

JULY-AUGUST  
2012

BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

# THE LONG BRIDGE CONNECTION

*A Publication of the Friends of Long Bridge Park*

## COUNTY BOARD INCLUDES LBP ON NOVEMBER BALLOT

On July 21, the Arlington County Board approved the FY2013 - FY2022 Capital Improvement Plan. The CIP totals \$2.4 billion in expenditures over the next 10 years, and includes funding for construction of the next phase of Long Bridge Park. The approved CIP meets the Board's debt policies and maintains the County's AAA credit rating.

Arlington's voters will now have the opportunity to vote on the completion of the aquatics center at Long Bridge Park. The funding for LBP is included in the parks and recreation bond package. The ballot proposal will read:

"Shall Arlington County contract a debt and issue its general obligation bonds in the maximum principal amount of \$50,553,000 to finance, together with other available funds, the cost of various capital projects for local parks & recreation, and land acquisition for parks and open space?"

**We Still Need Your Support!**  
**VOTE FOR THE PARK REFERENDA ON NOVEMBER 6, 2012!**

Voting yes for this bond referendum will give Arlingtonians a world-class aquatics center that will serve the needs of families, seniors, and future Olympians alike. More than 2,000 individuals signed the petition to support the completion of LBP! **Vote yes to the Parks and Recreation Bond on November 6!**

**Help the Friends of Long Bridge Park support the park bond: See Page 4 to get involved!**

## ARLINGTON COUNTY OLYMPIAN, TOM DOLAN, SUPPORTS COMPLETION OF LONG BRIDGE PARK

Local Olympic swimming champion Tom Dolan, who broke the world record and won gold in the 400 IM and silver in the 200 IM in Sydney in 2000, declared his support to the Board for the proposed aquatics center at LBP:

*I have experienced every level of the sport of swimming and therefore feel that I am in a unique position to understand the potential impact of a facility like the one proposed for the Long Bridge project. While I have no doubt some people will say that we have enough swimming pools in Arlington, especially with the new high school renovations, it is important to keep in mind the importance of a facility that offers a true multi-use for the entire community. This type*

*of a facility can offer everything from water safety and learn to swim, to water aerobics and hydrotherapy, to competitive swimming and national competitions. In my experience being on various boards for the U.S. Olympic Committee and USA Swimming, one of the themes we were faced with was a lack of understanding in both construction and program implementation, of how to best service the entire community, and how to develop the most efficient revenue model for that facility. Most citizens are not aware of the immense options a facility like the proposed Long Bridge Center can offer to the community. Arlington has been waiting a long time for a facility of this magnitude.*

Dolan's mother, Jef Dolan, also expressed her support to the Board:

*Tom could not train for the Olympics in Arlington because there were no long course, 50-meter pools. He trained in Montgomery County. This Aquatics Center could be an incubator for Arlington swimmers who want to take their training to the next level. It could serve Masters Swimmers and recreational swimmers. Swimming is a life sport. As baby boomers retire and look for recreation, they will look to swimming. Having been to swimming venues all over the country, I can attest to the revenue possibilities for this Aquatics Center. Communities petition USA swimming to have zone, regional, and national meets in their communities. Clubs bring teams and families who stay in hotels, eat in restaurants and enjoy the hospitality of the host community for four to five days at a time.*

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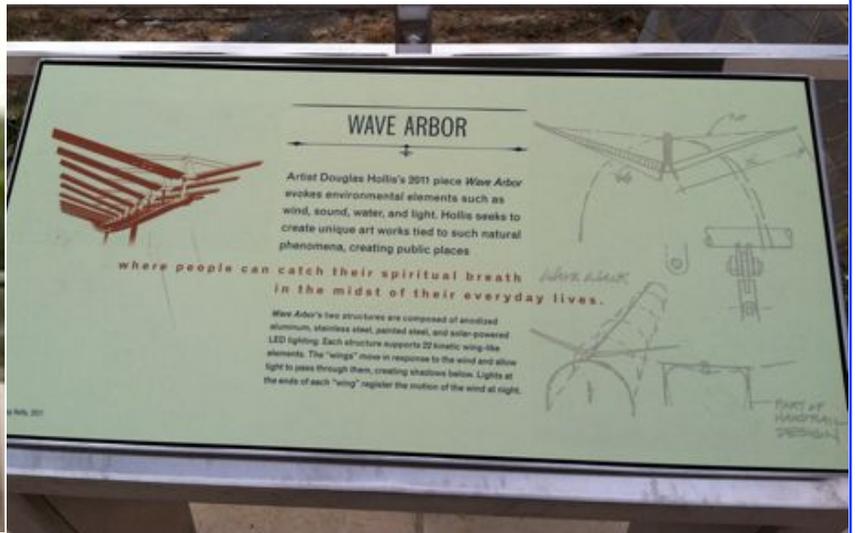
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# New Signs Debut Around LBP

New colorful signs at Long Bridge Park provide practical, historical, and environmental information for visitors to enjoy. Welcome signs are posted at each entrance of the park, providing patrons with a map of Long Bridge Park. Smaller signs posted near the athletic fields state the rules of the park and electronic screens will soon display the park's schedule of events.

Smaller signs dot the Esplanade and introduce individuals to the park's unique features. One sign describes the history of the Long Bridge, which dates back to the 19th century. Another describes the wildlife that can be seen in the Roaches Run Waterfowl Sanctuary adjacent to Long Bridge Park. The new informational signs inform park visitors that they may see great blue herons, ospreys, and other wildlife from the Esplanade. Another sign explains the park's transformation from an industrial brown field to a beautiful green space.



*Above left:* Signs welcome patrons at several entrances to provide an overview of the park's amenities.

*Above:* A sign explains the design of LBP's public art: the wave arbor.

*Left:* A sign near the south end of the Esplanade describes the history of the area.

## LBP Offers Unique Opportunities for Bird Watching

Colorful and entertaining birds can be seen at Long Bridge Park year round. In the winter months there are magnificent bald eagles, spectacularly colored wood ducks, hooded mergansers, pied-bill grebes, and many others. In the summer there are osprey, herons and egrets all competing for the fish in nearby Roaches Run Waterfowl Sanctuary. Mockingbirds, house finches, robins and song sparrows provide the music as swifts and swallows dart about overhead.

The esplanade at Long Bridge Park is a wonderful place to view Roaches Run. This sanctuary, a site on the Virginia Birding and Wildlife Trail, has long been popular among

local birders. However, access to good viewing spots along the George Washington Memorial Parkway has been limited and often difficult. The Long Bridge Park esplanade is a safe, comfortable, accessible walk providing perspectives from many angles never available before construction of the park.

A stroll along the esplanade is always pleasant, but the addition of a simple pair of binoculars can add to the enjoyment. More experienced birders will want to bring a spotting scope, especially for viewing winter waterfowl.

*Special thanks to Len Alfredson for contributing this article.*

## LBP wins “Best New Facility” Award

Long Bridge Park was named the “Best New Facility” in the Parks, Playgrounds, Blueways, Greenways, and Trails category (Greater than 100,000) by the Virginia Recreation and Park Society. The VRPS is a private, non-profit professional organization that works to “unite all professionals, students, and interested lay persons engaged in the field of recreation, parks and other leisure services in the Commonwealth of Virginia, into one body,” according to the VRPS website.

Congratulations to the Arlington County Department of Parks and Recreation on this well-deserved award! Long Bridge Park beat out tough competition from surrounding areas, including Fairfax County, to win this award. The awards were presented at the VRPS annual conference, held on September 8-11. For a complete list of award winners, please visit: <http://vrps-on-the.blogspot.com/2012/09/vrps-2011-award-winners.html>

## Construction Update: Long Bridge Drive

Reconstruction of Long Bridge Drive will implement a transportation corridor that provides safe and efficient multimodal access to and through the LBP recreation area. Approximately 2,750 feet of Long Bridge Drive from 12th Street to just south of Boundary Channel Drive will be completely reconstructed with new curb, gutter, storm drainage system, bicycle lanes, bus shelters, sidewalks, landscaping strips with street trees and pedestrian-level LED roadway lighting, and landscaped medians.

Over the last two years, utility providers have been working to consolidate their utilities into new duct bank systems to allow room for a 9' x 3' box culvert. An immense number of utilities exist in the roadway. Road reconstruction of Long Bridge Drive began on March 19, 2012. While little progress may be seen on the surface of the road aside from perhaps a new asphalt patch or a new pothole, much work is taking place slowly and steadily beneath the surface. There has never been a storm drainage system within the roadway. This new storm drainage system will remove stormwater runoff from the roadway and is sufficiently sized to handle current and future phases of LBP. As of early August, installation of the sanitary sewer main is approximately 95% complete. Approximately 70% of the storm drainage structures have been installed. Reconstruction of Long Bridge Drive is expected to be completed fall 2012. Access to LBP is being maintained throughout construction.

\* A special thanks to Mr. Robert E. Capper, Arlington County's project manager for this project for providing the information for this article

## COUNTY HOSTS SUCCESSFUL FOURTH OF JULY EVENT AT LBP

Arlington County hosted a wonderful July 4th event at LBP, complete with games, live entertainment, food trucks, and a prime viewing location to watch the fireworks on the National Mall with family and friends.



## How Do I Reserve a Field?

To rent or reserve a field at Long Bridge Park, please contact the [Facilities Scheduling Unit](#) at 703-228-1805. To apply for a permit, please fill out the [Facility Request Form](#) and email it to [facilitiescheduling@arlingtonva.us](mailto:facilitiescheduling@arlingtonva.us) or fax it to 703-228-1802. This request form is for the synthetic turf fields at Long Bridge Park. Field #1 is lined for adult soccer and women's and men's lacrosse. Fields #3 and #4 are lined to accommodate both full size and two sided games.

**Please note that pets are not allowed on designated athletic fields at any time.**

## We want to hear from you!

Do you have an idea for this newsletter? Do you have a suggestion for Long Bridge Park? If so, please contact us! We welcome and look forward to your feedback. Please send comments, questions, suggestions, and ideas to [friends@longbridgepark.org](mailto:friends@longbridgepark.org).



*The Friends of Long Bridge Park hope you had a great summer!*



## HOW DO I GET INVOLVED?



- Sign up for the Friends of Long Bridge Park list-serve via Yahoo Groups:

- Visit <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/folbp/join>
- OR-
- Send email to [folbp-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:folbp-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)



- Contact Friends of Long Bridge Park via email: [friends@longbridgepark.org](mailto:friends@longbridgepark.org)



- Visit the Friends of Long Bridge Park website: <http://longbridgepark.org>



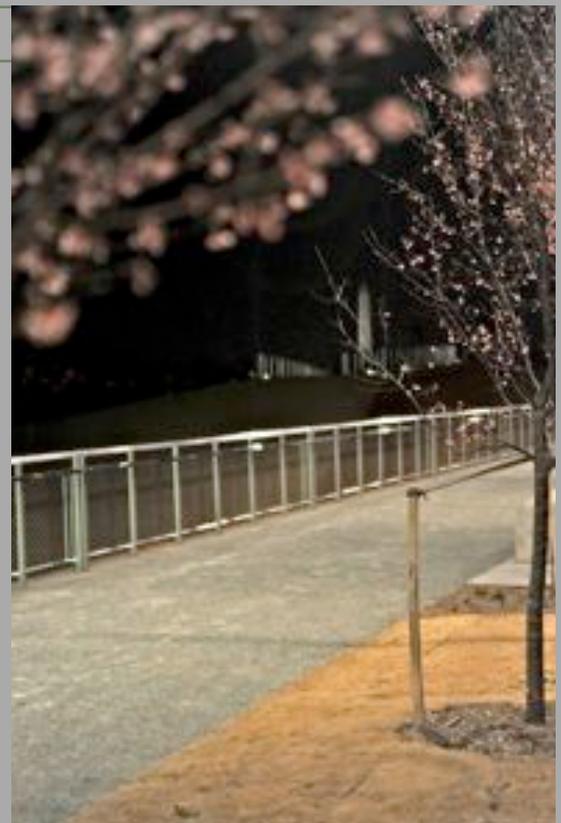
- Like Long Bridge Park on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/longbpark>



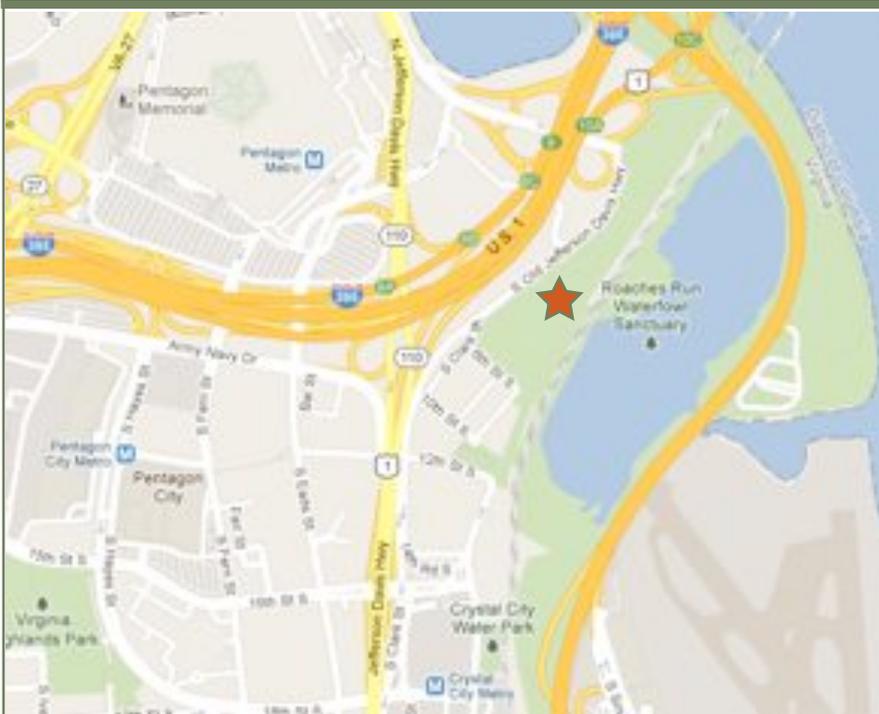
- Join the Friends of Long Bridge Park group on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/folbp/>



- Visit the Arlington County Long Bridge Park website: <http://www.arlingtonva.us/Departments/ParksRecreation/scripts/parks/LongBridgePark.aspx>



# Getting to Long Bridge Park



## WHERE IS LONG BRIDGE PARK?

Long Bridge Park is in southeast Arlington County, making it easily accessible from I-395; Jefferson Davis Highway (U.S. 1); the George Washington Parkway; and the Pentagon, Pentagon City, and Crystal City Metro Stations (Blue-Yellow Lines). We encourage Arlingtonians to walk, run, or bike, but ample parking is available! A map of free parking at LBP is located here: <http://www.longbridgepark.org/crystalcity.pdf>

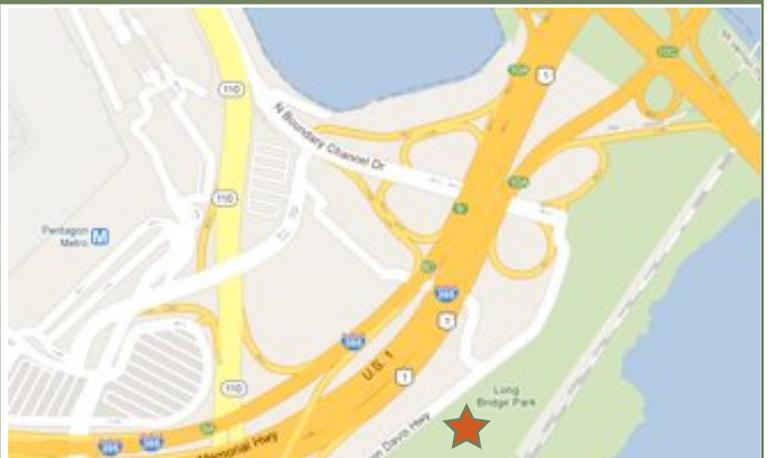
**From Metro:** Exit at Crystal City. Once you exit, walk North on Crystal Drive (toward 15th Street). Where Crystal Drive meets 12th Street (hard turn to the left), you will be able to enter the LBP via the Esplanade.

**From Central Arlington:** Starting at Macy's in Pentagon City: Go east on Army-Navy Drive. Loop around to 12th St. Turn left on 12th and go under the freeway. Turn left immediately on Old Jefferson Davis/Long Bridge Drive.

## FROM JEFFERSON DAVIS HIGHWAY

### Jefferson Davis Northbound (U.S. 1)

Exit Jefferson Davis Highway at 15th Street. At the bottom of the ramp, turn Right onto 15th Street. At the first light, turn left onto Crystal Drive. Crystal Drive will turn into 12th Street. At the first light, turn right onto Old Jefferson Davis, which is soon to be renamed Long Bridge Drive. The parking lot is about a half-mile up on the right.



## FROM I-395 (LOCAL LANES)

### I-395 Northbound

Exit I-395 at Exit 10A, toward North Boundary Channel Drive. At the bottom of the ramp, take the road furthest to the left; this is Old Jefferson Davis/Long Bridge Drive. The parking lot is about three-quarters of a mile up the road on the left.

### I-395 Southbound/George Washington Parkway

From GW Parkway Northbound: Take the exit for I-395 South, then follow the directions from I-395 South.

From GW Parkway Southbound: Take the second exit for I-395 South after the Humpback Bridge, then follow the directions from I-395 South.

From I-395 South: Take Exit 9, toward Clark Street. At the bottom of the ramp, turn right onto Boundary Channel. Make the last right onto Old Jefferson Davis/Long Bridge Drive. The parking lot is about three-quarters of a mile up the road on the left.