

THE ELLMORE FARMHOUSE Begins a New Chapter in their *HISTORY*



For more the 130 years, the Ellmore Farmhouse has been a fixture at Frying Pan Farm in Herndon. Sitting along West Ox Road, the Ellmore house was built in 1891 by the Ellmore family who occupied the house and operated Frying Pan Farm as a dairy farm for over 50 years. In 1984, Chantilly Bible Church acquired the property to use for offices. The church renovated the house, adding two large additions to the rear. Through the years, a full length front covered porch was removed and replaced with a front entry vestibule. In 2001, the Fairfax County Park Authority purchased the house to return it as a part of Frying Pan Farm Park. After researching historical photos, the front porch was restored based on the photos found showing how the house originally looked.



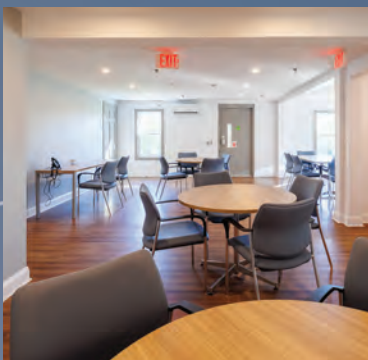
In 2021 the house was leased through the Resident Curator Program. The Resident Curator Program (RCP) is a program designed to preserve and protect historical properties on Park Authority land by offering long-term leases to qualified tenants who agree to rehabilitate and maintain the structures in accordance with established preservation standards. A curator can be a private citizen, a nonprofit entity; or a for-profit entity. In the case of the Ellmore House, the challenge was that the structure required significant improvements and because of its location in a busy, public park, it was not appropriate for residential use.

The curator chosen was ServiceSource, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization whose mission is to facilitate services, resources and partnerships to support people with disabilities and their families, caregivers and community members, in order to build more inclusive communities.



Renovating the Ellmore House was a million-dollar project. ServiceSource worked with Pizzano Contractors, going above and beyond what was required in the 30-year lease agreement. The improvements included structural upgrades to address termite damage, window supports, roof beams, an improved sump pump system, HVAC upgrades, and installing a full sprinkler system, all while making the building ADA compliant and honoring the historic elements of the house.

Renovation work was completed in the Fall of 2023. ServiceSource has begun operating its Long-Term Community Integration Services (LTCIS) program. This program operating out of the Ellmore House will offer up to 15 adults with disabilities employment through an onsite café and handcrafts specialty store. Participants will also support activities within Frying Pan Farm Park.



“This project showcases the breadth and variety of what an RCP can offer. Typically one may think of residential curatorship – a curator rehabilitating a property and using it as primary residence. However, other models are available through the program and can be very successful for nonprofit organizations”, says Stephanie Langton, Resident Curator Program Manager at the Fairfax County Park Authority.

Several properties will be available soon to apply to curate through the Resident Curator Program. For more information about the Ellmore House and the Resident Curator Program, visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/rcp.