Discover the Potomac Gorge: A National Treasure

On the outskirts of Washington, D.C., the Potomac River passes through a landscape of emerging beauty and ecological significance. Here, near many millions, an unusual combination of natural forces has produced a unique corridor known as the Potomac Gorge.

This 15-mile river stretch is one of the country’s most biologically diverse areas, home to more than 1,400 plant species. Scientists have identified at least 95 distinct native vegetation communities, many of which are globally rare and imperiled. The Gorge also supports a rich array of animal life, from rare and endangered species like the bald eagle.

In total, the Potomac Gorge provides habitat to more than 200 rare plant species and natural communities, making it one of the most important natural areas in the eastern United States.

WHAT IS THE POTOMAC GORGE?

Thousands of years of natural forces at work in the Potomac Gorge have created a diverse and unique landscape. From its upper reaches, where the river’s course is determined by the undulating Allegheny Plateau to the east and the Blue Ridge to the west, the Potomac Gorge is a critical landscape meriting conservation and outdoor education, and inspiration of the American public. The Conservancy pro-

WHAT ARE THE THREATS TO THE POTOMAC GORGE?

ThePotomacGorgefacesa number of threats. Extending back to colonial times. However, Riverbend Park and Scotts Run Nature Preserve, where park managers work in the Potomac Gorge have created a...}

HOW CAN WE PROTECT THE POTOMAC GORGE?

There are many ways you can help protect the Potomac Gorge. One of the most effective things you can do is to support organizations that work to protect the region. Another way is to become informed about the issues facing the Gorge and share that information with others. You can also help by listening to nature, being respectful of wildlife, and following the rules that apply to the area you visit.

EXPLORE HISTORIC SITES IN THE POTOMAC GORGE

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