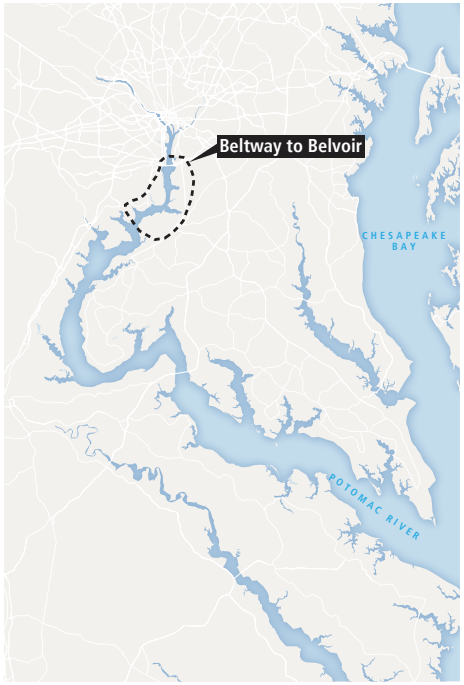
River Section 3 – Beltway to Belvoir Area



Overview

This river section includes the sites and resources along the Potomac from approximately the Woodrow Wilson Bridge (north) to Fort Belvoir, VA and Piscataway Park, MD (south). Routes associated with POHE, CAJO and STSP are located within this region. The area is rich in conserved natural landscapes and history related to American Indians, Captain John Smith, George Washington, Colonial settlement, the Civil War, War of 1812 British fleet activity and American defenses, and more.

This area is punctuated by wide coves and varied shoreline elevations. Public lands along the water are more fragmented as compared to the DC Metro area upstream. Suburban residential development along both sides of the river surrounds the multiple historic fortifications. American Indian stories are extensive, with multiple significant archeological sites and known locations of Piscataway communities and farming areas.

There is a vivid contrast here between residential and commercially developed sites and lands which are nearly pristine in appearance and evocative of the time periods associated with Captain John Smith, George Washington, Colonial settlement and the War of 1812. (The 2010 Census reported a population of over 1 million residents in Fairfax County, VA and over 860,000 residents in Prince George's County, MD.) Dyke Marsh and Broad Creek, within close proximity to the heavily developed National Harbor, offer wildlife viewing opportunities, demonstrate the fragility of natural wetlands and the importance of supporting future habitat restoration projects. Mount Vernon offers a glimpse of late 18th century colonial life, while Piscataway Park offers protected evocative views along the eastern shoreline of the river. The interior Piscataway Creek (adjacent to Fort Washington) is known for its robust American bald eagle population.

Trail Components

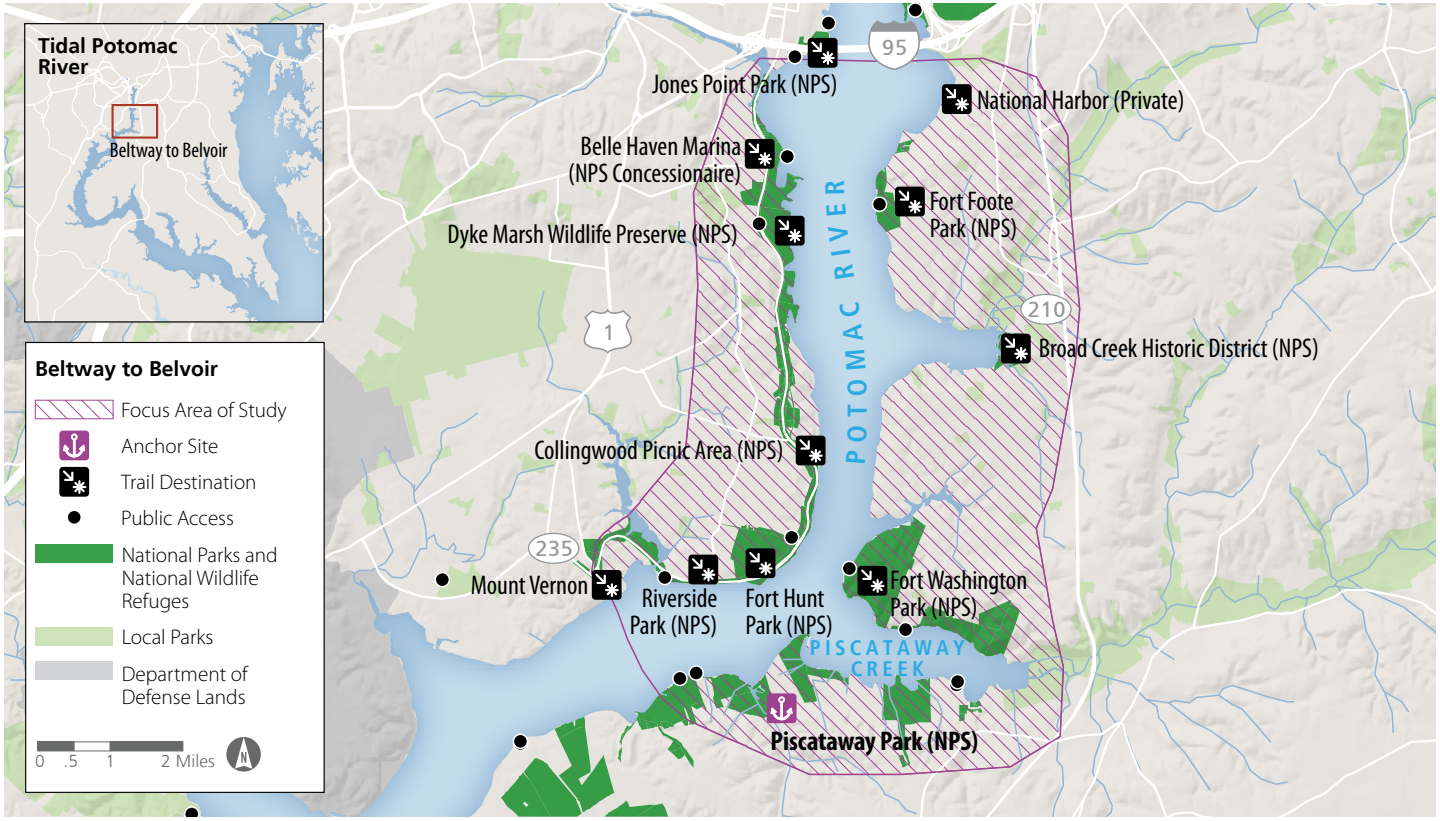
Trail components are existing publicly accessible lands that have been identified to support strategic planning relative to CAJO, STSP and POHE within this river section. The focus area described below contains one anchor site, which is viewed as the first tier location for trail development efforts as it already contains 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 borders, the trail components have been grouped by state for the purposes of jurisdictional collaboration.

Top: View of Mount Vernon from Piscataway Park (photo credit: NPS website)

Bottom: Mount Vernon present day (photo credit: NPS archive)

Facilities within this river section include:

- National Harbor (private development)
- Fort Washington Park (NPS)
- Mount Vernon (Mount Vernon Ladies' Association)
- Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve (NPS)
- Piscataway Park including the National Colonial Farm, Marshall Hall and Hard Bargain Farm; (NPS, Accokeek Foundation, Alice Ferguson Foundation, Marshall Hall Foundation)
- Broad Creek Historic District (Prince George's County, MD)
- Fort Foote Park (NPS)
- Fort Hunt Park (NPS)
- Fort Washington Marina (NPS)
- Segments of the George Washington Parkway including Collingwood, Belle Haven Marina and Riverside (NPS)
- Segments of the Mount Vernon Trail (NPS)



Focus Areas

Focus Area: The entire river section serves as a Focus Area because of the close cross-river proximity, relative density and connectivity of trail-evocative landscapes and existing immersion visitor experiences.

Anchor Sites

The proposed anchor site for this Focus Area is Piscataway Park, which includes the National Colonial Farm (living history), Hard Bargain Farm and Marshall Hall.

- Piscataway Park, MD (NPS, Accokeek Foundation) offers conservation and interpretation of historic lands along the Potomac. Hiking trails and water trails connect to Hard Bargain Farm, Mount Vernon and Fort Washington. Picnic areas, an education center and interpretive programs are available.

Trail Destinations

- Virginia: *Mount Vernon; Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve; Fort Hunt Park; Riverside Park; Belle Haven Marina; Collingwood Picnic Area; Fort Belvoir Marina [*Note: Although Mount Vernon is a well-developed site and draws substantial visitation (over 1 million visitors annually), management policies preclude identification as an Anchor Site.]
- Maryland: Fort Washington Park; *National Harbor; St. John's Episcopal Church; Harmony Hall; Ruins of Want Water House; Piscataway House; Marshall Hall; Freedom Manor; Fort Foote Park; Fort Washington Marina [*Note: National Harbor (NH) attracts 10 million visitors per year and has tremendous potential to serve as a "gateway" to the trails.]

Linking Routes

- Virginia: There is a continuous and dedicated national trail route, consisting of several segments of the Potomac Heritage Trail including the Mount Vernon Trail, which provides hiking and biking access along the Potomac shoreline. The George Washington Parkway provides a vehicular route to many sites. There is seasonal water ferry service located at Mount Vernon.
- Maryland: While there is not presently a continuous national trail route along the eastern Potomac, several on-road biking routes of the Potomac Heritage Trail connect parks within this area. There are opportunities to expand access within Piscataway Park and to Oxon Hill (NPS) and Henson Creek (Prince George's County) for increased connectivity. Vehicular access between sites is provided by Indian Head Highway and supported by smaller residential roads.

Note: Public transit options are limited to bus service along major roadways in areas south of the Alexandria and Oxon Hill areas.

Support Services

- Virginia: The suburban residential neighborhoods of southern Alexandria city surround the shoreline amenities and parks along the Potomac and offer many restaurants, grocery stores, lodging establishments and gas stations.
- Maryland: The towns of Fort Washington and Accokeek are home to many of the parks and public lands along the Potomac and offer a variety of restaurants, retail outlets, lodging options, gas stations and other services.

Key Stories and Associated Resources

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

Captain John Smith Chesapeake NHT

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

- Smith visited the area now encompassed by Piscataway Park in June of 1608. He met with Piscataway Indians in a town called Moyaone, the political center of the Piscataway nation at that time.
- Archaeological evidence shows indigenous occupation of the area for approximately 11,000 years. By the end of the 17th century, the Piscataway people had mostly dispersed to other places and this land became an integral part of the tobacco culture that remained central to the Southern Maryland economy for the next 300 years.
- Piscataway towns in this area sustained themselves on the natural riches of the Potomac and Piscataway Creek, and nearby game and agriculture. Visitors to Piscataway Park can experience a natural landscape similar to that found during the height of American Indian habitation and the Colonial era. The Accokeek Foundation, which provides interpretive and educational services at Piscataway Park, works with descendant Piscataway tribes and other scholars to interpret Piscataway values at the park.

Features that support these stories include: evocative landscapes; American Indian archeological areas along the river; Piscataway Creek; Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve

Top: Fort Washington Park (photo credit: NPS archive)

Bottom: National Harbor waterfront (photo credit: NPS archive)

Top: Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve (photo credit: NPS archive)

Bottom: Want Water House ruins within the Broad Creek Historic District (photo credit: NPS archive)

Star-Spangled Banner NHT

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

- On August 27, 1814 as Washington, D.C. was burning, the British fleet was on the Potomac near Mount Vernon. Captain Samuel Dyson ordered his 50-man garrison at Fort Washington to blow up its 3,000 lb. of black powder. He was court-martialed soon after for his decision. Oxon Hill Farm (then Mount Welby Farm) housed American troops trying to defend its shores from the advancing British forces. In August 1814, as British land forces attacked and burned Washington, a British naval squadron sailed up the Potomac and forced the surrender of Alexandria. Loaded with loot, the fleet then headed down river. On September 1, the British attempted to run the deep-water channel below the Belvoir house site, a position that previously had been identified as a strategic defensive location on the river. Here, a hastily assembled American force, composed of Virginia and Alexandria militia under the command of U.S. Navy Captain David Porter, hurriedly began to mount a battery on the bluffs above the River. For four days, British and American forces exchanged cannon and musket fire. The British fleet eventually passed the American positions. British shells demolished what little was left of the old Belvoir Manor.
- British ship Anna Maria, serving as a sentry near Swan Creek to make sure that American forces did not re-occupy the strategic point that had been abandoned when Fort Washington was destroyed, took onboard many runaway slaves. The British Army and Navy had been sending out the call through the slave communities that any slave that offered to assist the British in the war, by offering intelligence or fighting against the Americans, would receive a life of freedom somewhere in the British Empire for their service. Upon reaching the Anna Maria these men would be trained with small arms and eventually join a regiment known as the Colonial Marines. Sixty-five slaves made it to the Anna Maria as it sat anchored in Swan Creek. Today there are communities in Trinidad, Nova Scotia, and Sierra Leone that can trace their origins to the resettlement of Colonial Marines and their families.
- Battle of the White House - September 1-5, 1814: Porter and Hungerford forces fire from batteries; White House battle begins; under almost constant fire until September 5.

Features that support these stories include: Fort Washington; Mount Vernon; Fort Hunt; Fort Belvoir; Belvoir Manor

Potomac Heritage NST

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

- Piscataway Park was established to protect the viewshed from Mount Vernon; tax credits to local property owners initiated the land trust movement in the United States.
- Marshall Hall (built circa 1725 and destroyed by fire in 1981) is an example of colonial-era land use in the area. Before its destruction, Marshall Hall had been the home of the Marshall family. Beginning in 1650, the original property was combined with other smaller sites, including a parcel deeded to the family by the Piscataway Indians. The property stayed in the Marshall family until they were forced to sell it after the Civil War. From the late 1800s until the 1970s, the estate was the site of a popular amusement park.
- The National Colonial Farm is a living museum of colonial farming and also a modern day organic farm which generates its own electricity using solar energy. The traditional farming methods used at the colonial farm demonstrate the life of most tobacco-farming colonists.

Features that support these stories include: Piscataway Park; St. John's Episcopal Church; Freedom Manor; the ruins at Want Water Plantation; Harmony Hall; Marshall Hall; Fort Washington; Fort Foote; Fort Hunt; Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve; Mount Vernon

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 - Beltway to Belvoir			
Piscataway Park	Anchor Site	Provide Interpretive Panels	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. Content could be developed or expanded to help visitors reach key park sites, river access points, and other trail-related points of interest.
		Enhance Interpretive Exhibits	The existing wayside panel exhibit on the fishing pier at Piscataway Park could be updated to include a STSP and/or CAJO panel to describe the types of fish that would have been in the Potomac during Captain John Smith's voyage to the anglers who enjoy opportunities to fish the river rapids and flat oxbows from the shorelines.
		Develop Paddle Itineraries	Excellent itineraries exist for trips in and around Piscataway Creek that have been provided by Atlantic Kayak Company for many years. Publicizing these offerings on NPS websites and/or social media outlets should be considered. Stand-up paddleboard (SUP) paddling itineraries could be developed (or modified from existing itineraries) to engage the growing number of SUP enthusiasts.
		New Public Access	The potential exists to develop a soft landing (for water to land access only) at the Hard Bargain Farm (managed by the Alice Ferguson Foundation) at Piscataway Park.
		Connecting Trails to Other Major Properties	Mount Vernon and the NPS will continue to support the concept of developing a ferry service between Mount Vernon and Piscataway Park and/or Fort Washington to provide a "cross-river" experience for visitors.
		Connecting Trails to Other Major Properties	Touring opportunities and existing ferry/water taxi routes could be expanded by adding charter operations to the newly refurbished boat docks. Potomac Riverboat Company has expressed interest in possibly providing service during events at the park or for private tour groups.
		River Festival Trails Promotion	An annual 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 established at Piscataway Park in summer months. Entering its third year in 2015, this annual festival could be 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. National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA) is interested in helping to provide volunteers, media, and potential fundraising support for programs similar to the "Celebrate the Potomac" event.
		Water Craft and Bicycle Rentals	A seasonal outfitter or incorporation of bike and/or paddle boat rental options could be explored.
		Develop Boat-in Primitive Campsites	Existing parks in the region such as Piscataway 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.
Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve	Trail Destination	Park Planning and Development	The George Washington Memorial Parkway (NPS) is in the process of completing an Environmental Impact Study (EIS) for wetland restoration and a long-term management plan for Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve. Opportunities to provide low-impact public access to the River where appropriate (including wildlife viewing and environmental/cultural education) and showcase stories related to American Indian heritage, Captain John Smith's explorations, environmental influences on the river and the War of 1812 could be incorporated into the park's goals related to cultural and natural resource interpretation and visitor experiences. As with all proposed development, potential negative impacts to the health of the River should be avoided at all costs and any negative impacts should be minimized or mitigated (as deemed appropriate) prior to proceeding with any implementation.
		Park Planning and Development	There is a large gap in public access sites in the vicinity between Dyke Marsh and Fort Hunt Park. Meetings with community park planning efforts and NPS park units along the George Washington Parkway could be held to discuss the relationship between preservation/restoration of natural shoreline and the potential to add low-impact public access opportunities to close this gap.
		Park Planning and Development	Opportunities may exist to add protected lands to areas in or around Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve. Consideration to protect additional land and waters that support this valuable area which provides tremendous ecosystem services for the river should be explored.
		Provide Interpretive Panels	Opportunities to showcase stories of the American Indian heritage, Captain John Smith explorations, environmental influences on the River and the War of 1812 could be incorporated into the restoration goals planned on being implemented at the park.

Site	Trail Component	Action	Description
Focus Area - Beltway to Belvoir			
Mount Vernon	Trail Destination	Develop Stories Related to the Trails	While interpretive panels highlighting the national trails in this river section are not desired, publications, interpretive exhibits and/ or other related products could give context on how individual sites in the area fit into the larger story of the Mount Vernon Viewshed Protection.
		Develop Stories Related to the Trails	Mount Vernon and the NPS may share research and narratives (scripts) for the development of interpretive programs related to mutually occurring themes. In particular, Mount Vernon and the NPS may collaborate to promote enhanced interpretation aboard tour boats traversing the Potomac or connections between the Grist Mill and trail resources.
		Establish Connection with Related Sites on the River	Presently there is no formal connection between George Washington's Mount Vernon and George Washington Birthplace National Monument. Communication between both organizational management staff has indicated an interest to discuss possibilities that could best interpret the connection while maintaining each site's individual mission. National trails along the Potomac could potentially support this connection through historic/cultural interpretation and recreational opportunities.
		Connecting Trails to Other Major Properties	Referring visitors to additional significant sites in the area could be considered. Touring itineraries could be developed or expanded to help visitors reach key park sites, river access points, and other trail-related points of interest such as George Washington Birthplace NHM, Ferry Farm or Fort Washington.
		Support Regional Museums and Historic Entities Along the River	The Fred W. Smith National Library for the Study of George Washington at Mount Vernon is a world-class facility for compelling, ground-breaking scholarship about George Washington, colonial America, and the Revolutionary and founding eras. Library resources could support smaller, less established museums and historic entities along the Potomac that have shared interest in the interpretive themes and resources archived at the Library.
		River Festival Trails Promotion	Mount Vernon hosts many events throughout the year, seasonal or otherwise, that could incorporate trail-related stories into their programs. Mount Vernon and the NPS may potentially cosponsor special events associated with mutual themes (including War of 1812 commemorative events). Consider incorporating Trail themes into existing celebrations.
		Develop Stories Related to the Trails	Charter boat tours and ferry operators that currently provide service to Mount Vernon 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.
Marshall Hall	Trail Destination	Provide Interpretive Panels	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.
		Develop Boat-in Primitive Campsites	Existing parks in the region such as Marshall Hall 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.
		Park Planning and Development	Consider developing additional public access facilities, including trails, fishing piers and boat docks. The shoreline between Piscataway and Marshall Hall has the potential to be activated as a public access area with increased interpretive signage and enhanced visitor opportunities.
		Park Planning and Development	The shoreline at Marshall, although not suited for vessels needing more than 5 feet of water, has a history of boats docking at its former pier (when an amusement park was in operation in the mid-20th century). The potential may exist to develop a new boat dock to accommodate water taxis or tour boats. Connections to docks in the area (at Accokeek, Fort Washington, Mount Vernon, Pohick Bay and Smallwood State Park) could present some potential itineraries and shared trail interpretive experiences.
Fort Hunt Park	Trail Destination	Park Planning and Development	There is an Environmental Assessment in progress to determine the types of active recreation and improvements that may be appropriate in the park. Once complete, implementation of new access and trail-specific interpretation could be considered. An existing paved road that is closed to the public could potentially be re-purposed and re-opened for public use as a fitness trail as part of the Healthy Parks/Healthy People Initiative.
		Park Enhancements	The Friends of Fort Hunt Park have expressed interest in rehabilitating the existing NCO Quarters at the park entry to be used as an exhibit space for significant historical stories that could be displayed. As this is a contributing structure to the Fort Hunt Historic District, consideration of appropriate recommendations should be factored into future plans. NPCA has expressed interest in working with the friend's group and other partners to assist as needed.
		Park Enhancements	Consider expanding visitor services at multiple sites along the George Washington Memorial Parkway, such as Fort Hunt Park, to include new water access, trail connections/enhancements and/or viewing platforms.

Site	Trail Component	Action	Description
Focus Area - Beltway to Belvoir			
Fort Belvoir	Trail Destination	Develop Stories Related to the Trails	At the National Museum of the United States Army, slated to open in 2016, opportunities to showcase stories of the War of 1812 and Star-Spangled Banner NHT could be incorporated into the stories planned or being told at the museum. Interactive exhibits that get visitors on the water could be offered to re-live American defense maneuvers or British fleet movements during the campaign. The potential for public access to the museum from the Potomac River or a shoreline-accessible museum annex exhibit highlighting STSP could be discussed with the museum planning team leadership. Communication with NMUSA should be established to fully discuss the potential for incorporating trail-related opportunities into the museum programs, experiences and exhibits.
		Park Planning and Development	Multiple development master plans were completed in 2014 that outline future development, land use and zoning development standards. Expanding trail signage or interpretive opportunities at existing recreational facilities should be considered. Additionally, creation of shoreline-accessible amenities or connections to land-based bicycling trails could be considered.
Fort Foote Park	Trail Destination	Provide Interpretive Panels	Existing signage at Fort Foote could be improved to better orient the visitor to the site and provide wayfinding throughout the park.
		Connecting Trails to Other Major Properties	While a land trail connection to National Harbor is not permitted, a water trail connection and signage indicating this connection could be considered.
		New Public Access Site	Additional public access facilities, including trails, fishing piers and boat docks, could be considered for development.
Fort Washington Park	Trail Destination	Provide Interpretive Panels	Compliance has been completed for installation of trail-related signage at Fort Washington. Efforts to address themes related to all three national trails in this or future installation(s) could be considered.
		Develop Boat-in Primitive Campsites	Park Management 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.
		Park Enhancements	Additional public access facilities, including trails, fishing piers and boat docks, could be considered for development.
		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 to and from Fort Washington. Follow-up with Park management on the status of this development should be monitored to determine if Trail interpretation can be included where appropriate.
		Water Craft and Bicycle Rentals	Incorporation of bike and boat rental options, or hosting of a local outfitter to provide these services annually, could be explored.
Belle Haven Marina	Trail Destination	Provide Interpretive Panels	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.
		Develop Stories Related to the Trails	Private tour operators and concessionaires could benefit the visitor experience by sharing CAJO, STSP and POHE stories during their tours or creating new itineraries to explore trail-related features on the river. NPS could assist in training the operators to be "Certified Trail Ambassadors."
		Develop Stories Related to the Trails	Outfitters, summer camps and paddling club members currently providing paddling tours and utilizing the launch sites could incorporate CAJO, STSP and POHE stories into their trip itineraries.
Riverside Park (George Washington Memorial Parkway)	Trail Destination	Park Enhancements	Consider expanding visitor services at multiple sites along the George Washington Memorial Parkway, such as Riverside Park, to include new accessible canoe and kayak launch, fishing pier, wayside landing access and/or viewing platforms. Increased trail interpretation and signage could also be considered as appropriate.
Daingerfield Island (George Washington Memorial Parkway)	Trail Destination	Park Enhancements	Consider expanding visitor services at multiple sites along the George Washington Memorial Parkway, such as Daingerfield Island, to include new accessible canoe and kayak launch, fishing pier, wayside landing access and/or viewing platforms. Increased trail interpretation and signage could also be considered as appropriate.
Collingwood Picnic Area (George Washington Memorial Parkway)	Trail Destination	Park Enhancements	Consider expanding visitor services at multiple sites along the George Washington Memorial Parkway, such as Collingwood Picnic Area, to include new accessible canoe and kayak launch, fishing pier, wayside landing access and/or viewing platforms. Increased trail interpretation and signage could also be considered as appropriate.

Site	Trail Component	Action	Description
Focus Area - Beltway to Belvoir			
National Harbor	Trail Destination	Gateway Site	National Harbor is a logical location to invest efforts to promote the trails. The significant number of visitors to the shopping, hotel, convention center and (planned) casino and waterfront entertainment complex makes it an optimal forum to highlight the trails.
		Connecting Trails to Other Major Properties	The MGM Casino will be located within close proximity to the on-road portion of POHE. The potential for the new roadway infrastructure to include bike lanes, resting areas and interpretive signage opportunities for POHE, CAJO and STSP should be explored.
		Provide Interpretive Panels	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.
		Provide Interpretive Panels	A sign interpreting the NOAA buoy that is visible from the site could be developed/installed in cooperation with NOAA.
		Enhance Electronic Kiosk	NH operates a large outdoor video screen on their plaza; NPS could provide trail-related material for display. Coordination with NOAA to display a live feed from the buoy to their large outdoor video screen could be considered.
		Develop Stories Related to the Trails	Interpretive materials could be provided for the "Observation Wheel" passengers to highlight the national park units associated with the trails (Oxon Hill Farm, Dyke March Wildlife Preserve, Jones Point Park, etc.).
		Develop Visitor Center Exhibits	Temporary exhibits, including artifacts related to the trail themes such as the Sultana Education Foundation's Captain John Smith shallop, could be displayed in public spaces within National Harbor.
		Develop Educational Exhibits	Trail-related information and/or exhibits could be placed in the Children's Museum or alternate venue to provide teachers, students and visitors opportunities to learn about the trails.
		New Public Access Site	Consider creating a landing or "pocket park" near the western gravel-trail entrance to NH so bicyclists/pedestrians can get oriented to the site/national trails and park their bicycles and/or walk them through the complex.
		New Public Access Site	The existing piers (owned by Maryland SHA) at the northern end of the National Harbor property (near the I-495 overpass) may potentially be publicly accessible (would require coordination beyond NPS and NH).
		New Public Access Site	MNCPPC is steward to parkland adjacent to National Harbor and the Woodrow Wilson Bridge. It has been proposed that a multi-purpose structure be constructed on the waterfront at National Harbor for use by the Park Police, County Police, Fire/EMS, and Department of Natural Resources. If this development comes to fruition, a space could be designated for exhibits featuring the natural and cultural resources of the River and the Oxon Hill area. This proposed structure for Park Police and other agencies would be an ideal place for orienting visitors to the national trails and for the display of archaeological artifacts related to Oxon Hill Manor and the recent discoveries of artifacts from the Salubria Plantation excavated by Peterson Companies prior to the construction of the Tanger Outlet Mall. In addition, exhibits on Potomac wildlife, kayak and boat rentals, and boat trips could all be based there. Investigate this project's potential to fulfill the MOU between Maryland Department of the Environment, Maryland Historical Trust and the Peterson Companies that was established as part of the National Harbor development plan.
		New Public Access Site	Prince George's County is planning to add a parking lot at the Potomac Waterfront Park (across the street from the Sunoco Gas Station/ McDonalds) for free trailhead parking to get on Trail. Coordination with Prince George's County and NPS could result in information regarding POHE, CAJO and STSP being included at this trailhead
		Trail Promotion at Retail Services	NH hosts numerous 5K/other runs; they could be willing to highlight the trails at these events (i.e., naming a run after Captain John Smith). NPS could provide trail-related information to the concierge at The Gaylord and at other hotels and information centers, as appropriate.

(Continued on next page)

Site	Trail Component	Action	Description
Focus Area - Beltway to Belvoir			
National Harbor (cont.)	Trail Destination	Develop Stories Related to the Trails	In addition to the potential for interpretive signage, guided tour guides, paddling/bicycling rental outfitters and other operators could incorporate Trail itineraries into their existing offered services.
		Water Craft and Bicycle Rentals	A seasonal outfitter (located at the southern end of the NH property) could provide kayak rentals and associated guided tours (NH already rents paddleboards, kayaks, etc. through DC Boating and plans to establish fishing charters).
		Enhance Interpretive Exhibits	The existing history mural could be enhanced with information pertaining to the trail themes; NH is particularly interested in interactive elements.
		River Festival Trails Promotion	National Harbor hosts many events throughout the year, seasonal or otherwise, that could incorporate trail-related stories into their programs. Consider incorporating Trail themes into celebrations.
		Develop Stories Related to the Trails	Charter boat tours and ferry operators that currently provide service to/from National Harbor 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.
Harmony Hall	Trail Destination	Park Planning and Development	Archeological studies could be undertaken to attempt to locate the outbuildings and slave quarters at Harmony Hall. The findings could be investigated and preserved for presentation and interpretation to the public. Coordination with those involved with drafting Harmony Hall's Foundation Statement could consider the inclusion of CAJO, STSP and POHE trail-related themes and interpretation opportunities.
		Park Planning and Development	The potential to increase public access opportunities, such as trails to the shoreline, exist. An Environmental Assessment of the site is currently under development; the final document should be reviewed for additional access opportunities.
		Park Enhancements	Additional public access facilities, including trails, fishing piers and boat docks, could be considered for development.
Broad Creek Historic District	Trail Destination	Provide Interpretive Panels	Interpretive panels could be installed at areas within the Broad Creek District sites (St. John's Church, Historic Piscataway House, Historic Want Water ruins and canal, Harmony Hall, Freedom Manor) to reference CAJO, STSP and POHE.
		Interpretive Opportunity	Archeological studies could be undertaken to attempt to locate the outbuildings and slave quarters at Harmony Hall. The findings could be investigated and preserved for presentation and (trail-related) interpretation to the public.
		New Public Access Site	A new water-to-land-only paddle-in access site could be proposed for the area to explore the ruins at Want Water House and other significant sites.
		Connecting Trails to Other Major Properties	Trails leading from the ruins of Want Water House could be developed and connected to the existing trail system at the Harmony Hall. Consideration to develop additional trails that connect to Harmony Hall and St. John's Episcopal Church should be considered.
		Partnership Opportunity	MNCPPC and NACE could potentially work together to extend the Henson Creek Trail through the Broad Creek Historic District and, ultimately, to Harmony Hall. Coordination with NACE and the Foundation Document discussing the NPS resources within Broad Creek Historic District should be referenced and implemented as appropriate.
		Park Planning and Development	This section of the Potomac, specifically the coves of Broad Creek, Swan Creek and Piscataway Creek, can be challenging for power boaters to navigate due to shallow water, underwater obstructions and no-wake zones. A users' map and guide could be developed to assist motor boating enthusiasts in exploring specific river stretches and destinations further downstream.
		Driving and Bicycling Itineraries	The Potomac River Heritage Tourism Alliance has opened a store front within the Tanger Outlet Mall. Coordination with leadership to include CAJO, STSP and POHE information should be maintained. Possible guided tours from the retail center, with connection to the significant sites within Broad Creek and beyond, should be explored.

Site	Trail Component	Action	Description
Focus Area - Beltway to Belvoir			
Private Outfitters	Linking Route	Funding Opportunity for Public Access	Coordinating with local organizations and private developers could lead to expanded visibility for the trails and local trail sites. Opportunities to leverage funding for new public access projects or to include physical trail enhancements (bike lanes, trail markers, signage) within infrastructure improvements necessary to accommodate the proposed development could be explored.
		Connecting Trails to Other Major Properties	Existing water taxi and ferry routes presently do not extend south past Mount Vernon. Explore adding routes to additional sites such as Piscataway Park and Fort Washington Marina.
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.
		Develop Stories Related to the Trails	Prince George's County has mini-buses used to transport groups to sites for activities. The county could consider incorporating Trail-specific information on signs on the bus to tell the trail stories in the area.
Capital Bikeshare	Linking Route	Bicycle Rentals	National Capital Bikeshare locations could be added or expanded at National Harbor, Fort Washington Park, Mount Vernon, Belle Haven Park and Marina and Piscataway Park and advertised at other kiosks in the area to enhance visitation to the parks.
Maryland Indian Heritage Trail	Linking Route	Develop New Trail Linkage and Access	Planning efforts to connect CAJO trail resources, specifically American Indian historic resources and present-day sites of cultural significance, to the Maryland Indian Heritage Trail should be coordinated. Inclusion of pre-contact American Indian stories before Captain John Smith's era could be interpreted through this connection.
Potomac Heritage Trail	Linking Route	Connecting Trails to Other Major Properties	Several planned segments of the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail are proposed to connect along Oxon Hill Road which would provide a continuous trail from Oxon Hill Farm Park to Piscataway Park. Plans to complete these planned segments in the next two to five years could be discussed with Prince George's County and Maryland State Highway Administration.
		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/
Private Marinas	Support Services	Gateway Site	Fort Washington Marina, National Harbor, Fort Belvoir Marina and Belle Haven Park and Marina are areas where the public currently access the Potomac via boat ramps and marine-related services. Installing signage and providing rack cards and other trail-related materials to restaurants and other businesses could be an effective way to reach a larger portion of existing river users.
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.
Private Development	Support Services	Funding Opportunity for Public Access	Coordinating with local organizations and private developers could lead to expanded visibility for the trails and local trail sites. Opportunities to leverage funding for new public access projects or to include physical trail enhancements (bike lanes, trail markers, signage) within infrastructure improvements necessary to accommodate the proposed development could be explored.
		Develop Stories Related to the Trails	Marinas and waterfront business in this area provide great locations to tell the Trail stories. Providing visitor waterfront support services, such as marinas and restaurants, information like rack cards or paper menus with trail-specific information could be an effective way to reach a larger audience of existing Potomac River users.