

# NATURE

## living in a park

“ From its beginning Reston was meant to be a place where nature would not just coexist with humans, but would thrive. ”

—Vern Walker  
Reston's first naturalist

“ This city will be one of the few places in our urban society where a person can wander off and truly be by himself in a natural unspoiled area. ”

—James Rossant  
Whittlesey and Conklin

Restonians enjoy the natural beauty of their town and the artistic amenities created for them. Walk down a path and jump through a sculpture; stop by the lake and watch a young child playing in a boat sculpture, sit by a fountain and enjoy the beauty of its cascading water, ride a bike or jog through the woods and hear the birds sing.



What sets Reston apart is the preservation of nature in the midst of an urban environment. One seventh of the land in Reston is set aside as permanent open space with stream valleys, meadows, woods, lakes and ponds accessible to every home by pathways that meander throughout the community. While surrounding communities scramble to buy up parcels of land to create parks, Restonians get to live in a park and enjoy the serenity and solitude that acres of natural areas provide.

Reston lies within the Piedmont region of Virginia, which has no natural lakes. But lakes and ponds have been created here, some by humans and some by beavers. Reston's five lakes were built for the purpose of catching storm water runoff. They provide an aquatic habitat for plants, fish and animals. Stream valleys, meadows, lakes, ponds, woodlands and roadside buffers form a diversified ecosystem where wildlife and plants are not circumscribed by property lines.

The Reston Association (RA) preserves the natural beauty of the land and encourages its use by all residents. Through the Vernon Walker Nature Center it educates the community to the wonders of nature and the importance of stewardship of the land.

### America in Bloom Award 2003

Reston won this prestigious nationwide beautification contest for its commitment to the natural environment and for the dedicated involvement of the community in these efforts. Reston was the winner in its population category of 50,001-100,000.

