

Patriot Park North is a "Field of Dreams"

In the 1989 iconic baseball movie "Field of Dreams," character Ray Kinsella, played by Kevin Costner, stood in an Iowa cornfield hearing the ghost of baseball repeat "If you build it, they will come." Over the years Fairfax County has heard those whispers.

With the help of local sports leaders Gary Flather, CEO of Southwestern Youth Association (SYA), and Rob Hahne, Executive Director of Northern Virginia Travel Baseball League (NVTBL), the Park Authority opened Patriot Park North (PPN) in 2023. The state-of-the-art diamond sports complex in the heart of Fairfax County provides local baseball and softball leagues with the ability to play and practice on six synthetic fields. PPN not only promotes sport tourism attracting teams from across the nation and internationally, but it also provides an economic benefit to the county. In its first year of operation, the complex hosted over twenty tournaments attracting nearly a quarter of million visitors, with an average of 10,000 spectators per tournament. Other events held at the complex include the the Major League Baseball (MLB) Home Run Derby X – a special event with Major League Baseball, SYA Opening Ceremonies, a college baseball game, adult baseball playoff games and even an international rental by the Academy Baseball Canada.

With support from Visit Fairfax and Fairfax County Park Foundation, PPN is poised to achieve even greater success in 2024. The season began in mid-March and runs through early November. The 2024 schedule is bustling with more than 30 tournaments taking place throughout the season. To learn more about Patriot Park North, please visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/patriot-park-north.



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Cub Run Opens New Drop-In Childcare Room

Parents have a new option for childcare when heading to the Cub Run Rec Center. In January 2024, a drop-in childcare center opened inside the Rec Center (located behind the fitness center). For just \$3 per child and \$1.50 for each additional child for up to two hours, adults can drop off their children, ages 6 months to 10 years, so they can participate stress free in classes or workout in the exercise room, swim laps in the indoor pool or relax in the spa.

The Drop-In Childcare Room has engaging features and enriching activities for young children. The room's design features calming blue colors, toddler-sized pencils (wall corner cushions) and "floating white clouds" (hanging ceiling panels). In the room children can play with toys and games, work on crafts and enjoy reading or other age-appropriate activities. The open playroom features a separate area for infants and toddlers who are not walking. Staff watching children are First Aid and CPR certified and the services adhere to Virginia Department of Social Services child-to-staff ratio standards. Those using Cub Run Rec Center can use the drop-in childcare services on a first-come, first-served basis. Parents must remain inside the Rec Center while using the services and are given a pager in case they need to be reached.

Fairfax County Park Authority welcomes members of the public to stop by Cub Run Rec Center in Chantilly to start using the drop-in childcare services today. To learn more about the childcare center, please visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/reccenter/cub-run/childcare. Oakmont Rec Center also offers drop-in childcare services. To learn more about Oakmont's childcare center, please visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/reccenter/oak-marr/childcare.