



Fiscal Year 2012 Activities: 1 October 2011–30 September 2012

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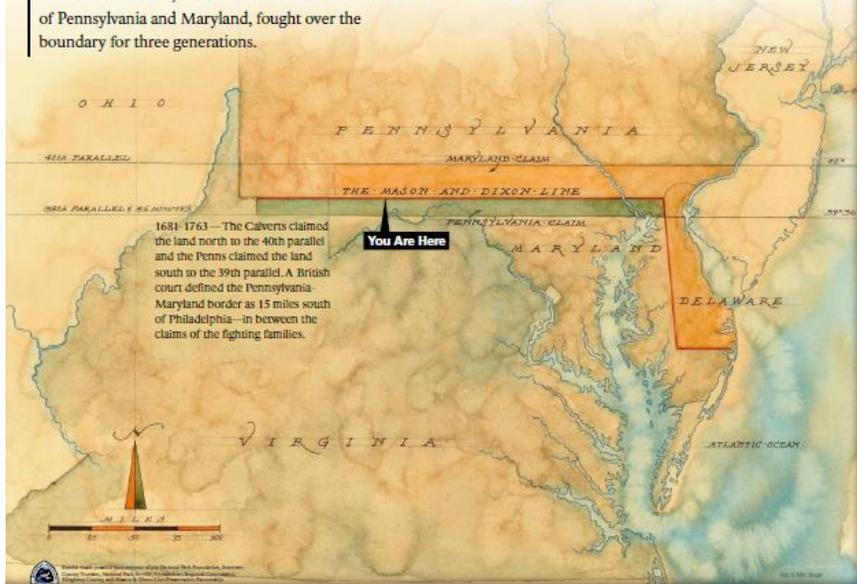


Disputed land

The Mason and Dixon Line

You are standing on America's most famous boundary. Known today as the cultural dividing line between the North and the South, the line began as a dispute between two British colonial families. The Penn and the Calvert families, landowners in the British colonies of Pennsylvania and Maryland, fought over the boundary for three generations.

Two Englishmen, astronomer Charles Mason and surveyor Jeremiah Dixon, ended the dispute when they created the official boundary that now bears their name. Less than a decade later the Penns and Calverts lost their lands in the American Revolution.



Notable Projects and Activities

- Initiated in 2011 with a grant from the National Park Foundation, the Allegheny Trail Alliance and Trail Office staff completed production of a wayside exhibit interpreting the significance of the Mason and Dixon Line—a significant site along the Great Allegheny Passage and the Trail network. Now a partnership among five agencies and organizations, completion of other interpretive elements provides a popular photo opportunity.
- Executed an agreement with Harpers Ferry NHP for shared-position, enlisting Elizabeth Kerwin-Nisbet, Interpretive Media Specialist, to address Trail network-related media projects (such as the M & D Line exhibit)

- Obligated funds to the Eastern Lands Federal Highway Division in support of a major trailhead “gateway” to Mason Neck, the Potomac Heritage and Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary trails, Meadowood SRMA, Pohick Regional Park, Gunston Hall, Mason Neck NWR and Mason Neck State Park
- Authorized the use of funds for reconstruction of an historic walkway and kayak/canoe landing area at George Washington Birthplace National Monument
- Expanded content on the NPS Trail web page, including pages on paddling experience, developed with assistance from the River Management Society and Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin
- completed draft brochure and map for the Trail corridor between Mount Vernon Estate and Gardens and Locust Shade Park



Some Projects Lead by Trail Network Partners

- A large community of Laurel Highlands Hiking Trail advocates celebrated completion of a [new bridge over the Pennsylvania Turnpike](#), completed in only 14 months.
- The [Trail Town Outreach Corps](#) continued to expand along the Great Allegheny Passage and in Pennsylvania.



- Along the C & O Canal Towpath, the Canal Quarters Program, managed by the C & O Canal Trust, expanded exponentially, and the National Park Service completed Towpath repair at Big Slackwater, eliminating a detour and restoring a continuous 184.5 experience.
 - With extensive volunteer contributions, the Trail network in Prince William County continued to expand with completion of trails along Powell's Creek.
- The second phase of content was added to [Potomac Heritage Explorer](#), including itineraries to commemorate the Civil War in the middle Potomac corridor.

Some Numbers

- 836 miles of trails and routes designated as segments of the Trail network (769 miles completed, 77 miles planned/gaps)
- Trail segments embrace portions of five physiographic provinces within 37 local government jurisdictions in four states, bridging two major watersheds over the Eastern Continental Divide.
- 431 miles of potential segments and extensive opportunities for water trail designations and experiences
- connections 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

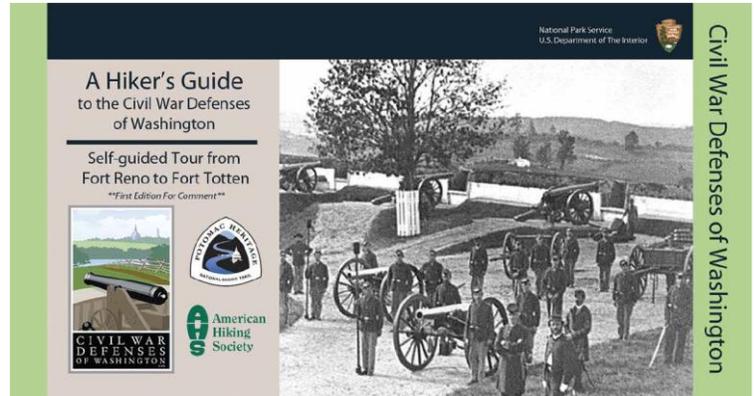
More Trail Office Activities

❖ Coordination & Communications:

- distributed annual & mid-year reports
 - organized and hosted Trail "roundtable"
 - serviced 90+ general and specific inquiries
 - expanded content of NPS Trail Web site
 - co-planned, with NVRC staff, a 2012 stakeholders meeting
 - edited story for American Hiking Society magazine on the Civil War Defenses of Washington
 - consulted with a student at Univ. of Virginia on a state park planning project
 - edited summary by the Partnership for the National Trails System on non-federal contributions to Trail network development and communications
 - participated in NPS Chesapeake large landscape conservation workshop
 - planned a discussion among NPS National Capital Region staff on trails planning and coordination
 - consulted with various NPS area managers on Trail-related interpretation, route marking and graphic identity
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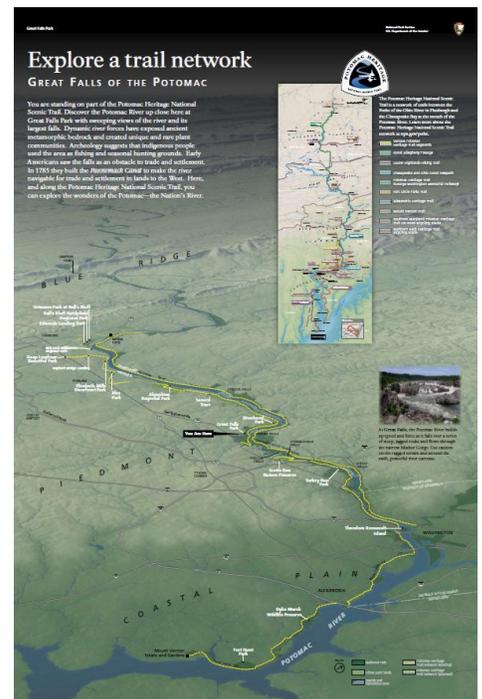
❖ Trail Projects

- submitted comments on VDOT six-year plan, encouraging recognition for the Trail and other long-distance trails
- participated in review of RFPs for a boardwalk over Neabsco Creek in Prince William County, VA
- consulted on route marking, media and graphic identity with various interests in Prince William County, VA
- drafted set of tasks to research, develop, promote and maintain public information on the Potomac River Water Trail in partnership with the ICPRB, state agencies and others
- submitted letter for Port Tobacco vision session
- provided comments on draft FHWA project Route 1 widening alternatives
- provided comments on draft Byron Bridge design alternatives
- reviewed sign plan for PHT On-Road Bicycling Route in Prince Georges County, MD
- commented on revised plan for Riverbend Park
- drafted trail and interpretive plan for a kayaking tour Westmoreland State Park-George Washington Birthplace National Monument
- drafted scope of work to use Trail operations funds to assist with construction of an interpretive kiosk as a gateway to trails and related resources on Mason Neck, Fairfax County, VA
- reviewed and commented on Civil War Defenses of Washington “Designing the Parks” submission
- reviewed and commented on draft bicycling & pedestrian plan for George Washington Regional Commission service area



❖ Interpretive Projects

- produced interpretive panel for installation at Edward's Landing Park, Leesburg, VA
- designed custom trailhead exhibit for installation at Great Falls Park, VA
- edited contractor drafts of trailhead exhibits for installation along the C & O Canal Towpath
- reviewed ranged of existing and potential media
- revised, reprinted and began distribution of Trail unigrid brochure
- completed design and production of wayside exhibit on the Mason & Dixon Line for installation along the Great Allegheny Passage
- edited Trail network Passport Stamp list for Eastern National Web page & provided replacement stamps to Stratford Hall Plantation and Reedville Fishermen's Museum
- published Web page on National Natural Landmarks within the Trail corridor
- requested assistance from Harpers Ferry Center with route marking and graphic identity
- reviewed and drafted content for *Potomac Heritage Explorer*
- solicited comments from various stakeholders and drafted map and content for a brochure of the Trail network between s. terminus of the Mount Vernon Trail and Locust Shade Park (Fairfax & Prince William counties, VA)
- revised Trail Web pages, including new content, developed with assistance from River Management Society, on paddling experiences
- completed design of and production files for Mason and Dixon Line interpretive panel along GAP, a project initiated with a grant from the National Park Foundation
- redesigned and re-printed PGC PHT On-Road Bicycling Route brochure
- reviewed opportunity for coordinated interpretive plan for Religious Freedom Scenic Byway and Southern Maryland Potomac Heritage On-Road Bicycle Route



❖ Administration

- annual performance review
- completed final edits to Federal Register Notices and briefings for:
 - Trail Foundation document; and
 - legislative package (to remove prohibition to designate segments of the Trail West Virginia)
- listed Trail Office activities in response to the NPS A Call to Action
- requested funds to:
 - complete a way-finding, route marking and graphic identity plan and manual install permanent mile-markers along the Great Allegheny Passage
 - conduct a special resource study of recognized cultural landscapes and establish priorities for conservation, interpretation and inventories
- consulted with DOI Solicitor on means to recognize trails as segments and MOU content
- nominated National Capital Region staff for a NPS IT award
- reviewed and submitted comments on Star-Spangled Banner NHT draft plan
- developed alternative budgets for out years

- **actions related to existing task agreements:**
 - approved invoices and deliverables from Northern Virginia Regional Commission
 - approved invoice from Student Conservation Association
 - approved revised schedule and edited and approved mid-project status report from C & O Canal Trust
 - approved final report on American Hiking Society-NPS Civil War Defenses of Washington Trail project

- **new agreements:**
 - executed task agreement with Penn. DCNR for new cross-country skiing brochure
 - executed task agreement with Univ. Md. College Park for GIS services
 - executed task agreement with Md. DNR to assess hiking route on state lands in southern Md.
 - executed task agreement with the Student Conservation Association for a shared, part-time internship
 - executed task agreement with Regional Trail Corporation to complete Mason & Dixon interpretive installation
 - executed Inter-Agency Agreement between NPS and FHWA Eastern Federal Lands Highways Division for a trailhead kiosk at the gateway to Mason Neck
 - executed task agreement with the International Institute for Tourism Studies, George Washington University, for assistance with heritage tourism planning and Trail network promotion
 - executed task agreement with Student Conservation Association for a part-time intern
 - drafted MOU to re-assert recognition for Laurel Highlands Hiking Trail
 - drafted MOU to recognize Mason Neck Heritage Trail
 - drafted MOU to recognize Eastern Continental Divide Loop Trail
 - revised draft MOU among Vir. Dept. of Conservation and Recreation, Vir. DOT, Vir. Tourism Corporation, Virginia Dept. of Historical Resources & NPS

- **compliance actions:**
 - edited scope of work to determine appropriate level of compliance on CWDW Trail
 - commented to VDHR on White's Ford Regional Park, endorsing a low-impact plan
 - Provided EPA with Trail information as part of remedial investigation of Hidden Lane landfill Superfund Site
 - provided comments to ELFHD, FHWA, on Route 1 widening programmatic agreement as part of the NTHP 106 consultations
 - participated in NPS PATH discussions
 - provided comments to NCR/DOI on U.S. Army Garrison Fort Belvoir

- **miscellaneous:**
 - various reports (i.e., annual activities; diversity; financial disclosure; Servicewide Interpretive; National Trails System MOU data; cultural resource project needs; Report on Actions to Assist HSIs, AANAPISIs, and ANNHSIs; etc.)
 - Wildlife Firefighter Certification
 - Agreements Technical Representative Certification
 - mandatory training



FISCAL YEAR 2012 BUDGET

\$396,813	Total available funds
\$207,669	fixed costs (personnel, office, travel, etc.)
\$183,947	projects & project support
\$ 5,197	printing, materials, supplies, etc.
49%	ratio of NPS personnel costs/total available funding

SOME DATES to REMEMBER in 2013

February	“Hike the Hill,” Partnership for the National Trails System & American Hiking Society
1 June	National Trails Day
14-17 April	American Trails International Trails Symposium, Scottsdale, AZ

MORE INFORMATION

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4 October 2012
