

THE  
**FUTURE**  
OF  
**AMERICA'S**  
**NATIONAL**  
**PARKS**

First Annual  
Centennial Strategy for

# Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail

August 2007

CENTENNIAL INITIATIVE



**Site:** POHE

**Year:** 2007

**Vision Statement**

Between the Chesapeake Bay and the Allegheny Highlands, the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail corridor designation is used a meeting ground of ideas and practices, reflecting a desire for the conservation of lands and waters, for educational opportunities combined with outdoor recreation, and for a celebration of regional diversity and distinctiveness. A vibrant set of Trail partnerships sustain a continuous system of trails for recreation, transportation, health, and education, using the tools of landscape interpretation and regional marketing to promote adventure travel, cultural tourism and events, and outdoor activities that connect people with the natural environment, arts and culture, and local economies.

The Trail corridor includes over 40 units of the National Park System, five National Recreation Trails, segments of one National Scenic Trail and one National Historic Trail, and over 100 National Historic Landmarks. With minimal authority and funds to administer the federal interest in the Trail, the National Park Service must actively establish and maintain partnerships to realize the potential of the national scenic trail legislation.

**Park/ Superintendent/ Program Manager**

Donald E. Briggs, Superintendent (Trail Administrator)

Site: POHE

STEWARDSHIP

Provide inspiring, safe, and accessible places for people to enjoy - the standard to which all other park systems aspire.

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

By mid-2008, designation of routes as segments of the Potomac Heritage Trail in the State of Maryland will likely reflect a continuous route for travel by bicycle between Point Lookout State Park and Oxon Hill, as well as connections to public landings, foot trails, towns and historic sites. To assure a continuity of experience in the corridor, we will establish a partnership with the Southern Maryland Resource and Conservation Development Board and other stakeholders in an assessment of facilities, revision of an interpretive plan and a formal partnership.

Estimated completion: 2010

Resources: NPS staff time; local, regional and state in-kind; Operation of the National Park System (ONPS) and Challenge Cost-Share Program (CCSP) funds; Recreational Trails Program; Enhancements; Surface Transportation; Land and Water Conservation Fund; private contributions; historic preservation grants; arts grants; etc.

Partners:

- ¿ The Accokeek Foundation
- ¿ Southern Maryland Resource Conservation and Development Board, Inc.
- ¿ Maryland Division of Business Development
- ¿ Maryland Dept. of Natural Resources
- ¿ Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission
- ¿ National Capital Parks-East

The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

Site: POHE

**ENVIRONMENT**

Engage partners, communities, and visitors in shared environmental stewardship.

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Beginning in FY08, we will draft the "foundation" for a comprehensive management plan (CMP), through consultation with local, state and federal agency partners and non-profit organizations, to provide guidance in managing a complex set of partnerships. With funds to complete a CMP, we will define specific investments in the Trail network among Trail partners.  
Planned completion: December 2008; 2012  
Resources: National Park Service (NPS) staff time; in-kind donations of time and expertise.  
Partners:  
; National Park System units in the Trail corridor  
; state resource management agencies  
; other local, regional, state and federal Trail segment managers and planners  
; volunteer-based organizations

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Site: POHE

RECREATION

Encourage collaboration among and assist park and recreation systems at every level—federal, regional, state, local—to help build an outdoor recreation network accessible to all Americans.

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

By the end of 2007, designation of routes as segments of the Potomac Heritage Trail in the Commonwealth of Virginia will reflect a network that is approximately 65 percent complete. Based on a development and management plan and companion Trail corridor assessment completed in 2006, we will modify a cooperative agreement with the Northern Virginia Regional Commission to revise the assessment, identify priorities and funding sources, and assist local jurisdictions with applications to complete gaps in the Trail network within the Commonwealth.

Estimated completion: 2016

Resources: NPS staff time; local, regional and state in-kind; ONPS and CCSP funds; Recreational Trails Program; Enhancements; Surface Transportation; Land and Water Conservation Fund; private contributions; historic preservation grants; arts grants; etc.

Partners:

¿ Virginia Dept. of Conservation and Recreation (Division of Planning, Division of Parks, etc.)

¿ George Washington Memorial Parkway, Prince William Forest Park, Chatham Manor, George Washington Birthplace National Monument (including the Mount Vernon Trail, 10-mile Potomac Heritage Trail, and routes in Prince William Forest Park and in Great Falls Par

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Site: POHE

**EDUCATION**

Cooperate with educators to provide curriculum materials, high-quality programs, and park-based and online learning.

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Building on exponential investments in the physical Trail network and in coordination, the Trail partnership will establish a continuous network of world-class, locally-managed outdoor recreational experiences, complemented by landscape level interpretation tracing the development and continuing evolution of the United States ("Team PHT Marketing Concept," June 2007). Elements of the partnership will include a marketing alliance, initiated at a workshop in February 2007, a coordinated set of conservation actions, a common portal Web site, technical guidance for marketing partners, increased graphic identity, and an annual series of events.

Estimated completion: 2012

Resources: If appropriated, an additional \$1,000 in proposed funding for Trail operations as part of the Centennial Challenge in fiscal year 2008 will be matched and used for an interpretive product. Other resources: NPS staff time, ONPS, tourism co-op funds, volunteer and agency staff in-kind.

Partners:

- ; tourism officials
- ; community and economic development officials
- ; Trail segment managers
- ; interpretive planners
- ; media representatives
- ; chambers of commerce

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**PROFESSIONALISM**

Use strategic planning to promote management excellence.

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

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