three hours and made two significant improvements to the Pommeroy Trail, laying down over **two tons** of stone dust.

The trail extends from Commonwealth Blvd across from the Commonwealth Swim Club to the end of the paved roadway that connects to Lakeside Park. Although it is not a Park Authority-recognized trail, it is used frequently by the community for hiking, jogging, and dog walking.

FORL volunteers re-graded a 120- foot section of the trail that continuously flooded and filled in several sections that posed trip hazards due to exposed roots.

Patrons who use the trail are aware of the one section that continuously floods after rainstorms, which led to the placement of stepping stones as a temporary measure so that users could avoid the mud. Eventually, those stepping stones also sank into the mud, making the area almost impassable. (Continued.)

Andy Karp directed the project effort, which included: removing the stepping stones, laying down stone dust, grading the trail on an angle to channel stormwater, tamping the trail, and building drainage ditches to receive the channeled stormwater to direct it to the stream.

Volunteers loaded wheelbarrows with 21A stone dust that the Park Authority had brought earlier in the week and, with gargantuan effort, carted their loads almost three tenths of a mile to the primary work site.

Primary wheelbarrow haulers included Mike Burbach, John Harris, Celso Ferriera, Henry and Isaac Sorrenson. Sophia and Sarah Ferriera assisted as tampers. Craig Cole assisted with the trail grading, and Paul and Kathy Gross did whatever needed to be done.

Concurrently with this effort, Tony Vellucci identified some of the worst exposed root sites along the trail that presented potential tripping hazards and worked with laid down stone dust to cover up the roots and smooth out the trail.

As volunteers passed by with wheelbarrows heading to the main worksite, Tony hijacked the loads to facilitate the trail improvements. Many of the folks pushing the wheelbarrows appreciated the shortened trips and enjoyed the break time afforded by the abbreviated trips.

One section had such badly exposed roots that the volunteers laid down stone dust on exposed roots and re-routed the trail to higher ground. They then laid down large fallen branches and cut up logs to direct patrons to the new trail segment.

The Friends of Royal Lake thank James “Jim” Corcoran, the new Fairfax County Trails Manager; Beth Lannetta; and Marcos Suarez, who after an onsite inspection, removed a tree that had fallen across the Pommeroy Trail.

The next day, FCPA crews came to cut up the tree to make the trail passable. FORL members used logs from that fallen tree to block off the old trail mentioned above.

The volunteers made significant contributions to improving the quality and safety of the trail. If you’ve never hiked the Pommeroy Trail, get on your hiking boots and take a walk. It’s part of the stream valley that has interesting sites nestled between Pommeroy and Coleridge Drives.

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