



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Contact: Jane Bowling-Wilson
540-349-0631

Northern Piedmont Community Foundation, Now and Forever Fund Supports Sky Meadows Sensory Explorer's Trail

Warrenton, VA—In a fast-paced world, where physical and mental abilities are often taken for granted, an unusual cooperative effort has emerged that suggests we stop and pay attention to our natural world regardless of our body's limitations.

The Sensory Explorer's Trail at Sky Meadows State Park in Delaplane, is that project and it is being developed by the Shenandoah Chapter of the Virginia Naturalists, in cooperation with the Friends of Sky Meadows State Park. The Sensory Trail is designed to provide a way for people of all ages and abilities to engage their senses in the exploration of the outdoors.

With a \$5,000 gift from the Gina Farrar Memorial Fund and NPCF Now and Forever Fund, bridges and benches, and the license fee needed for birdcalls will be supported. The Warrenton Garden Club Children's Education Fund at NPCF has also approved funding for this project.

One of the more important elements of the design of this trail, allows those who are blind and visually impaired the ability for independent exploration in this natural setting. The Trail will have a navigable tactile pathway and trail stop information will be available through an audio tour app. There is also a plan to develop materials to serve the autistic community. The Sensory Explorer's Trail is scheduled to open in the Fall of 2019.

The Sensory Explorer's Trail is truly a collaborative effort of many organizations, including the local Lions Club and the National Federation of the Blind, who will insure that the trail design and audio materials are workable. The Virginia Master Naturalists are designing the Trail and its exhibits and will do the build with assistance from the State's Youth Conservation Corps. Support for audio adaptations are provided from Uni-Guide and a matching grant from the Lions Club will support the braille accommodations for the blind and visually impaired. The Warrenton Garden Club Children's Education Fund has also pledge trail support.

Gina Farrar was a well-known and dedicated conservationist in Fauquier County. Ms. Farrar passed away last year. Her husband, Jim Timberlake, chose to fund this project as a something Gina would have been already been involved in and supported.

The NPCF Now and Forever Fund is designed to support community issues outside of a regular grant schedule. Both the Gina Farrar Memorial Fund and the Now and Forever Fund accept donations through the Northern Piedmont Community Foundation. Further information at npcf.org or 540-349-0631

Established in 2000, the Northern Piedmont Community Foundation is a public charity that builds philanthropic capital to enhance and preserve the quality of life in Culpeper, Fauquier, Madison, and Rappahannock counties and to strengthen the region's nonprofit organizations.

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