



Celebrate *Juneteenth* in the Parks

The Park Authority is committed to sharing stories, artifacts and archives to recognize the contributions, struggle and history of African-Americans in Fairfax County and our parks. Commemorate Juneteenth with programs, tours and blogs offered by the Park Authority.

The history of Juneteenth dates back to June 19, 1865 when the last of the enslaved living in Galveston, Texas were told the Emancipation Proclamation had been signed by President Abraham Lincoln, that the Civil War had ended and all black people were now free from the bondage of slavery. This day, known as Juneteenth, symbolizes liberation and resilience following 246 years of enslavement. The holiday serves as a testament to African American history and culture and inspires continuous self-development. The Park Authority invites members of the community to celebrate and join in a variety of activities on and around Juneteenth.

Frying Pan Farm Park is hosting a program called Exploring our Historic Meeting House and Grounds on Saturday, June 15 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Participants will delve into the history of the Frying Pan Baptist Meeting House, where African American congregants fought for freedoms and formed a vibrant post-emancipation community. Guided tours of the church and surrounding grounds will shed light on the resilience and triumphs of African American individuals and families.

At nearby Sully Historic Site, join the festivities at the Juneteenth Celebration on Wednesday, June 19 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The celebration features a commemoration of emancipation with storytelling, family activities, food and tours.

Discover a collection of captivating blogs and stories from historic sites within Fairfax County Parks where visitors can delve into the rich history and significance of Juneteenth. Learn about Ginny, an enslaved woman at Walney Farm, explore how hundreds of enslaved African Americans living in Fairfax County were emancipated before Juneteenth and how the enslaved people of Green Spring Farm became free. Read the poignant narratives of emancipation and the legacy of Juneteenth through the lens of the historic sites of Fairfax County Parks.

Through celebrating Juneteenth in Fairfax County Parks, individuals honor the past, celebrate progress and foster a more inclusive future. Come together with the community to commemorate this pivotal moment in American history and embrace the spirit of unity and resilience that defines Juneteenth.

For more information about Juneteenth in the parks, turn to pg. 64 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/topics/juneteenth.

