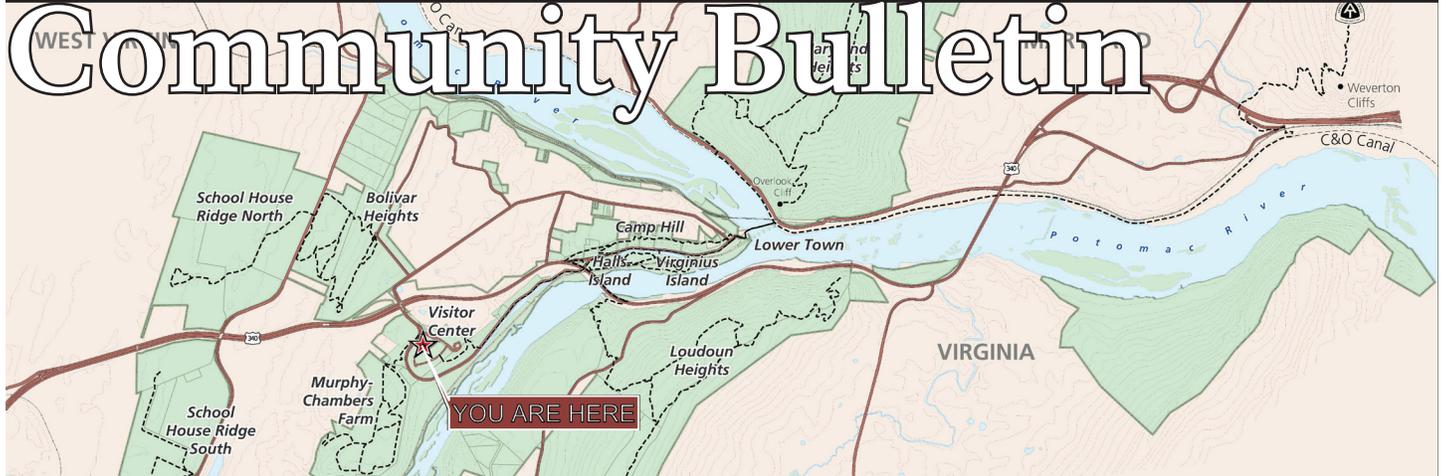




Community Bulletin



Harpers Ferry Park Receives Active Trail Grant

Harpers Ferry National Historical Park has been selected to receive a 2012 Active Trails grant from the National Park Foundation, the official charity of America’s national parks. Now in its fourth cycle, the National Park Foundation’s Active Trails program promotes national parks as venues for community engagement, and encourages healthy living through various forms of recreation and volunteer service on land and water trails.

“Maintaining over 18,000 miles of trails is no small task,” said Neil Mulholland, President and CEO of the National Park Foundation. “The Active Trail funds help parks across the country create or expand vital trail related projects, improving the visitor experience and encouraging engagement opportunities with each parks’ gateway community.”

Since 2008, the National Park Foundation has granted over \$1.2 million through its Active Trails program. To date, Active Trails has engaged more than 3,100 volunteers and 86 project partners who combined have contributed over 13,000 hours to help promote, refurbish or build national park trails that were ultimately enjoyed by 291,000 visitors (and counting!).

“This grant will help us shine a light on parts of the park that many people

don’t know about. Our trail system provides access to great views and historic sites all around the park,” said Park Ranger David Fox.

Harpers Ferry National Historical Park is one of the best walking parks in America. The variety of hiking trails coupled with nationally significant history and the scenery of the Blue Ridge Mountains and the Potomac and Shenandoah river valleys adds up to an amazing opportunity for park visitors and local community members to stay connected with their national park through recreation. There are 20-plus miles of hiking trails for all levels of interest and ability. The trails vary from easy, riverside strolls to four-mile moderate hikes through Civil War battlefields to seven-mile aerobic adventures to the top of mountains.

The towns of Harpers Ferry and Bolivar, West Virginia, have national park land in and around them, and several units of the national park system intersect here. Harpers Ferry is roughly the halfway point of the 2,178 mile Appalachian National Scenic Trail (AT), and the headquarters and visitor center for the AT, the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, is located in Harpers Ferry. The 185-mile-long towpath of Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park is accessible by a footbridge over the Potomac River. Hiking options abound for the residents of Harpers Ferry and Bolivar, the population of

the surrounding counties, and for the multitude of visitors from the Washington, D.C., area.

To encourage more folks to use the trails and increase the benefits of exercise, the Park Service will install clear and consistent trail markers on all the trails and create a new trail brochure for visitors. Well-marked trails and a well-designed brochure will invite more use and reassure inexperienced hikers.

Thanking America’s Armed Forces

To show our appreciation for those who serve in the U.S. Military, on May 19 – Armed Forces Day – the National Park Service will begin issuing an annual pass offering free entrance to all 397 national parks for active duty military members and their dependents.

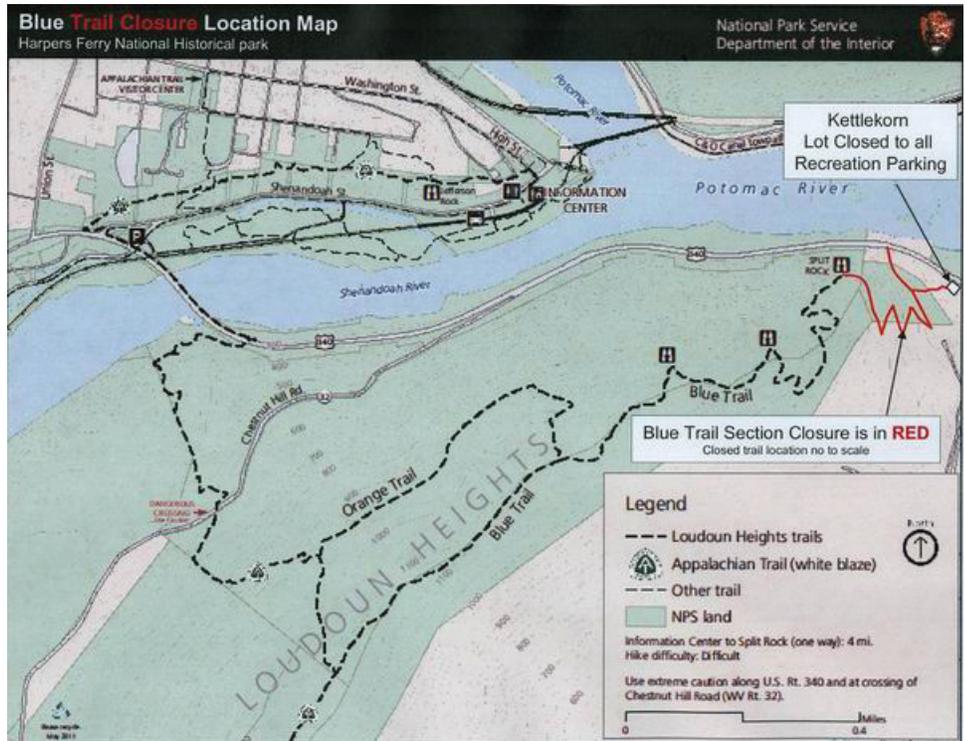
Active duty members of the U.S. Military and their dependents can pick up their pass at the park entrance station from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. beginning on May 19. They must show a current, valid military identification card to obtain their pass. More information is available at www.nps.gov/findapark/passes.htm.

Notice of Trail Closure in Harpers Ferry

A .4 mile section of the Blue Trail on Loudoun Heights in Harpers Ferry National Historical Park has been officially closed as of March 30, 2012, due to safety concerns and at the request of the adjacent private land owner. This closure impacts the section of the trail from Split Rock Overlook to the Kettlekorn parking lot along route 340. A 400' section of the old Harpers Ferry Road bed off US Route 340 is also closed.

"Trail Closed" and "No Trespassing Entering Private Property" signs will be attached to sections of snow fence placed across the former trail to notify hikers. Currently the trails have been blocked with brush piles to block access.

Harpers Ferry National Historical Park asks your cooperation and consideration in sharing information about these closures.



African American History Hike Celebrates National Trails Day

 National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

The history of Harpers Ferry has few parallels in the American drama. It is more than one event, one date, or one individual. It is multi-layered, involving a diverse number of people and events, decisions and actions that influenced the course of our nation's history. Visit Harpers Ferry and step into history.

Harpers Ferry National Historical Park
P.O. Box 65
Harpers Ferry, West Virginia 25425

Visitor Center
304-535-6029

Harpers Ferry Historical Association Bookshop
304-525-6881

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The National Park Service cares for the special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.



The Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC) and Harpers Ferry NHP invite you to join in a 1-mile guided hike from the ATC to Lower Town Harpers Ferry on June 2. See the Curtis Free-will Baptist Church, Lockwood House and learn about the Niagara Movement and John Brown's Raid.

10:30 a.m. Meet at the ATC Visitor Center, 799 Washington St., Harpers Ferry, WV

11:00 a.m. African American History Hike

1:00 p.m. Lunch will be provided for hike participants

1:30 p.m. "Marcia's Appalachian Trail Journey" Marcia Fairweather, who completed a section-hike of the entire AT in 2008, will show a short video about her experience.

This hike is not recommended for children under eight years old. Parental supervision is required.

RSVP encouraged to chobbs@appalachiantrail.org by June 1.

For more information, contact Laurie Potteiger at 304-535-2200, ext. 128 or lpotteiger@appalachiantrail.org.