



ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS



SUBMISSION FORM

All submission forms must include the following information. Separate submission forms must be turned in for each eligible program. **Deadline: Friday, April 3, 2026.** Please include this submission form as the first page of your electronic entry. Contact [Gage Harter](#) with any questions.

PROGRAM INFORMATION

County: Fairfax County

Program Title: Patriot Park North

Program Category: Community Development, Economic Development, & Land Use

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Andy Grabel

Title: Public Information Officer

Department: Marketing & Communications

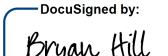
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SIGNATURE OF COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR OR DEPUTY/ASSISTANT COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Name: Bryan Hill

Title: County Executive

Signature: 

Executive Summary

In 2016, Fairfax County began exploring how developing high-quality sports facilities could benefit both county residents and the local economy. The Park Authority attained bond funding that year. The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors convened a sports tourism task force in 2017 to study the potential economic impact of the growing sports tourism sector in the county and to make recommendations. The task force's report determined that an athletic complex could contribute to robust economic activity and generate additional tax revenue. In 2020, bond funding was used to secure the land and build such a facility, now known as Patriot Park North.

Working closely with sports leaders in the community, county agency partners, and local political leaders, Fairfax County Park Authority designed, built, and currently operates Patriot Park North, a dynamic sports complex for competitive diamond sports. The park enabled Fairfax County to attract tournament organizers from across the country and new economic activity through sports tourism. In 2025 alone, Patriot Park North generated \$5.75 million in economic activity in Fairfax County.

The Challenge: Sports tourism today is an approximately \$60 billion business in the United States, according to industry analysts. Fairfax County Government lacked both high-quality athletic facilities to attract competitive sports travel teams and insights into how it could tap into this growing industry for the benefit of residents and tourists.

With a diverse population and a desire to generate new economic activity in Fairfax County, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors authorized the formation of a Sports Tourism Task Force in 2017 to study how the county could tap into this market to diversify its tax base and how sports tourism revenue could be used to support resident-focused facilities. The Task Force released a report in 2020 that identified outdoor field complexes as the county's biggest need and the type of facility with the greatest economic potential. A second park bond in 2020 provided the remainder of the funding to build a high-quality sports complex. The Fairfax County Park Authority rose to the significant challenge of designing, constructing, and running a new, state-of-the-art baseball and softball complex that attracts competitive showcases and tournaments, benefits both residents, and creates tourism revenue.

Building a Solution: Designed to optimize performance and experience, this unique, state of the art facility offers six lighted, synthetic turf fields, on-site concessions, flexible fencing options, portable pitching mounds, and generous warm-up areas to support seamless tournament operations. Player-friendly features include covered, fully wrapped dugouts and electronic scoreboards on every field, while spectators can take in the action from comfortable viewing areas and a press box featuring a 360-degree observation deck. Because of the configuration, technology, and observation deck, Patriot Park North is a premier destination for college athletic staff to recruit talent for their schools, which increases its desirability amongst teams and organizers for tournaments, showcases, and games. Patriot Park North also features a baseball- and softball-themed

playground that enhances the atmosphere and attracts families during the week and between events. These features and amenities also allow residents to play in high-level competition close to home.

The success of this facility was made possible through a multi-partner approach. FCPA, Visit Fairfax (the county's destination marketing organization), Southwestern Youth Association, and other partners have successfully marketed Patriot Park North to attract a variety of athletic functions, including Home Run Derby X with Major League Baseball, college baseball games, adult baseball playoffs as well as rentals by Academy Baseball Canada, Virginia State Little League Tournament, and others.

FCPA manages the day-to-day operations, maintenance, and reservations for camps, special events, and for-profit use out of the facility. The agency works closely with Fairfax County Public Schools and private schools to host practices, scrimmages, games, and tournaments, which helps schools to save on expenses and travel time. However, the use of this state-of-the-art facility is not limited to pay-to-play. FCPA also works with Fairfax County Neighborhood and Community Services, who schedule the fields for regular league use during designated "Community Use" times.

Results: Since it opened in 2023, the number of events hosted, annual income, and economic activity continue to grow year over year. The park welcomed players, coaches, and fans for 91 tournaments and will host 37 more from March through November 2026. Total visitation in FY2025 was more than 530,000. Of the total visitors in FY2025, 45 percent

were from Fairfax County. Park income went from \$313,000 in 2023 to nearly \$500,000 in 2025, and, last year alone, Patriot Park North generated \$5.75 million in economic activity in Fairfax County. Tournaments at Patriot Park North generated an estimated 4,500 local hotel room nights for tournaments, according to Visit Fairfax.