



## Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail Office

Fiscal Year 2007 Activities Report: 1 October 2006–30 September 2007



### An Expanding Trail Network

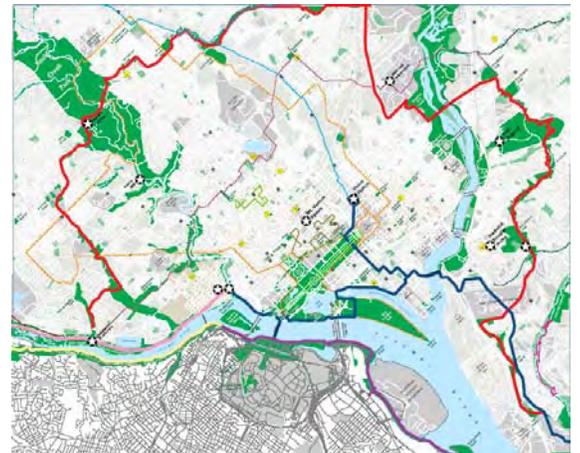
Over the past year, the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail network continued to expand with designation of three trails in Stafford County, Virginia, as segments of the network: the two-mile hiking trail on Government Island; a planned five-mile multi-use trail between Historic Falmouth and Ferry Farm (George Washington's boyhood home); and the Aquia Creek water trail.

As of October 2007, the Trail network consists of 17 segments managed by 15 agencies and organizations totaling 519.5 miles. With one exception, the Trail is included within the plans of all local jurisdictions in the authorized Trail corridor, representing the potential, at present, for an estimated 470 additional miles.



Applications requesting designation of additional trails as segments of the Trail network are in various stages of the process for routes in:

- ♦ southern Fairfax County, Virginia (multi-use route between Mount Vernon and the Occoquan River);
- ♦ Prince William County, Virginia (multi-use route between Belmont Bay and Leesylvania State Park);
- ♦ St. Mary's and Charles counties in southern Maryland (route between Point Lookout State Park and Piscataway Park);
- ♦ Northumberland, Westmoreland, Lancaster and Richmond counties on the Northern Neck of Virginia (bicycling route network between various points on the Chesapeake Bay and the border of King George County); and
- ♦ the District of Columbia (Fort Circle Parks Trail and a multi-use route between the terminus of the C&O Canal Towpath in Georgetown and Oxon Hill Farm).



As with recognized Trail segments, designation of additional trails as segments of the Trail network relies on extensive coordination among local, regional, state and federal agencies; community organizations; individual volunteers; and private interests.

The following pages list activities over the past fiscal year specific to the National Park Service (NPS) Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail Office. We appreciate your comments and questions.

## Communications, Coordination & Project Assistance:

- Organized a team of Trail interests as part of a workshop titled “Balancing Nature and Commerce in Communities Adjacent to Public Lands,” resulting in demonstrable support to establish a “marketing alliance”;
- published handout on the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail (PHNST) concept and history for use at planning meetings in Virginia and distributed a PHNST Office annual report and three activity reports;
- reviewed a draft application and submitted letter of support for funds to construct a hiking trail in Leesylvania State Park;
- completed scoping to apply for “Alternative Transportation in Parks and Public Lands” program funds;
- assisted the Northern Virginia Regional Commission with organization of a workshop among a many stakeholders to identify probable Trail segments in southern Fairfax County; and
- consulted with:
  - staff of the George Washington and Northern Neck planning districts on an evaluation of existing and potential bicycling routes in Stafford and Northern Neck counties as part the rural multi-modal transportation plans for the Virginia Department of Transportation Fredericksburg region;
  - George Washington Memorial Parkway staff on a regional map for the Mount Vernon Trail corridor;
  - National Capital Planning Commission staff on the Fort Circle Parks greenway planning project;
  - Southern Maryland RC&D Board members and partners on the PHNST concept;
  - Prince Georges County staff on a site visit to a trail easement within the Waterside residential development between Fort Foote and the Cagle tract, National Capital Parks-East (south of the National Harbor development);
  - U.S. Army Garrison Fort Belvoir staff on a route for the Trail on post lands;
  - Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation on draft narrative for the edition of the *Virginia Outdoors Plan*; and
  - Garrett County (Maryland) Recreational Trails Task Force on potential routes.

## Interpretation:

- established a partnership between staff of Harper’s Ferry Center and the Allegheny Trail Alliance, resulting in a new map and brochure for the 150-mile Great Allegheny Passage;



- established a partnership between staff of Harper’s Ferry Center and park managers in Northern Virginia, resulting in unanimous endorsement of a wayside exhibit proposal for the Trail corridor between the American Legion Bridge and White’s Ferry;
- produced a brochure on a linear park system in Loudoun County;
- reviewed beta version of Fort Circle Parks Web site;
- distributed new, site-specific Passport to Your National Parks™ stamps for the PHNST;
- added initial content to the new NPS web site for the PHNST; and
- consultations:
  - with staff of Harper’s Ferry Center on re-design and re-publication of the NPS PHNST brochure;
  - on development of wayside exhibits for Government Island;
  - on establishment of a graphic identity--in publications, on the ground and on the Web-- between the PHNST and segments managed by the NPS;
  - among members of the Bicycle & Pedestrian Subcommittee, Transportation Planning Board, Metropolitan Council of Governments; and
  - co-sponsored the second annual Northern Neck RiverRide.



## Administration

- Executed cooperative agreements with:
  - the Northern Virginia Regional Commission to assess the Trail corridor and identify project priorities; provide grant-writing assistance to local governments; develop a podcast for the Alexandria Heritage Trail; and establish a portal web site for the Trail;
  - BikeWalk Virginia to assess the feasibility of developing a bicycling route network, including connections to hiking trails and public access sites to rivers and creeks;
  - Southern Maryland Resource Conservation and Development Board to assess proposed Trail routes for bicycling and walking in Charles and St. Mary's counties and draft recommendations for improvements, and
  - Fairfax County Park Authority to conduct the first phase of an archeology study at a Trail segment in Riverbend Park;
- recommended approval of an application from Stafford County for designation of three trails;
- edited applications for designation of trails as PHNST segments in:
  - Prince William County
  - counties that make up the Northern Neck of Virginia, and
  - Saint Mary's and Charles counties in southern Maryland;
- consulted with the GIS Specialist for the National Capital Region (NCR) on revision of the PHNST database;
- responded to calls for NPS Centennial projects and related communications;
- fulfilled role of supervisor for the Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) Program Leader in NCR;
- completed reports for Volunteers-in-the-Park program, interpretation, project management, Challenge Cost-Share Program and National Trails System;
- reviewed draft proposal to evaluate national historic and scenic trails as part of the NPS response to the Government Performance and Results Act;
- submitted artwork for the Trail as part of the family of Greater Washington National Parks Fund logos;
- consulted with staff and stakeholders of the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail on interpretive planning and administration;
- initiated the process to complete a "foundation" for a PHNST "comprehensive management plan";
- participated in workshops on eastern rivers, western Pennsylvania trails and recognition for "smart growth" projects in the Washington, D.C., area;
- submitted an application for assistance in fiscal year 2008 from staff in the RTCA Program; and
- re-affirmed the desire for two offices in Cook Hall, Harpers Ferry NHP.



*Restored Shiloh one-room school house, a site on the Northern Neck RiverRide*

## Budget:

<b>Total FY07 approved operations funding (ONPS):</b>	<b>\$273,200</b>
• administration (personnel, office, travel, supplies, etc.):	\$142,850
• trail projects assistance*	\$ 70,316
• interpretive projects* (publications, planning, cartography, etc.):	\$ 60,034
* including current obligations	

**FY07 Challenge Cost-Share Program funding:** **\$ 30,000**

- assessment of and assistance on trail projects in Virginia

**FY08 Administration request:** **\$280,000**

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## Notable:

- Volunteers contribute significantly to the planning, construction and maintenance of Trail segments, most often in partnership with a public agency. Specific instances include the Great Allegheny Passage, the C & O Canal, Potomac Heritage Trail (in George Washington Memorial Parkway), Loudoun County, Prince William County, Prince Georges County, the Fort Circle Parks, and the Northern Neck RiverRide.
- The Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority, supported in part with funds from the NPS CCSP, completed work on a many projects that contribute to the continuity of the Trail network.



- *Alexandria Bikeways*, a new publication by the City of Alexandria, includes the Alexandria Heritage Trail, other trails and on-road bicycling routes in and around Alexandria, Virginia, and the future bicycle/pedestrian facility (left) on the north span of the new Woodrow Wilson Bridge, which will connect the Mount Vernon Trail on the Virginia side of the Potomac River to PHNST routes in Prince George's County, Maryland.
- An article on *Potomac Heritage Trail: A Hiker's Guide*, published by Great Allegheny Press, appeared in *The Arrowhead*, a publication of Eastern National, and in the regional newsletter of the National Association of Interpreters.

## More Information:

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