# 2012 Year in Review

SARAH ROGERS

promote engage collaborate conserve

interpret educate access convene engage

MICHAEL JOOTTON

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access promote convene conserve interpret

## 2012 Staff

John Maounis
Superintendent

Jonathan Doherty
Asst. Superintendent

Deanna Beacham
Cheryl Branagan
Sarah Brzezinski
Bob Campbell
Cindy Chance
Suzanne Copping
Carroll Cottingham
Haynes Currie
John Davy
Paula Degen
Andy Fitch
Amy Handen
Matt Jagunic
Jackie Kramer
Mike Land
Christine Lucero
Kate Marks
Emily Myron
Lina Oliveros
Greg Ogilvie
Peggy Wall
Abbi Wicklein-Bayne

NPS | Chesapeake Bay
410 Severn Avenue
Suite 314
Annapolis, MD 21403
(410)260-2470

www.nps.gov/chba

*At right: Boating on the Sassafras River.*

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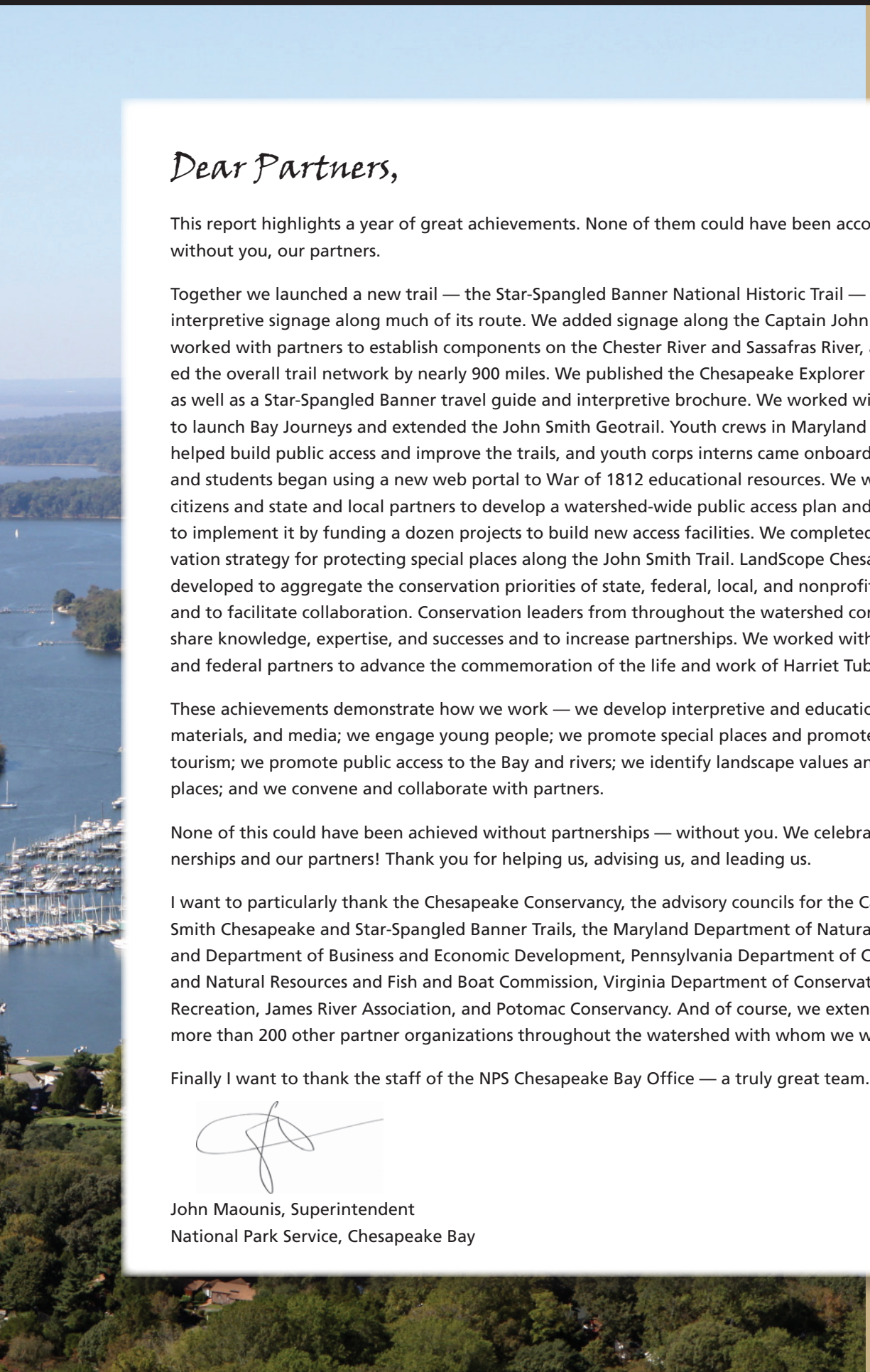
RALPH ESHELMAN



# Dear Partners,

This report highlights a year of great achievements. None of them could have been accomplished without you, our partners.

Together we launched a new trail — the Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail — and installed interpretive signage along much of its route. We added signage along the Captain John Smith Trail, worked with partners to establish components on the Chester River and Sassafras River, and expanded the overall trail network by nearly 900 miles. We published the Chesapeake Explorer mobile app, as well as a Star-Spangled Banner travel guide and interpretive brochure. We worked with partners to launch Bay Journeys and extended the John Smith Geotrail. Youth crews in Maryland and Virginia helped build public access and improve the trails, and youth corps interns came onboard. Teachers and students began using a new web portal to War of 1812 educational resources. We worked with citizens and state and local partners to develop a watershed-wide public access plan and we began to implement it by funding a dozen projects to build new access facilities. We completed a conservation strategy for protecting special places along the John Smith Trail. LandScope Chesapeake was developed to aggregate the conservation priorities of state, federal, local, and nonprofit agencies and to facilitate collaboration. Conservation leaders from throughout the watershed convened to share knowledge, expertise, and successes and to increase partnerships. We worked with state, local, and federal partners to advance the commemoration of the life and work of Harriet Tubman.

These achievements demonstrate how we work — we develop interpretive and education programs, materials, and media; we engage young people; we promote special places and promote heritage tourism; we promote public access to the Bay and rivers; we identify landscape values and special places; and we convene and collaborate with partners.

None of this could have been achieved without partnerships — without you. We celebrate our partnerships and our partners! Thank you for helping us, advising us, and leading us.

I want to particularly thank the Chesapeake Conservancy, the advisory councils for the Captain John Smith Chesapeake and Star-Spangled Banner Trails, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and Department of Business and Economic Development, Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and Fish and Boat Commission, Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, James River Association, and Potomac Conservancy. And of course, we extend thanks to more than 200 other partner organizations throughout the watershed with whom we work.

Finally I want to thank the staff of the NPS Chesapeake Bay Office — a truly great team.



John Maounis, Superintendent
National Park Service, Chesapeake Bay

# Interpret, Educate, Promote, & Engage

## Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail

Many partners helped NPS celebrate the launch of the Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail in July 2012. The trail extends along land and water routes from Virginia's Tangier Island, north along the Potomac River to Washington, DC, through Baltimore to the head of the Chesapeake Bay. It traces troop movements through historic places, inspiring landscapes, and charming towns, parks, and waterways that highlight the drama of the war and stories of citizens and soldiers. Among the helpful tools developed in 2012 for trail visitors, educators, and partners are:

- The award-winning history and travel guide, *In Full Glory Reflected: Discovering the War of 1812 in the Chesapeake*
- A pocket guide for exploring the trail
- Interpretive kiosks and highway markers on Maryland roads
- Trail audio narratives added to the NOAA smart-buoy system
- Guide to public archeology along the Patuxent River
- Professional development training for teachers
- Interpretive assistance workshop for trail partners
- The trail's Junior Ranger program

NPS financial assistance awarded in 2012 will support these trail development projects:

- North Point State Battlefield site planning and development
- North Point State Park visitor center exhibits
- Water access and amenities at Benedict, Maryland
- Traveling exhibit for southern Maryland counties
- Signage and guides for Alexandria, Virginia, and Washington, DC

Online resources:

- www.nps.gov/stsp
- www.starspangledtrail.net

CITY OF HAVRE DE GRACE

*Learning about the War of 1812 in Havre de Grace.*

## Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail

Covering approximately 2,100 miles of waterways, the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail traces Smith's landmark voyages on the Chesapeake Bay and rivers from 1607 to 1609. Trail visitors will experience and imagine the landscape as Smith described it and learn about American Indian communities then and now.

In May, DOI Secretary Ken Salazar joined Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley, NPS Director Jon Jarvis, and our partners and stakeholders to designate four rivers as new historic connecting components of the John Smith Trail. Numerous American Indian leaders, conservation leaders, and public officials from Maryland, Virginia, Delaware, New York, and Pennsylvania joined the ceremony at Sandy Point State Park. These historic connecting rivers extend the trail by 840 miles:

- Susquehanna River (Pennsylvania and New York)
- Chester River (Maryland)
- Upper Nanticoke River (Delaware)
- Upper James River (Virginia)

*Henricus Historical Park along the James River.*

Throughout the year, trail partners helped NPS enhance the trail in these ways:

- Completed James River segment plan with five focus areas identified and anchor sites in each to offer visitor services and amenities
- Engaged Chesapeake Youth Corps on trail improvements at Presquile NWR, Eco-Discovery Park, and Lawrence Lewis, Jr. Park
- Expanded the Geotrail with eleven new locations on the lower Eastern Shore
- Completed the trail's conservation strategy, which provides a plan for protecting resources important to the visitor experience
- Sultana Projects launched the Chester and Sassafras River Water Trails, including maps, way markers, and interpretive signage

*DOI Secretary Salazar, joined by Maryland Governor O'Malley and NPS Director Jarvis, designates connecting components of the John Smith Trail.*

Online resources:

- www.nps.gov/cajo
- www.smithtrail.net
- www.geocaching.com/adventures/geotours

MICHAEL WOOTTON

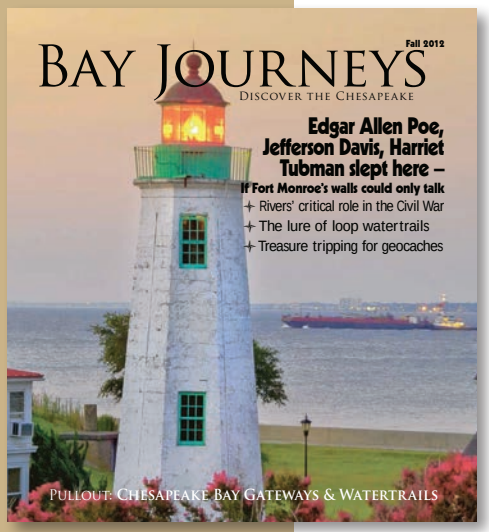
*Celebrating the launch of the Chester and Sassafras River Water Trails.*

## Chesapeake Bay Gateways & Watertrails

Over 170 parks, museums, trails, lighthouses, skipjacks, and more comprise the Gateways and Watertrails Network. Together, we develop trails, improve visitor services, support educational programming, and enhance public access to the water.

Gateways Network partners leveraged NPS funds and completed projects resulting in new interpretive and educational programming:

- Restoration and interpretation at Adkins Arboretum, Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum, and Pickering Creek Audubon Center
- War of 1812 Traveling Exhibit by Fell's Point National Register Historic District
- Fixed and traveling exhibits, accessible soft launch, and Virginia American Indian classroom materials at Watermen's Museum
- Digital guide book and River Town kiosks at two sites along the Susquehanna River Trail




*NPS and Gateways Network partners promote tourism through Chesapeake Explorer and Bay Journeys.*

NPS funding awarded in 2012 will create or enhance public access to the Chesapeake and rivers with boat launching capacity, docks and portage trails, and picnicking and fishing access. See page 7 for a map of project locations.

The official NPS mobile application Chesapeake Explorer, free on Android and iDevices, was unveiled. The app provides instant access and geo-locates the visitor to Gateways Network partner sites, state parks, national parks, local trails, and three national trails. The user can snap and send photos, tag favorite destinations, explore theme tours, and much more.

NPS released a report estimating the overall contribution of tourism activity to a portion of the Network region. Findings include:

- Tourists spent $25.7 billion in the study region
- Tourism spending supported 273,000 direct jobs
- Tourism spending supported $6.6 million in direct payroll income

Online resources:

- www.baygateways.net
- www.bayjourneys.com
- www.ChesapeakeExplorerApp.com

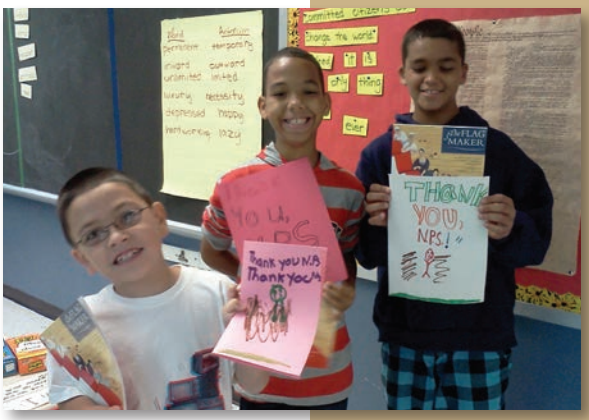
TRAP POND STATE PARK, DELAWARE

## Youth & Education Programs

A cornerstone of NPS public service is education. Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Watertrails, as well as the John Smith Trail and Star-Spangled Banner Trail, offer great opportunities for youth engagement.

NPS worked with partners to enhance and strengthen the Chesapeake Youth Corps (CYC). NPS funding now supports three youth interns to coordinate CYC development.

- CYC Partners: James River Association, Parks & People Foundation, Maryland Department of Natural Resources
- CYC trail projects in 2012:
  - Paddling access at Presquile NWR (Smith Trail)
  - Trail and beach access at Lawrence Lewis, Jr. Park (Smith Trail)
  - New launch at Eco-Discovery Park (Smith Trail)
  - Improvements at three Baltimore historic sites (Star-Spangled Banner Trail)
  - Improvements at four natural resource sites (Star-Spangled Banner Trail)




*The Teacher-Ranger-Teacher program brought NPS into the classroom.*

NPS has become an important resource for teachers and students. Among the tools developed for educators in 2012 are several that relate to the Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail. They include:

- The Virtual Resource Center with curricula, interactive games, and primary source documents
- Residential professional development program for thirty teachers
- Teacher-Ranger-Teacher to bring NPS into the classroom

*Partners include Maryland Public Television, Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine, Maryland War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission, Center for the Constitution.*

Online resources:

- www.nps.gov/chba
- http://warof1812.thinkport.org

*Three interns support the Chesapeake Youth Corps program.*

VIRGINIA DEPT. OF CONSERVATION & RECREATION

*Chesapeake Youth Corps participants clear the water trail around Presquile National Wildlife Refuge.*

# Improve Public Access

NPS continued to gather extensive input from partners and citizens culminating in the 2013 release of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Public Access Plan. Implementation will expand public access by more than 20 percent by 2025. The plan confirms that significant stretches of shoreline have little or no access. The plan also:

- Lists 1,150 existing tidal and nontidal access sites for fishing, swimming, boat launching, and viewing
- Describes 320 potential new access sites identified by citizens, stakeholders, and partners
- Notes that highest demand is frequently near urban areas
- Finds that boat launching facilities are the most frequently requested type of access

*Partners include District of Columbia, Maryland, Virginia, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Delaware, and New York.*

SARAH ROGERS

STARKE ARTZ

*Partners find that citizens ask for more access to the water.*

Improving public access was the focus of NPS financial assistance awarded in 2012. See page 7 for a map of those project locations. Several previous projects were completed in 2012. These include:

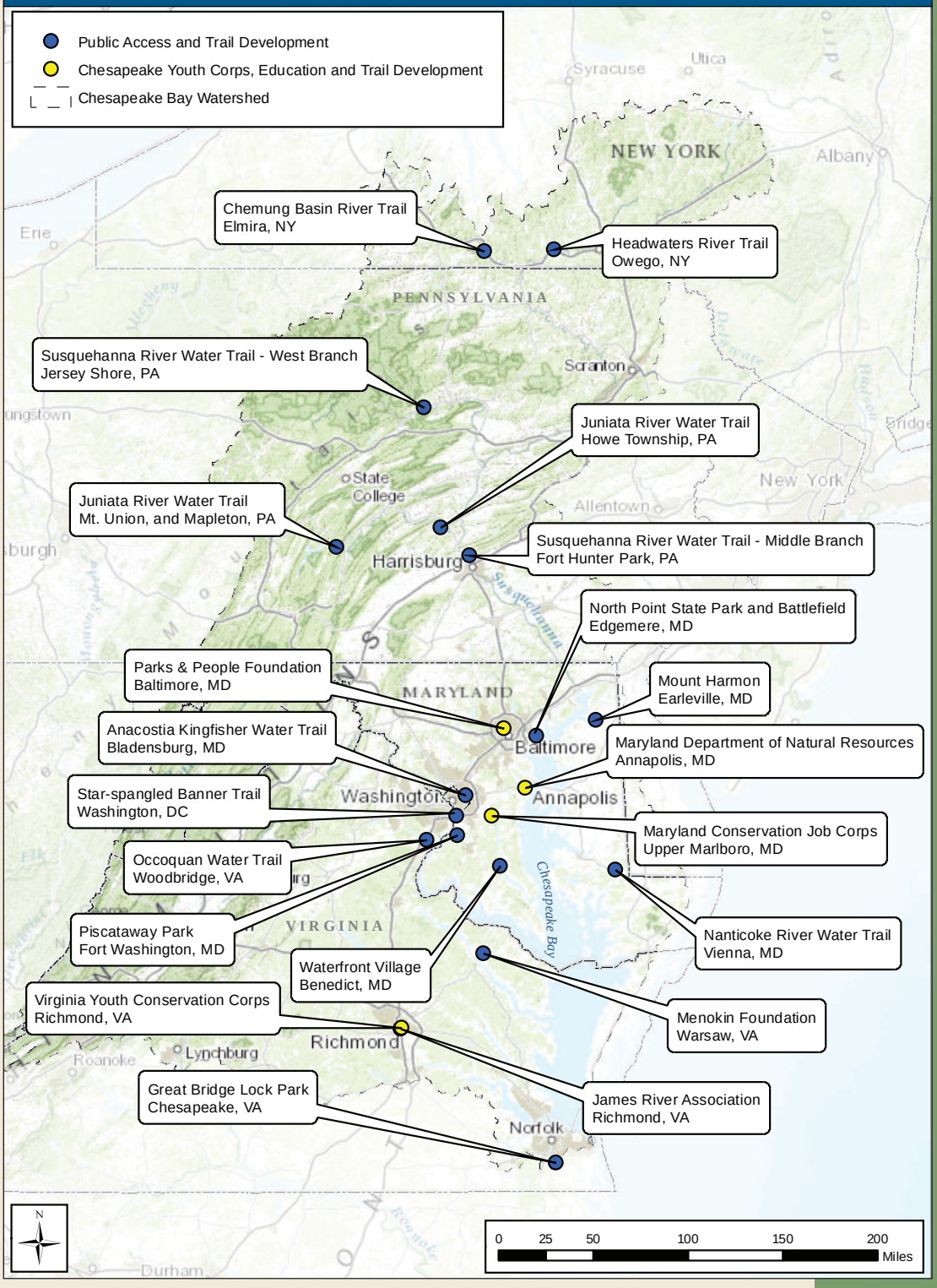
- Viewing platform and soft launch at Onancock, Virginia
- Enhanced access and primitive camping on the Susquehanna, North Branch
- Walkway over wetlands, canoe/kayak launch, and pavilion at Presquile NWR
- Chester and Sassafras River Water Trails with visitor services
- Contee Watershed Trail at Smithsonian Environmental Research Center

Online resources:

- www.nps.gov/chba
- www.baygateways.net/public access

PA. DEPT. OF CONSERVATION & NATURAL RESOURCES

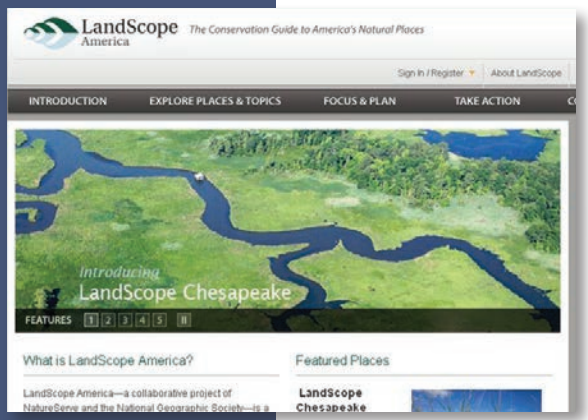
## National Park Service | Chesapeake Bay
## FY2012 Financial Assistance Awards



# Identify Landscape Values

Several important initiatives were launched with landscape conservation partners.

**LandScope Chesapeake:** a watershed-wide system for sharing, displaying and using information on land conservation priorities. This collaborative effort reflects and maps multiple priorities at the non-governmental, local, state, regional, and federal level. Maps, images, videos, and narrative content will help guide and inspire conservation efforts throughout the watershed.




*Partners include NatureServe, U.S. Geological Survey, and state coordinators.*

**Indigenous Cultural Landscapes:** large landscapes evocative of the natural and cultural resources supporting American Indian lifeways and settlement patterns in the early 17th century. The University of Maryland initiated research to clarify a uniform methodology and set of criteria to guide mapping. The first step, a thorough review of existing research on concepts similar to indigenous cultural landscapes, has been completed.

*Partners include state agencies, nonprofit organizations, American Indian descendent communities.*

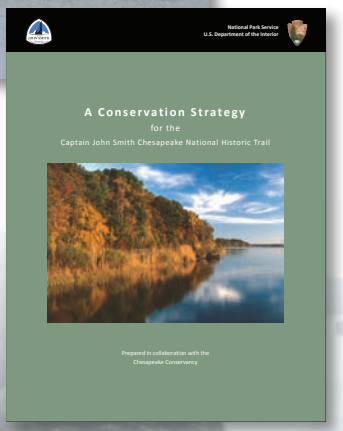
**Conservation Strategy for the John Smith Trail:** conserving lands important to the visitor experience. The completed strategy provides the means for defining priority conservation areas relative to the trail and designing appropriate conservation methods.

*Partners include the Chesapeake Conservancy.*

Online resources:

- www.landscope.org/Chesapeake
- www.smithtrail.net/aboutthetrail

CHESAPEAKE BAY PROGRAM



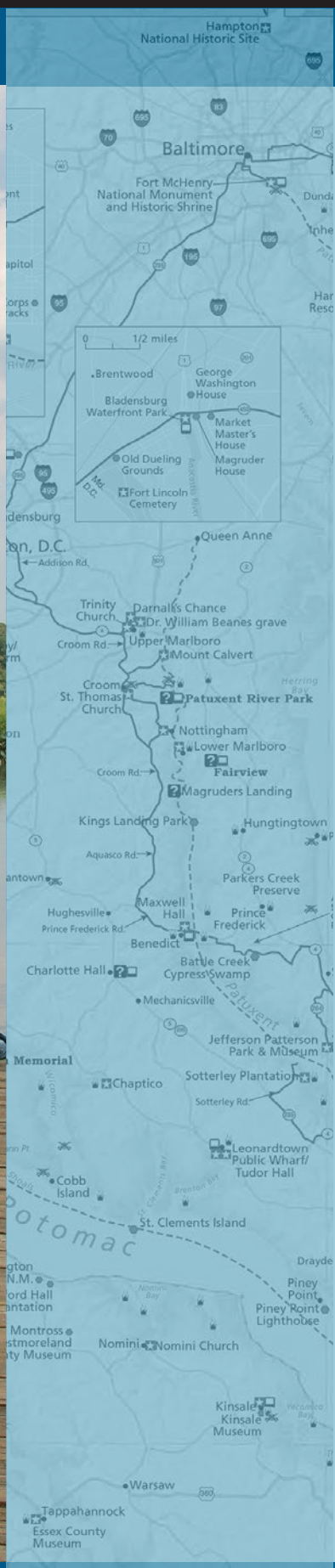

*The Conservation Strategy identifies vulnerable land along the John Smith Trail.*

# Convene & Collaborate

Partner collaboration is fundamental to our work. Everything we do — interpretation and education, youth engagement, conservation, improving public access — is achieved with others. Here are just a few examples of the good work we've done together:

- Fifty-six conservation leaders came together to identify large-scale conservation focus areas.
- Conservation practitioners worked with NPS to build LandScope Chesapeake, making conservation goals transparent and collaborative.
- An expanded network of Chesapeake Youth Corps partnerships is serving more youth in Maryland and Virginia.
- Star-Spangled Banner Trail partners placed signage, developed educational materials and conducted teacher training; helped with interpretive assistance; celebrated the trail launch; and made the trail visible and visitor ready.
- John Smith Trail partners developed visitor services on the James, expanded the Geotrail, launched the Sassafras and Chester River water trails, and engaged youth to improve the trail.
- Citizens, state and local governments, and nonprofit organizations identified viable new public access sites and developed a strategy for adding 300 new sites by 2025.
- Advisory councils for the Star-Spangled Banner Trail and the John Smith Trail worked to strengthen strategic partnerships, protect trail resources, and develop visitor services and amenities.

*Partners are at the heart of all NPS work in the Chesapeake Bay watershed.*

*The National Park Service in the Chesapeake Bay collaborates with state, local, and nonprofit partners to provide better access to the Chesapeake and rivers, to conserve important landscapes and resources, to engage youth in stewardship and place-based education, to improve recreational opportunities, and to interpret the natural and cultural heritage of the Chesapeake Bay watershed.*

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