



Overview

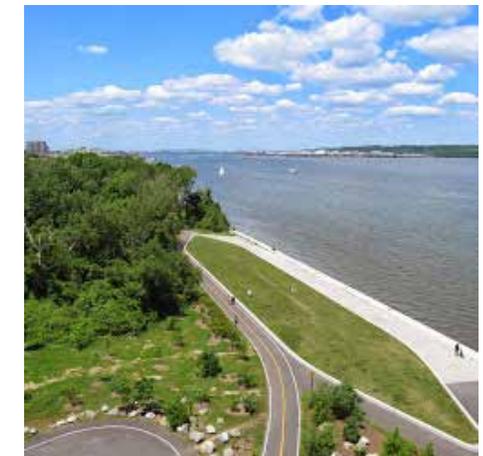
This river section includes the sites and resources located between the Francis Scott Key Bridge (north) and the Woodrow Wilson Bridge (south). Routes associated with POHE, CAJO and STSP national trails are located within this region. This area is recognized as one of the most iconic landscapes in the United States with many significant national monuments, memorials and museums located within close proximity to the Potomac (DC attracts approximately 18 million tourists annually). The DC Metro area is rich in stories related to restored natural landscapes, American Indian heritage, Captain John Smith, George Washington, Colonial settlement, the Civil War, British plundering and the burning of the White House during the War of 1812, industrialization of the United States, and more.

The Potomac is flatter in this area as compared to the whitewater rapids upstream. Here, very few (if any) portions of the river have not been manipulated at one time or another. To accommodate the urban growth and industrial development over the last two centuries, shoreline areas have been heavily developed and seawalls have been built to protect against the tidal fluctuations and erosion. Several islands that exist today were created by the spoils of river dredging that occurred many years ago. Shoreline re-vegetation efforts have

restored river ecology in areas, providing natural landscapes such as Roosevelt Island and Oxon Cove.

This river section is characterized by its proximity to the densely-populated residential, commercial and industrial areas within the urban core of Washington, D.C. (The 2010 Census reported a population of over 4.9 million people within the 21 local governments in the District, suburban Maryland and Northern Virginia that comprise the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments.) There are thousands of acres of public open space and multiple opportunities for active and passive recreation. Nearly all of the river shoreline is accessible by waterfront hiking and biking trails, many of which extend into the city. Public transportation provides multi-transit connections to the river from surrounding urban communities.

The Anacostia River connects with this stretch of the Potomac. Both CAJO and STSP follow the Anacostia and connect back to the Potomac River. The multiple parks, marinas, trails and historic landmarks offer many opportunities for enhancing visitor experiences along the Potomac River as well as providing a connection further east into the DC Metro community.

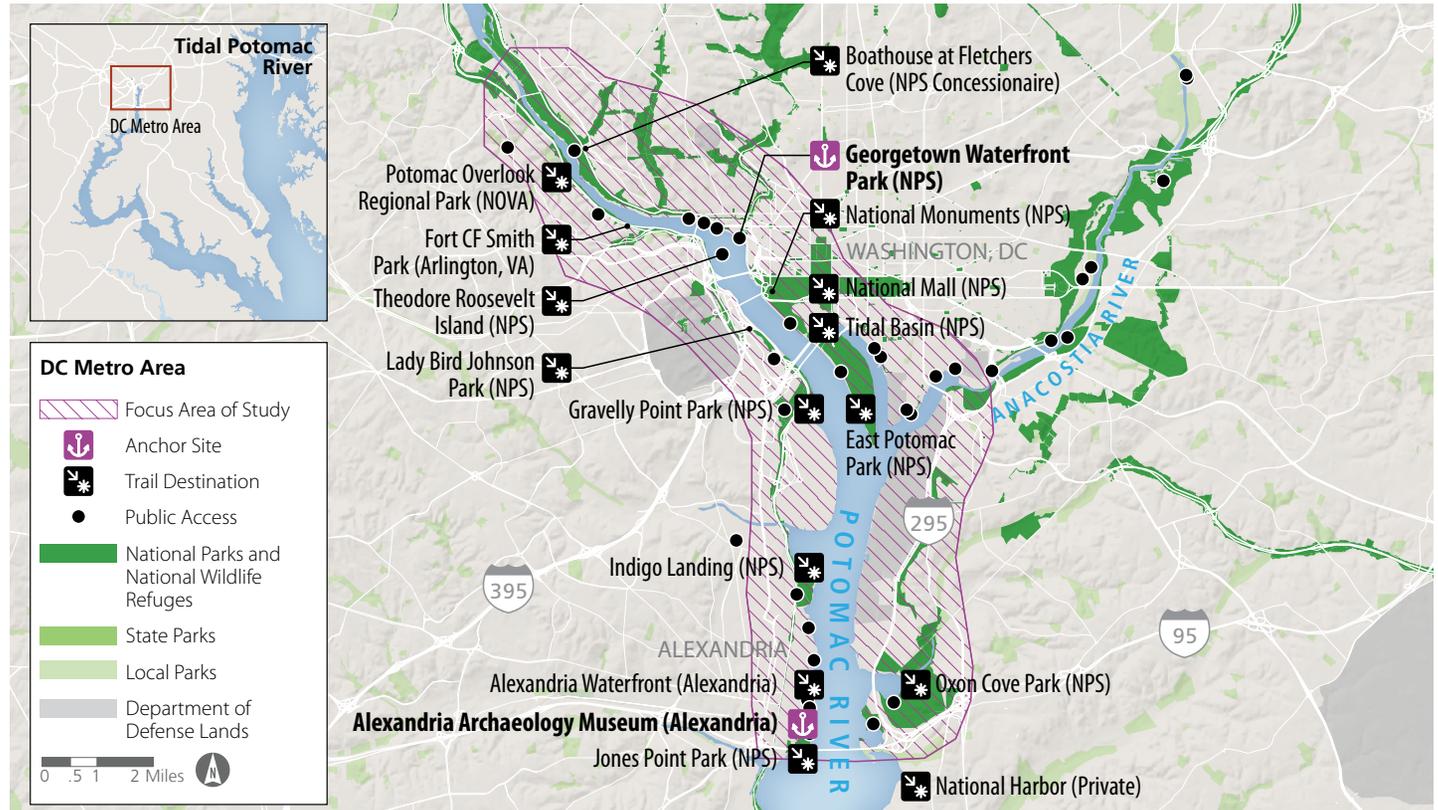


Top left: The Tidal Basin of the Potomac River with the Thomas Jefferson Memorial and U.S. Capitol Building in the distance (photo credit: Christopher A. Koberg)

Bottom right: Jones Point Park shoreline along as seen from the Woodrow Wilson Bridge (photo credit: NPS archive)

Facilities within this river section include:

- Fort Marcy Park (NPS, GWMP)
- Potomac Overlook Park (Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority/ NOVA)
- Fort C.F. Smith Park (Arlington, VA)
- The Boathouse at Fletcher’s Cove (NPS concession, privately operated)
- Georgetown Waterfront Park (NPS)
- Washington Harbour Georgetown (private)
- Alexandria Archeology Marina and Historic Waterfront (public/private)
- East Potomac Park (NPS)
- West Potomac Park (NPS)
- Lady Bird Johnson Park (NPS)
- Gravelly Point Park (NPS)
- Gangplank Marina (private)
- The National Mall, Tidal Basin and associated National Memorials (NPS)
- Theodore Roosevelt Island (NPS)
- Jones Point Park (NPS)
- Oxon Cove and Oxon Hill Farm Park (NPS)
- Segments of the George Washington Parkway including Daingerfield Island (NPS)
- Segments of the Mount Vernon Trail (NPS)
- Segments of the C&O Canal Towpath (NPS)
- Segments of the Rock Creek Park Trail (NPS)
- Segments of the Capital Crescent Trail (NPS)
- Long Bridge Park (Arlington, VA)



Trail Components

The following trail components have been identified to support strategic planning within this river section. The focus area described below contains several anchor sites, which are viewed as first tier locations for trail development efforts as they already contain significant visitor support facilities. The next level of development would include additional trail components such as destinations and linking routes; enhancements would occur as resources and opportunities become available. While many connections to sites occur across state or district borders, the focus areas and anchor sites have been grouped by state for the purposes of jurisdictional collaboration.

Focus Areas

Focus Area: The entire river section is a designated Focus Area due to the density and connectivity of trail-evocative landscapes and existing immersion visitor experiences.

Anchor Sites

Proposed anchor sites for this Focus Area includes Georgetown Waterfront Park and Alexandria Archaeology Museum (at the Old Town Alexandria Waterfront). While neither site is staffed full-time by NPS, both sites receive significant use by residents and tourists, can be reached via public transportation, and are within close proximity to private outfitters offering bicycle and boat rentals, and offer public launch sites and trailhead parking for excursion opportunities.

- **Georgetown Waterfront Park (NPS)** curves along 10 acres of the Potomac extending from the Washington Harbour complex to the Key Bridge. Connections to national trails and trail sites, such as the C&O Canal, are provided by a canoe/kayak launch, along with hiking and biking trails. Water taxis and private ferry service are provided at the adjacent Washington Harbour (private).

Anchor Sites (continued)

- **Alexandria Archaeology Museum** on the Alexandria Waterfront (City of Alexandria) offers public access recreational opportunities such as fishing piers, parks and a non-motorized boat launch. The park is located adjacent to Old Town Alexandria and has segments of the national trails running along its shoreline. Interpretive programs are provided by public and private operators.

Trail Destinations

Potomac Overlook Regional Park; Windy Run Park; Fort C.F. Smith Park; the Boathouse at Fletcher's Cove; Theodore Roosevelt Island; the National Mall; the Tidal Basin and National Memorials; the Potomac Heritage Trail; Lady Bird Johnson Park; Daingerfield Island; East Potomac Park; Long Bridge Park; Gravelly Point Park; the Anacostia River; Indigo Landing; Oxon Cove and Oxon Hill Farm Park; Old Town Alexandria; Alexandria City Marina; Mount Vernon Trail, King Street Park and Jones Point Park.

Anacostia River Destinations

Unique to this river section is the confluence of the Anacostia and Potomac Rivers. For the purposes of the Potomac Segment Plan, the Anacostia River (as a whole) is treated as a trail destination. The Anacostia River is an important segment of both the Captain John Smith Chesapeake and Star-Spangled Banner national historic trails. Through a separate planning effort, the Anacostia Water Trail Master Plan is focusing more explicitly on opportunities for trail development within the Anacostia River corridor. The Anacostia Water Trail (AWT) traverses the 9-mile length of the Anacostia River, from Bladensburg, MD to the confluence with the Potomac, intersecting the National Park Service unit - Anacostia Park in the District of Columbia as well as regional parks of The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) in Prince George's County, MD. Continuing development of the AWT will enhance opportunities for the public to experience the national historic trails as well as Anacostia Park. Additionally, the last segment of the Anacostia Riverwalk Trail (ART) is currently under construction and, when completed, cyclists, runners and hikers will be able to travel the length of the Anacostia through parkland on the shore. Together, the developing AWT and ART serve as great connecting trails linking other features along the Anacostia that are trail destinations unto themselves.

While there are already many opportunities for trail access there is also much real and unrealized recreational potential for the Anacostia

River. For the purposes of the Potomac Segment Plan, trail resources located along the Anacostia that could potentially or currently provide excellent opportunities to connect to the trail resources along the Potomac are explored. These and other opportunities for continuing enhancement of Anacostia-based recreation are more specifically described in development plans for Anacostia Park and the AWT. Trail destinations along the Anacostia include Anacostia Park (NPS), Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens (NPS), the U.S. National Arboretum (USDA), Bladensburg Waterfront Park (MNCPPC), Bladensburg Wetlands (MNCPPC), Kingman Island (District of Columbia), Anacostia Community Boathouse (DC), James Creek Marina and Buzzard Point (NPS), Washington Navy Yard (Dept. of Defense), Yards Park (Capitol Riverfront Business Improvement District) and the many other emerging attractions along the Capitol Riverfront and Southwest Waterfront in DC.

Linking Routes

Nearly the entire river section of the DC Metro area is connected by a network of hiking and biking trails. These trails extend to other Potomac River sections: north to Great Falls via the C&O Canal Towpath and south to Mount Vernon via the Mount Vernon Trail. The Gulf Branch Trail Access site in Arlington also connects to POHE. Several water taxi and ferry routes provide commercial boat transit options and river paddling trails provide dozens of routes for canoeists and kayakers.

Many of the high-traffic bridges in this section have dedicated pedestrian and bike lanes for safe crossing. The Chain Bridge near Little Falls is intended to accommodate local traffic, rather than commuters, and is located where several previous bridges have stood dating back to 1797.

While the George Washington Memorial Parkway (nearly 7.5 million visits in 2012) provides a vehicular route in Virginia, Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling prohibits a riverfront vehicular route on the Maryland side of the river. Public bus and transit stops occur within close proximity to trail-significant sites and public transportation routes extend into neighborhoods and business districts to serve the community.

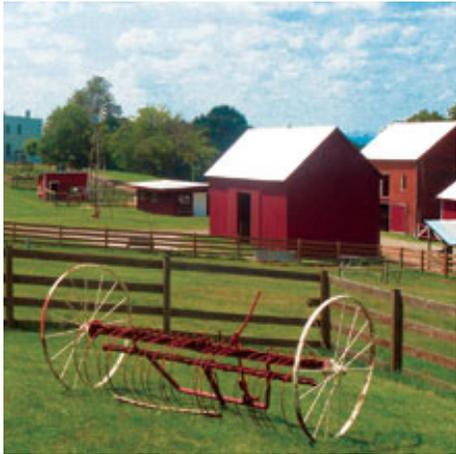
The Virginia Birding and Wildlife Trail, managed by the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, celebrates the diversity of birds, fish, mammals, amphibians, reptiles and invertebrates throughout Virginia's 43,000 square miles of habitat. The Coastal



While sites along the Anacostia are not technically within the boundary of the Potomac Segment Plan, future development, visitor experiences and connections to the Anacostia River corridor have been considered in this plan in coordination with members of the Anacostia Water Trail planning team.

Top: Torpedo Factory along the Alexandria Waterfront (photo credit: NPS archive)

Bottom: Georgetown Waterfront Park (photo credit: NPS archive)



Top: Oxon Hill Farm at Oxon Cove Park (photo credit: NPS website)

Bottom: Theodore Roosevelt Island (photo credit: NPS archive)

Linking Routes (continued)

Trail consists of 18 trail loops - including the Great Falls Loop within this river section study area - featuring great opportunities to view nature and wildlife along the Potomac and other sites within the region.

Support Services

This highly visited river section has many visitor services, far too many to mention in this document. Effort should be taken to continue to coordinate with these visitor services to ensure that national trail resources along the Potomac are adequately represented.

Key Trail Stories and Associated Resources

The following key story lines associated with CAJO, STSP and POHE themes are relevant to various trail components in this river section:



Captain John Smith Chesapeake NHT

(Smith's explorations, American Indian cultures, natural history of Bay)

- Although Smith sailed past this area on his exploratory journey, there are few recorded experiences in this area.
- The Indians on the south shore of the Potomac would have followed a typical Chesapeake Bay indigenous lifestyle, based on agriculture, fishing, shell fishing and hunting, as well as trade with other groups upriver, across the river and possibly across the Bay.
- While there is no Nacotchtank descendent community, the Piscataway tribes take an active interest in interpreting the American Indian history of the DC metro area.

Features that support these stories include: restored or preserved landscapes; Theodore Roosevelt Island; Kingman Island; Kenilworth Marsh; Oxon Cove; Bladensburg Wetlands and Anacostia Water Trail.



Star-Spangled Banner NHT

(military events, individual contributors, Bay region as hub, icons of war)

- Alexandria - British occupation and pillaging of American seaports; American resistance to the advances on Washington; Surrender of Alexandria to British Fleet.
- Want Water – Enslaved persons seeking freedom; Mary Meeks Coombs, owner of Want Water house, escaped to British ships after Admiral Cochrane issued a proclamation offering emancipation to those seeking to resettle or fight against the Americans.

- Oxon Hill Farm – Mount Welby house, located on present-day Oxon Hill Farm, was in earshot of explosions that destroyed Fort Washington and within view of the plundering of Alexandria. Mary Welby DeButts describes hearing “every fire” from the Battle at Bladensburg and how the house was illuminated by fires in Washington, D.C. She writes of finding rockets “on our hill” and that a British fleet “lay directly before our house”.
- National Mall - British burning of the Capital on August 24, 1814.
- Washington Navy Yard – Ship-building hub during the time of the War of 1812; supported the defense of Washington, D.C.; one of the last lines of defense in the Battle at Bladensburg ; ordered to be burned by Admiral Tingey as the British marched into Washington to prevent its capture by the enemy.
- Anacostia River - Land and water advances of British troops; significant battles such as the Battle at Bladensburg.

Features that support these stories include: Chain Bridge, Alexandria Waterfront; Bladensburg Waterfront Park; Mount Welby at Oxon Hill Farm; Washington Navy Yard; Francis Scott Key Bridge; Star-Spangled Banner Memorial; Dolley Madison House, Anacostia Riverwalk Trail; Anacostia Water Trail; and Want Water Ruins.



Potomac Heritage NST

(meeting ground of conservation ideas and practices, five physiographic regions, crossroads of opportunity, development of U.S. Republic)

- Oxon Cove - wildlife habitat including bald eagle nesting areas and potential sturgeon spawning sites; protected lands, including some conservation easements on private lands and some undeveloped parcels, which may provide future visitor opportunities.
- Oxon Hill Farm – reflects early American agriculture and farming.
- Alexandria, Jones Point Park - 19th/20th century industrial stories; Colonial settlement; African-American historic sites; early navigation and shipping on the Potomac.
- George Washington Memorial Parkway, Potomac Heritage Trail and Mount Vernon Trail - George Washington; tobacco farming.
- National Mall - historic monuments dedicated to significant events, people and national leaders.
- C&O Canal - industrialization of early America.

Features that support these stories include: Oxon Hill Farm homestead; Jones Point Lighthouse; tobacco warehouses and Freedom House museum; Torpedo Factory building; National War College.

Proposed Trail Enhancements and Implementation Strategies

In addition to the cross cutting strategies which apply to all river sections, this river section provides or has near-term potential to provide a wide variety of desired visitor experiences for different types of trail users. Providing optimal trail-related visitor experiences in a way that highlights this area’s resources, primary features and key stories could best be achieved as follows:

Site	Trail Component	Action	Description
Focus Area - Georgetown Harbor to Woodrow Wilson Bridge			
Old Town Alexandria, VA Waterfront  Anchor Site		Enhance Guided Walking Tours with Trail Themes	Existing self-guided walking and bicycling tours, such as the “Walking With Washington” podcast, and smart phone tours designed by the Office of Historic Alexandria could provide expanded or new trail-related information.
		Develop Stories Related to the Trails	The Alexandria Waterfront Small Area Plan includes components related to expanded public space, connectivity, landscaping, public art and historical interpretation. There are three private redevelopment sites along the waterfront that are required to incorporate art and history into their design and public spaces. Each site has development goals and guidelines, including requirements for active ground floor space. Developers may be willing to partner with NPS to convey trail-related themes within their developments. Coordination between NPS staff and the City of Alexandria could help to facilitate this and other interpretive projects.
		New Public Access and Trail Itineraries	The City of Alexandria is engaged in a planning and design project for a prominent section of the City’s waterfront, which will expand access to the river. This project could provide a waterfront extension of the Potomac Heritage and Mount Vernon hiking and biking trails. Additionally, the new design could consider providing new fishing, observation and/or canoe/kayak launch facilities. Encouraging a stronger user connection with the river; and possibly redeveloping the abandoned docks should be discussed with potential partners within the Alexandria community
		Partnership Opportunity	The City of Alexandria is currently in phase 2 of 7 of their Wayfinding Program, which includes three large kiosks and 24 pedestrian directional signs along King Street between the King Street Metro Station and the Waterfront in the Old Town area. This program’s comprehensive system has a consistent design. Phase 7 has allotted \$241,000 for interpretive panels and two-sided kiosks for the Waterfront, as well as District Markers scheduled for installation in 2020. This installation date could potentially be advanced if there were cooperative opportunities, potentially, with NPS to share the costs of design, fabrication and installation.
			In addition, in June 2014 Alexandria City Council approved Phase 1 of a new landscape design and flood mitigation plan for the City’s waterfront. The design includes an integration of historical interpretation and art into a trail along the waterfront and incorporates both interpretive elements as well as markers. These initiatives could also be supported by NPS collaboration for trail marking.
		Partnership Expansion Opportunity	Alexandria Archaeology Museum, located in the Torpedo Factory building along the Alexandria Waterfront, has offered to serve as a partner site for visitor orientation to the national trails along the Potomac. Already a site along the Star-Spangled Banner NHT, expanding this existing partnership could benefit the trails and entire City of Alexandria museum system. Follow up with the Director of the Office of Historic Alexandria should be executed to maximize both the partnership between NPS and the City of Alexandria.
			NPS staff could work with Museum staff to engage the Alexandria Waterfront museums, businesses and service providers in opportunities to promote the trails through brochures, touring opportunities and celebratory events.
		Develop Stories Related to the Trails	Charter boat tours and ferry operators that currently provide service to the Alexandria Waterfront could offer new and expanded narratives related to American Indian uses of resources, Captain John Smith’s explorations, the War of 1812, river commerce and fishing, industrialization and the river’s natural values and wildlife. Potomac Riverboat Company has expressed a strong interest in Trail interpretive materials for use in their narrations along the river and various historic sites.
		Enhance Interpretive Exhibits	Due to Old Town Alexandria potentially reaching a “signage saturation” point, alternate opportunities to convey trail-related information such as public art, exhibits, embedded pavement, temporary displays in empty storefronts, interactive and electronic kiosks could be considered.
Enhance Wayfinding Signage	Updates to existing trail-specific signage and kiosks placed in strategic areas along the existing Mount Vernon and Potomac Heritage Trails could inform users of the larger stories of the three national trails that extend beyond the DC Metro area.		
Enhance Paddle/Bike Tours with Trail Themes	Existing walking, bicycling and boating tours (promoted by the Alexandria Convention & Visitors Associate) could include expanded or new trail-related information and stories in their tour narratives and itineraries.		

Site	Trail Component	Action	Description
Focus Area - Georgetown Harbor to Woodrow Wilson Bridge			
Georgetown Waterfront Park	 Anchor Site	Provide Interpretive Panels	Effective visitor orientation here might include a three-panel kiosk installed at an area of congregation with CAJO, STSP and POHE panels to orient users to the Trails in a larger context and identify key trail spots along the Potomac River specifically within the DC Metro area. The POHE panel on the exhibit could relate the development of the C&O Canal with the Industrial Revolution. CAJO and STSP panels could also relate site-specific information and also identify Trail sites to be seen further along the river to encourage visitors to explore beyond their immediate area and to understand where they are located in context to the entire Trail routes.
		Enhance Wayfinding Signage	In addition to existing site-specific signs, there is potential to add new trail-related orientation/interpretive signs and enhanced wayfinding signage.
		Develop Stories Related to the Trails	Guided tours could include information that connects Georgetown's history to the Canal's development during the Industrial Revolution and will reference POHE. The private tour operators could benefit the visitor experience by sharing CAJO, STSP and POHE stories during their tours. NPS could assist in training the operators to be "Certified Trail Ambassadors."
		Develop Stories Related to the Trails	Outfitters and paddling club members currently providing paddling tours and utilizing the launch sites at or near Georgetown Waterfront Park could incorporate CAJO, STSP and POHE stories into their trip itineraries.
		River Festival Trails Promotion	A family-oriented river and culturally themed event with musical performances, boat cruises, kayak tours, guided trail walks, and a panel discussion on the park-specific issues called "Celebrating the Potomac" has been held annually since 2013 at Piscataway Park in summer months. A similar event could be scheduled at Georgetown Waterfront Park and coordinated to coincide with or be held on concurrent dates at other parks along the river to strengthen the unity between trail sites and add continuity to Trails stories that occur along the entire length of the Potomac river.
		Develop Stories Related to the Trails	Charter boat tours and ferry operators that currently provide service to Georgetown Waterfront Park and Washington Harbour could offer new and expanded narratives related to American Indian uses of resources, Captain John Smith's explorations, the War of 1812, river commerce and fishing, industrialization and the river's natural values and wildlife. Potomac Riverboat Company has expressed a strong interest in Trail interpretive materials for use in their narrations along the river and various historic sites.
Jones Point Park	 Trail Destination	Enhance Interpretive Exhibits	The existing POHE panel could be expanded to include CAJO and STSP panels to describe stories relevant to the trail themes. Reference to NOAA's Chesapeake Bay Interpretive Buoy located just south of Woodrow Wilson Bridge Chesapeake Bay could be included.
		Develop Trail Paddling Itineraries	On self-guided or guided trips, visitors could depart from Alexandria Waterfront, Jones Point Park or other area marinas to explore the environment at Oxon Cove and Fox's Ferry Cove and learn about trail-related themes such as; how the river once was, key changes in the ecology and present day reclamation efforts. Additional paddling tour itineraries to Belle Haven Park and Dyke Marsh could be explored.
		Develop Stories Related to the Trails	Existing guided tours of the historic lighthouse could expand to include information that connects the area's development with the Industrial Revolution and reference POHE.
		Develop Stories Related to the Trails	Outfitters, summer camps and paddling club members currently providing paddling tours and utilizing the launch sites at Jones Point Park could incorporate CAJO, STSP and POHE stories into their trip itineraries. NPS staff could assist tour leader staff in becoming "Certified Trail Ambassadors" to ensure the trail-related information being shared is accurate and of high quality.
		River Festival Trails Promotion	A family-oriented river and culturally-themed event with musical performances, boat cruises, kayak tours, guided trail walks, and a panel discussion on the park-specific issues called "Celebrating the Potomac" has been held at Piscataway Park annually in summer months. A similar event could be scheduled at Jones Point Park and coordinated to coincide with or be held on concurrent dates at other parks along the river to strengthen the unity between trail sites and add continuity to Trails stories that occur along the entire length of the Potomac river.
		Connecting Trails to Other Major Properties	Potomac Riverboat Company, which provides water taxi service from major populous locations such as Historic Alexandria, Georgetown Waterfront and many other locations, has attempted to work with NPS to allow for water taxi service from Jones Point Park to Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling and allow for a commercial floating dock under the Woodrow Wilson Bridge to accommodate the water taxi service. Follow-up on the status of this development should be monitored to determine if Trail interpretation can be included where appropriate.
		New Public Access Sites	There is the potential for increased access along the waterfront and additional recreation at a site below the Woodrow Wilson Bridge. Development of a plan for active and passive recreation at this site could be considered.
Fort Marcy Park	 Trail Destination	Develop Stories Related to the Trails	At trailheads, interpretive panels highlighting each of the parks in this river section could give context to how the individual sites fit into the larger stories of CAJO, STSP and POHE, as well as refer visitors to additional significant sites in the area. Touring itineraries could be expanded to help visitors reach key park sites, river access points, and other trail-related points of interest.

Site	Trail Component	Action	Description
Focus Area - Georgetown Harbor to Woodrow Wilson Bridge			
Boathouse at Fletcher's Cove		Provide Interpretive Panels	Where feasible at other popular fishing locations, such as the Boathouse at Fletcher's Cove, POHE and CAJO kiosks could be installed to interpret these stories and connect to other sites.
		Paddle Craft Rentals	Inclusion of trail information at www.fxva.com , which highlights destinations and activities at Great Falls, Pohick Bay and Occoquan could be considered.
Theodore Roosevelt Island		Connecting Trails to Other Major Properties	While bicycle riding is prohibited on Roosevelt Island, inclusion of Capital Bikeshare kiosks at the mainland across from the island could be considered to connect the island with the Mount Vernon Trail and other sites, but continue to prohibit biking on the island itself.
		Enhanced Public Access	The potential to add visitor services on the Island including a paddle craft landing area could be explored. Restrictions regarding the Memorial should be understood before any proposed development.
		New Public Access Sites	While the Island's trails are designed to be pedestrian-only, viewing platforms, wayfinding and/or a fishing pier could be considered on the mainland side.
		New Public Access Sites	At the Arlington Boathouse, the ongoing Environmental Impact Study (EIS) includes consideration of river access for rowing vessels, and would also consider an area for public launch of paddle craft. Multiple potential locations will be considered in the review process, including the pedestrian bridge leading to Rosslyn, to determine the most appropriate location.
National Mall, Tidal Basin and Associated Memorials		Develop Stories Related to the Trails	NPS staff in and around the National Mall and private tour operators (including buses, private guides, Segway, bike and walking tours) are located at numerous locations throughout the city, most visibly located at the National Mall, Georgetown and Jones Point Park. The private tour operators could benefit the visitor experience by sharing CAJO, STSP and POHE stories during their existing tours or NPS could provide content to help create new itineraries. NPS could also assist in training the operators to be "Certified Trail Ambassadors."
		River Festival Trails Promotion	National holidays (July 4th, Memorial Day, Veterans Day, etc.), seasonal celebrations (Cherry Blossom Festival), Washington DC Dragon Boat Festival (April) and a variety of river volunteer clean-up weekends occur throughout the year. Multiple recreational events such as marathons, 5K walks, critical mass bike rides and paddle races occur in and around the city on an annual basis.
		Develop Stories Related to the Trails	Opportunities exist to engage the existing paddle boat outfitters at Tidal Basin Paddle Boats and others to incorporate Trail stories into their existing hourly rental operations.
		Expand recreation equipment rental opportunities	Opportunities to promote additional rental services on the National Mall and along the Alexandria Waterfront could be explored. These areas are accessible by both public and private transportation from nearly every area of the city; however, many residents and travelers do not own the appropriate recreational equipment necessary to experience the full breadth of opportunities at these sites.
West Potomac Park		Develop Stories Related to the Trails	West Potomac Park recently added a Capital Bike Share station and a commercial ferry landing at the park. This new infrastructure presents an opportunity to establish trail-related interpretation at the park. Additionally, updated wayfinding and orientation signage could be considered at this site.
East Potomac Park		Provide Interpretive Panels	At trailheads at East Potomac Park, interpretive panels highlighting each of the parks in this river section could give context to how the individual sites fit into the larger stories of CAJO, STSP and POHE, as well as refer visitors to additional significant sites in the area. Touring itineraries could be expanded to help visitors reach key park sites, river access points, and other trail-related points of interest.
		Interpret Stories at Non-public Accessible DOD Lands at Adjacent Parks	Interpretive panels regarding the following stories related to lands within present-day Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling (which is not accessible to the general public) could be installed at adjacent public access sites such as East Potomac Park..
		Connecting Trails to Other Major Properties	Water taxi opportunities could be expanded by adding stops at some of the other major marinas and sites in the area such as East Potomac Park.
		New Public Access Sites	The potential to expand visitor services at East Potomac Park to include new accessible canoe and kayak launch, fishing pier, wayside landing access and/or viewing platforms will be explored.
		Connecting Trails to Other Major Properties	Charter boat touring opportunities could be expanded by adding charters at some of the other major marinas and sites in the area such as East Potomac Park.
		Campsite Development	Existing parks in the region such as East Potomac Park could explore the possibility of adding water-to-land primitive, group permit-only and/or overnight car camping campsites and related visitor facilities where feasible.
		Bike, Canoe and/or Kayak Rentals	Incorporation of bike and boat rental options at East Potomac Park could be explored.

Site	Trail Component	Action	Description	
Focus Area - Georgetown Harbor to Woodrow Wilson Bridge				
Anacostia River Destinations		Trail	Enhance Wayfinding Signage	Trail-specific signage and kiosks placed in strategic areas along the Anacostia Riverwalk Trail and Anacostia Water Trail could inform users of the larger stories of the three national trails that extend beyond the Anacostia area.
		Destination	New Public Access and Trail Itineraries	Adding paddling launch sites, and incorporation of trail-specific stories into paddling itineraries, could be considered at Anacostia Park, Kingman Island, Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens and other sites.
			Develop Stories Related to the Trails	Itineraries specific to the Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail are most evident in the story of the burning of the Capital building during the War of 1812. Additional stories could tie into the planning efforts of Anacostia Water Trail due to the large number of significant events occurring along that river. Additional signage at locations up to the northeast and northwest branches of the Anacostia Water Trail could be considered.
			Provide Interpretive Panels	Coordination with Prince George's County Parks and the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (MNCPPC) could result in additional signage up to the northeast and northwest branches of the Anacostia. Specific sites for consideration could include the existing public access sites at Dueling Creek, Colmar Manor Park and the Bladensburg Wetlands (ANA-11), and at sites along the planned extension of the Anacostia Tributary trail system further into Montgomery County. These sites could benefit from the addition of interpretive panels promoting connections to the national trails and other sites in the area.
			New Interpretive Opportunity	Potomac Riverboat Company has been working with DC Government to bring the historic warship, USS Olympia, to the Anacostia and place the ship near the proposed new Navy Museum, contemplated to be moved closer to Buzzards Point. The ship was Admiral Dewey's warship and the pride of the U.S. in the Spanish-American conflict that launched U.S. Naval supremacy. The ship also brought the first "unknown soldier" back for burial at Arlington National Cemetery. Follow-up on the status of this development should be monitored to determine if Trail interpretation can be included where appropriate.
			Interpret Stories at Non-Public Accessible DOD Lands at Adjacent Parks	Interpretive panels regarding the following stories related to lands within present-day Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling (which is not accessible to the general public) could be installed at adjacent public access sites such as Anacostia Park or along a trailhead of the Anacostia Riverwalk Trail.
			Connecting Trails to Other Major Properties	A new trail and pedestrian bridge could connect Kenilworth Park to the National Arboretum just above Benning Road. The NPS and the District of Columbia have recently completed an Environmental Assessment to construct these elements. Incorporation of trail-specific stories along this potential route, as well as along connections from the Anacostia Riverwalk Trail to the Anacostia Tributary Trail System, could be considered.
			Connecting Trails to Other Major Properties	Potomac Riverboat Company, which provides water taxi service from major populous locations such as Historic Alexandria, Georgetown Waterfront and many other locations, has expressed interest in working with DC Government to provide water taxi service to the Buzzards Point area for the proposed soccer stadium. Follow-up on the possibility to expand service to this area should be exercised.
			Develop Boat-in Primitive Campsites	While year-round camping at sites along the Anacostia is not currently feasible, sites that could be considered for controlled camping, either through permit or group events, could include the existing Tent Landing Park or at the Bladensburg Wetlands (ANA-11).
			Develop Stories Related to the Trails	The existing paddling tours and pontoon boat ride tours from Bladensburg Waterfront Park could include expanded or new interpretive information related to STSP.
			River Festival Trails Promotion	The national trails could be promoted (via a booth and/or other activities) at Port Towns Day, an annual springtime event held at Bladensburg Waterfront Park and Colmar Park, which includes music, food, activities and boat tours. Additional waterfront festivals could serve as venues for trails promotion.
	Endurance Event Hosting	Patuxent River Sojourn is an annual event that aims to elevate participants' awareness of the river's importance to the region and to encourage local residents to play an active role in its restoration and preservation. Programs during past sojourns included night paddles, live music and historic, environmental and cultural presentations. A similar event could be considered for the Potomac River, with Bladensburg Waterfront Park serving as the launch site. Hosting of a trail-themed triathlon or other type of endurance event could also be considered.		
Key Bridge Boathouse		Trail	Develop Stories Related to the Trails	Opportunities exist to engage the existing paddle boat outfitters at Key Bridge (formerly Jack's) Boat House and others to offer/expand Trail stories into their existing hourly rental operations.
		Destination	New Public Access	Opportunities exist to add ADA accessibility to the existing paddle launch site. Coordination with site management and interested partners could be explored for feasibility.

Site	Trail Component	Action	Description	
Focus Area - Georgetown Harbor to Woodrow Wilson Bridge				
Gravelly Point Park		Trail Destination	Provide Interpretive Panels	Where feasible at popular boating locations such as Gravelly Point, CAJO, STSP and POHE kiosks could be installed to interpret these stories.
		Interpret Stories at Non-Public Accessible DOD Lands at Adjacent Parks	Interpretive panels regarding Historic Flights that have taken place at present-day Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling (which is not accessible to the general public) could be installed at adjacent public access sites where visitors watch airplanes land at Reagan National airport such as East Potomac Park or along a trailhead of the Mount Vernon Trail (such as Daingerfield Island or Gravelly Point Park).	
		Enhanced Public Access	Enhancing the existing boat ramp at Gravelly Point to include a dedicated canoe/kayak launch could be considered.	
		Develop Paddle Itineraries	Local outfitter REI currently conducts a day paddling trip within the Tidal Potomac from Gravelly Point. The paddling trip and itinerary explores the Monumental core in Washington, D.C. Trail information and themes could be included or expanded in this tour itinerary.	
		Develop Stories Related to the Trails	Additional paddling launch sites such as Diamond Teague Park, Gangplank Marina and Buzzard Point could incorporate trail stories into their itineraries.	
Lady Bird Johnson Park		Trail Destination	Provide Interpretive Panels	Where feasible at popular boating locations such as Columbia Island Marina at Lady Bird Johnson Park, CAJO, STSP and POHE kiosks could be installed to interpret these stories.
Oxon Hill Farm Park		Trail Destination	Develop Stories Related to the Trails	While the site is staffed full time by NPS, a partnership could result in descriptions of Trail-related stories and experiences offered up and down the river. NPS staff could assist tour leader staff in becoming "Certified Trail Ambassadors" to ensure the trail-related information being shared is accurate and of high quality.
		Provide Interpretive Panels	Compliance has been completed for installation of trail-related signage at the park. Efforts to address themes related to all three national trails in this or future installation(s) could be considered.	
		Interpret Stories at Non-Public Accessible DOD Lands at Adjacent Parks	Interpretive panels regarding the following stories related to lands within present-day Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling (which is not accessible to the general public) could be installed at adjacent public access sites such as Oxon Hill Farm Park or along a trailhead of the Oxon Run Trail.	
		Connecting Trails to Other Major Properties	Oxon Hill Park management could consider adding a trail along Piscataway Creek, pending a review of the Environmental Assessment (currently underway). NPCA is open to supporting the work to be done to assess the feasibility of adding new trails at this site where appropriate.	
		New public access	Consideration of expanding visitor services at Oxon Hill Farm Park to include new accessible canoe and kayak launch, fishing pier, wayside landing access and/or viewing platforms could be explored.	
		Develop Boat-in Primitive Campsites	Existing parks in the region such as Oxon Hill Farm Park could explore the possibility of adding water-to-land primitive, group permit-only and/or overnight car camping campsites and related visitor facilities where feasible.	
		Bike, canoe and/or kayak rentals	Incorporation of bike and paddle boat rental options at Oxon Hill Farm Park could be explored.	
Gangplank Marina		Trail Destination	Partnership Opportunity	A large development project surrounding Gangplank Marina, The Wharf, will provide opportunities to engage retail, commercial and residential users along the Potomac River. Proposed enhancements include a waterfront park, enhanced Capital Bikeshare service, new piers, relocated boat slips, historic plaques, historic sidewalk markers, heritage trail signage and pedestrian-focused active public spaces. Communication with the developer of The Wharf, Hoffman-Madison, should be established to discuss possible opportunities to work with NPS or other partner organizations to maximize public access to the river, connect the site to existing trails in the area and the potential to share Trail-related stories via interpretive opportunities within the development's intent to support and enhance the waterfront as a public amenity.
		Provide Interpretive Panels	Where feasible and likely after marina modifications from The Wharf development are completed, CAJO, STSP and POHE kiosks could be installed to interpret these stories.	
		Develop Stories Related to the Trails	Charter boat tours and ferry operators that currently provide service to Gangplank Marina could offer new and expanded narratives related to American Indian uses of resources, Captain John Smith's explorations, the War of 1812, river commerce and fishing, industrialization and the river's natural values and wildlife. Potomac Riverboat Company, which anticipates providing service from The Wharf, has expressed a strong interest in Trail interpretive materials for use in their narrations along the river and various historic sites.	

Site	Trail Component	Action	Description
Focus Area - Georgetown Harbor to Woodrow Wilson Bridge			
Riverfront Trails	 Linking Route	Enhance Wayfinding Signage	Trail-specific signage and kiosks placed in strategic areas along the existing Mount Vernon, Rock Creek and Anacostia Riverwalk trails could inform the user to the larger stories of the 3 Trails that extend beyond the DC Metro area.
		Enhance Wayfinding Signage along the Mount Vernon Trail	Additional wayfinding signage along the Mount Vernon Trail, possibly totems, could be utilized to promote the national trails at Roosevelt Island, Jones Point and at the trail terminus at Mount Vernon.
		Enhanced Public Access along the Mount Vernon Trail	Addition of different recreational zones along the Mount Vernon Trail, including fitness stations, and opportunities to increase recreational diversity could be considered. Sites along the Mount Vernon Trail could also consider adding new recreational access.
		Funding Opportunity for Public Access	The Federal Lands Access Program (MAP-21, §1119; 23 UCS 201, 204) supports capital and planning expenses for new or existing alternative transportation including transportation by bike, bus, rail or any other publicly available means of transportation including sightseeing services. This region is well-suited for the development of a transit in parks program that includes interpretation of the national trails along the Potomac. Funding sources for a trail connection formerly procured through the Paul S. Sarbanes Transit in Parks Program http://www.fta.dot.gov/grants/13094_6106.html can now be accessed through the Federal Lands Transportation Program (FLTP) http://www.flh.fhwa.dot.gov/programs/fltp/
Potomac Heritage Trail	 Linking Route	Power Boaters Map and Guide	A users' map and guide could be developed to assist motor boating enthusiasts in exploring specific river stretches and destinations further up and downstream.
		Develop New Trail Linkage and Access	A new connector trail could bridge the gap between Anacostia Riverwalk Trail and the Oxon Hill Farm Trail in Oxon Hill Farm Park. Consideration to connect to the Oxon Run Trail will also be explored for maximum regional connectivity. Extension of this trail could be continued south toward the planned extension of the Potomac Heritage Trail along Oxon Hill Road to Fort Foote and the Broad Creek Historic District.
		Extending Bike Trails in Arlington, VA	Increased coordination would aid the City of Arlington's efforts to improve the directional and interpretive signage to the parks that are affiliated with or connected to POHE, including Gulf Branch, Donaldson Run, Windy Run and Long Bridge.
		Extending Bike Trails in Arlington, VA	Urban parks in Arlington that connect to the Mount Vernon Trail and offer bike share locations and access to Metro public transit are located in the Rosslyn area and the Airport section of the Four Mile Run Trail. Coordination between the City of Arlington and NPS to include these sections as formal connections to POHE could be considered.
		Extending Bike Trails in Prince George's County	Increased coordination would aid Prince George's County efforts to continue the current off-road improvements to the Woodrow Wilson Bridge Trail, with a goal to continue improvements down Livingston Road.
C&O Canal Towpath	 Linking Route	Partnership Opportunity	The Washington Canoe Club, located off the Capital Crescent Trail and C&O Canal Towpath, honors strong traditions of excellence in canoeing and reaches a large paddling community in the Washington, D.C. area. Efforts to restore and preserve the historic Club building located along the C&O Canal Towpath are currently underway. Education outreach, paddling tours and opportunities to interpret trail resources exist between WCC and NPS and should be explored.
		New Public Access	The Georgetown Business Improvement District (BID) is working to explore opportunities to enhance the sections of the canal within Historic Georgetown: http://www.georgetownheritage.org/canal/ Possible improvements include canoe/kayak launch, restoration of historic barge and the resurrection of mule-drawn boat rides for tours and educational programs. While connections to POHE and STSP trail resources seem most appropriate, CAJO route runs within this section of the river and could benefit from a DC Metro trail partner interested in trail promotion. Communication with Georgetown BID should be maintained as opportunities for partnerships and interpretation become more apparent.
Capital Bikeshare	 Linking Route	Bicycle Rentals	National Capital Bikeshare locations could be added or expanded at Jones Point Park, Alexandria Waterfront, Oxon Hill Farm Park, East Potomac Park, James Creek Marina, Buzzard Point Park, Diamond Teague Park and Roosevelt Island Park and advertised at other kiosks in the area to enhance visitation to the parks.
		Bicycle Rentals	Bladensburg Park currently offers bike rentals. Bikeshare locations in Prince George's County could be located at sites away from the River (not at parks).

Site	Trail Component	Action	Description
Focus Area - Georgetown Harbor to Woodrow Wilson Bridge			
Public Transportation	 Linking Route	Develop Stories Related to the Trails	Metro Public Transit bus operators transporting visitors and commuters within the DC Metro area could incorporate CAJO, STSP and POHE-specific information into their interpretive narrations and printed materials. Trail-related promotions could be included onboard the circulator that carries visitors around the National Mall. (There is currently an initiative to expand the service around the mall.)
		Develop Public Transportation Maps to Show Transit Routes and Stops to Access Trail Sites	Utilizing the existing Metro bus and train map graphic style to indicate which stops transit riders can take to visit partner sites along the national trails could be a useful way to encourage urban residents and visitors to explore sites along existing public transit routes. Rather than listing which bus or train number to take to reach a site, a replication of Metro's System Map indicating sites that can be reached along the routes could be created. This product could help millions of urban residents and DC tourists "Find Your Park" via public transportation and could be supported by the NPS Urban Parks and Programs Urban Agenda.
		Connect Suburban Trail Sites to Urban Public Transportation Systems	Cities such as Portland, Seattle and San Francisco offer public transportation access from urban areas to suburban and rural parks through a network linking existing public transportation services. An example in San Francisco is Transit and Trails http://www.transitandtrails.org/ . These "Transit to Trailhead" types of connections bring urban transit riders to local towns, and the towns act as the trailhead connected for the trails. Economic support is provided to local towns by offering weekend service to towns where trail resources are most prominent. Federal or state transportation grants for this type of program may be available, application of this model to towns and sites north and south of the DC Metro area could be considered.
		Commuter Ferry Transportation Network on the Potomac	Various studies on the feasibility of water transportation on the Potomac have been completed by both public and private entities in recent years, including the Northern Virginia Regional Commission (NVRC) and the Potomac Riverboat Company. Consensus is that with public funding and support, a commuter ferry is feasible and market ready. Coordination with this effort as it continues to mature should be maintained to determine if NPS sites, trail partner sites or partnership opportunities could be leveraged to help create the network.
Private Marinas	 Support Services	Develop Stories Related to the Trails	Consideration to provide waterfront restaurants with trail-specific information such as menu placemats or rack cards that showcase trail-specific themes, identify the site location within the great context of the trail route and highlight significant trail sites in the area could be explored.
		Provide Interpretive Panels at Marina Locations	Interpretive panels highlighting each of the parks in this river section could give context to how the individual sites fit into the larger stories of CAJO, STSP and POHE, as well as refer visitors to additional significant sites in the area. Touring itineraries could be developed or expanded to help visitors reach key park sites, river access points, and other trail-related points of interest.
Private Outfitters	 Support Services	Develop Stories Related to the Trails	Many private bus, walking and Segway tours operate in and around the National Mall area. Many of these tours could incorporate CAJO, STSP and POHE specific information in addition to the stories of the monuments and memorials.
Regional Promotion	 Support Services	Technology	The Chesapeake Bay Explorer App could be updated to include additional partner sites in the area and the water- and land-based trail routes that connect to the national trails. NPS National Capital Region (NCR) could link the explorer app to their promotional materials. Additionally, NCR could link the national trail websites to their websites and their friends' groups websites to increase trail promotion.
		Partnership Opportunity	Coordinate development and promotion of national trail-related experiences in Northern Virginia (professional and self-guided tours, events, etc.); integrate into Brand USA, Destination USA and Capital Region promotions. Link trail promotion efforts to Destination DC and utilize the Virginia Tourism Corporation (VTC) site to promote the trails (NPS has an MOU among Virginia agencies at the Commonwealth level).
		Partnership Opportunity	Several recreation-based programs dedicated to supporting U.S. Military Veterans returning home from service exist and annually seek locations for bicycle, paddling, fishing, horseback riding and running events. Ride 2 Recovery, Helping Heroes, Warrior Hike, Warrior Paddle, PATH International Equine Services for Heroes, and potentially many other programs, could partner with trail sites along the Potomac for future or annual events along the trail routes.
		Feature Trails-related Material at Park Events	The Trails could be highlighted during the numerous volunteer river clean-ups that are sponsored throughout the year; trail-related cosponsorships should be considered.

