



FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY



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Information Release

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Mastenbrook Grant Awarded for Telescope at Turner Farm

The skies will soon be in sharper focus over Observatory Park at Turner Farm, thanks to a Mastenbrook Grant. At its meeting on April 27, 2016, the Fairfax County Park Authority Board approved a Mastenbrook Volunteer Matching Fund Grant for \$20,000 for the Analemma Society.

The non-profit Analemma Society will use the funds to purchase a telescope and mounts for use in the new roll-top observatory at Turner Farm Park, which is located at 925 Springvale Road in Great Falls, Virginia. Members of the Analemma Society work in partnership with the Park Authority to develop recreational and educational astronomy programs at Observatory Park at Turner Farm.

Charles H. Olin, the founder of the Analemma Society noted, "The view through a telescope stimulates our imagination in a way nothing else can ... In this age of outer space travel, our future depends upon an appreciation and understanding of our celestial neighbors."

Additional contributions for the Observatory Park project will be made through the Fairfax County Park Foundation.

Mastenbrook bond-funded grants provide limited matching funds for projects in Fairfax County parks. In 1998, John Mastenbrook, a 21-year veteran of the Fairfax County Park Authority Board, suggested the creation of a grant program to encourage public and private ventures that would improve Fairfax County parks and park facilities. The program was designed to fill a gap between limited bond funding and the community's desire for new neighborhood park facilities.

Since 1999, there have been more than 140 Mastenbrook Grant projects. Awards in excess of \$1.1 million have been made, resulting in projects throughout Fairfax County valued at more than \$7.5 million.

For more information, or to apply for a matching grant, visit online at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/mastenbrookgrant.htm> or call 703-324-8591.

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