



**Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail Office  
Activities Report Fiscal Year 2013  
1 October 2012- 30 September 2013**

## TRAIL PROJECTS

- participated in steering committee to complete a Potomac segment plan for the Captain John Smith Chesapeake NHT (regional workshops; draft content; editing; etc.)
- participation in FHWA process to redesign Route 1 vicinity of US Army Garrison Fort Belvoir
- reviewed and edited portions of the George Washington Regional Commission bicycle and pedestrian plan 2040
- edited Trail section of draft *Virginia Outdoors Plan 2014*
- reviewed status of Alexandria Heritage Trail as a Trail segment
- consulted on plans for a potential Trail segment within Broad Creek Historic District, MD
- consulted on plans for a potential Trail segment Oxon Cove Park – Shepherd Parkway
- commented on scope and content of Maryland DOT *Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan*, researched potential Maryland Bikeways projects, and drafted Trail-related content for *Maryland LPRP*
- participated in development of Prince William County VA applications for Federal Public Lands Access Program funds and provided letter of support for TIGER grant application
- reviewed and edited sections of Riverbend Park plan (Fairfax County, VA)
- researched potential water trail connections in the vicinity of George Washington Birthplace NM & Westmoreland State Park
- reviewed RFP and related documents for Mason Neck Gateway kiosk
- consulted on ferry boat service opportunities to connect sites on the tidal Potomac
- consulted on Chapman’s Forest, MD, regional connections
- reviewed opportunities for addition Trail segments in Loudoun County
- participation in National Capital Region “Healthy Parks, Healthy Living” project



## INTERPRETATION & ROUTE MARKING

- Trail exhibit installed at Great Falls Park, Virginia
- developed “thumbnail” map of Trail network
- completed fabrication and delivery of Trail regional orientation panels to Chesapeake and Ohio Canal NHP
- purchased Trail regional orientation exhibits for installation by Prince William County Dept. of Parks and Recreation at major trailheads
- contracted for and reviewed draft wayside exhibit, “Surveying the Line,” for installation along the Great Allegheny Passage
- consulted with project partners on and drafted and edited content for National Trails System panel at the Mason Neck Gateway Kiosk
- edited Trail-related text for Harpers Ferry NHP brochure and trailhead exhibit, for Visit Loudoun tourism brochure & for Capital Region USA Directory
- added new locations and revised Trail “Passport” stamp list



- added *Chesapeake Explorer* app, edited for readability and added content to NPS Trail Web page and Facebook page
- revised and published brochure PHT route Mount Vernon – Locust Shade Park, Northern Virginia
- revised map, edited text and republished Northern Neck Heritage Trail Bicycling Route brochure
- submitted list of NPS-supported projects as part of the Great Allegheny Passage final mile commemoration
- participation in Occoquan River Festival (Prince William Forest Park), American Hiking Society Civil War Defenses of Washington walk, and Trail session at Virginia Chapter APA conference
- provided comments on the utility of “Plan Your Visit” section of NPS Web pages



## OPERATIONS & COMMUNICATIONS

- developed budget cost projections for FY13 & FY14
- co-organized “transition management assistance program” process
- co-hosted 2012 Trail network “Roundtable” and organized 2013 Roundtable
- responded to 55 general requests for information
- participated on an advisory committee to revise NPS guide to paddle craft launches
- participated in NPS National Capital Region trails coordination group
- submitted documentation to participate in the NPS *Call to Action* element “Enjoy the View”
- participated in various local and regional trail group meetings
- distributed new unigrid brochures
- participate in NPS Northeast Region heritage area study of the Northern Neck
- reviewed GIS needs & revised content of GIS attributes (w/ATPO GIS Specialist)
- discussed relationship of Connellsville, PA, & Braddock/Washington history to the Trail network; and
- executed contracts for a new map for Garrett County and vicinity; for engineering assistance in the vicinity of Friendsville, MD; a revised map of southern Fairfax & Prince William counties; a revised map of the Northern Neck; design and fabrication of Mason & Dixon exhibit; a new map for an exhibit at George Washington Birthplace NM; and assistance with a multi-agency/organization strategic plan to promote heritage tourism between Oxon Hill and Marshall Hall, MD.



## ADMINISTRATION

### Memoranda of Understanding (N=5):

- Lead by Linda McKenna Boxx, President, Allegheny Trail Alliance, the MOU authorizes use of the Trail logo, re-affirms the Great Allegheny Passage between Cumberland, MD, and Ohiopyle, PA, as a segment of the Trail, and includes resolutions of support from Somerset County Commission and Somerset County Rails to Trails Association.

- Lead by Jennifer Wampler, Trails Coordinator, Virginia Dept. of Conservation and Recreation, a Trail specific agreement was executed among VDCR, Virginia Commonwealth Transportation Board, Virginia Dept. of Historic Resources, and Virginia Tourism Corporation.
- drafted new MOUs to re-authorize use of the Trail logo and re-affirm, as part of the Trail network, the Southern Maryland Potomac Heritage Trail Bicycling Route
- drafted a new MOU, for circulation by the Northern Virginia Regional Commission, to recognize various trails in Northern Virginia as part of the Trail network
- drafted MOU to recognize the Eastern Continental Divide Loop Trail as part of the Trail network

#### Executed new "Task" Agreements (N=6):

- The Potomac Conservancy, through the Chesapeake Bay Program Office, for a partnership with the **Southern Maryland Heritage Area Consortium** to draft phase one of a common interpretive plan for the Trail & the Religious Freedom National Scenic Byway corridor (including graphic identity & route marking);
- **American Hiking Society** to document a hike on a route connecting the Civil War Defenses of Washington; propose revisions to the existing, on-line hiking guide; complete a scope of work for a series of guides to a continuous hiking route exploring the CWDW; and organize a discussion among non-federal Trail stakeholders to outline a plan for sustained coordination;
- **Student Conservation Association** for assistance with Web-related content and social media;
- **Northern Virginia Regional Commission** for revision of a Trail corridor analysis; execution of an MOU recognizing Trail segments; and assistance with local Trail projects;
- **Regional Trail Corporation** to support phase I plan and design for permanent mile markers along the Great Allegheny Passage; and
- **Garrett Trails** for coordination with Army Corps of Engineers; events to identify a potential Trail route; circulation of an MOU to recognize such route.

#### Managed existing agreements:

- Univ. Maryland College Park for assistance with GIS (closed)
- International Institute for Tourism Studies, George Washington University for research and recommendations to promote the Trail network
- Penn. Dept. of Conservation and Natural Resources for revision of Laurel Ridge ski map
- Federal Highways Administration Eastern Lands for Mason Neck Gateway kiosk project
- Northern Virginia Regional Commission for PHT-related technical assistance

#### Compliance activities (N = 5):

- reviewed final Programmatic Agreement for Route 1 vicinity of U.S Army Garrison Fort Belvoir & participated in FHWA Woodlawn Plantation workshop
- reviewed project plans for Mason Neck Gateway Kiosk at Meadowood SRMA
- determined, with volunteer assistance, that a proposed cell tower in Prince George's County, Md., would not affect the PHT Bicycling Route
- consulted with manager, Laurel Highlands Hiking Trail, to review potential impacts from proposed cell tower
- reviewed Trail and National Trails System references in the Final EIS for Potomac River Test Range, Naval Facilities Dahlgren in King George County

Miscellaneous:

- drafted “inventory of planning needs” for inclusion in POHE “foundation for planning”
- reviewed and commented on draft Riverbend Park Master Plan
- completed various annual reports (National Trails System MOU data; Servicewide Interpretive Report; Diversity; performance; etc.)
- completed mandatory training
- participated in various NPS National Capital Region discussions (Regional Leadership Council, Interpretive Management Advisory Group, etc.)
- add past annual reports to NPS Denver Service Center eTIC library

**Trail Office FY13 budget:**

Total approved funding:	\$366,200
Operational expenses (personnel, office, travel, etc.):	\$235,071
Project expenses (planning, cartography, interpretive media, Roundtable, etc.):	\$131,129
ratio of personnel costs to total approved funding:	58%

**MORE INFORMATION:**

The Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail network:

- embraces portions of five physiographic provinces within 37 local government jurisdictions in four states, bridging two major watersheds over the Eastern Continental Divide;
- includes 758.5 miles of trails and routes recognized as segments with (693.5 miles completed, 68 miles planned/gaps);
- could include approximately 334 additional miles of trails and routes and extensive water trail experiences; and
- connects with the Appalachian National Scenic Trail, Captain John Smith National Historic Trail (NHT), Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary NHT and Star-Spangled Banner NHT; nine national recreation trails (including the Potomac River Water Trail); the East Coast Greenway and U.S. Bicycle Route 1; 18 NPS areas, four National Natural Landmarks and many National Historic Landmarks.

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