



Foundation Document

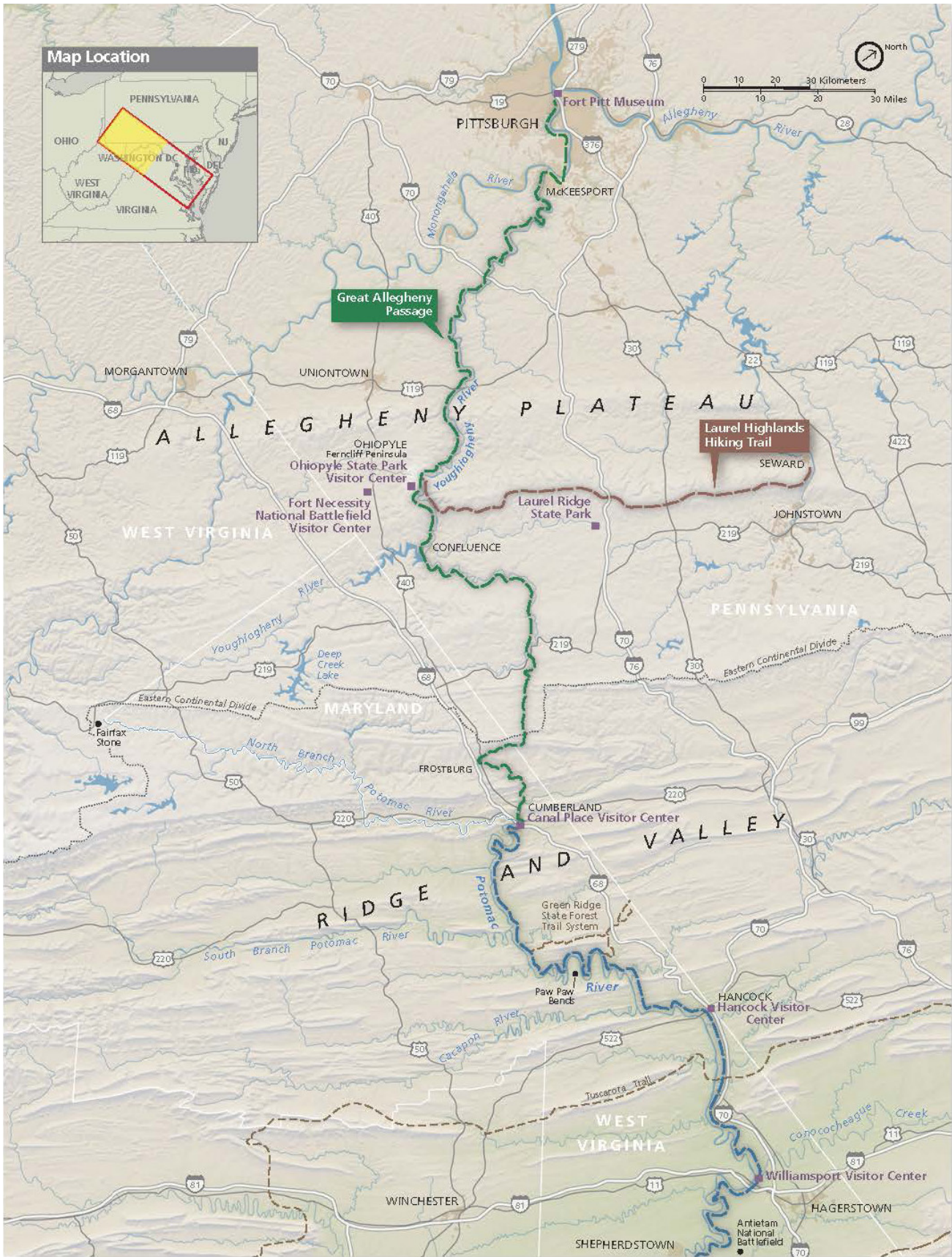
Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail

District of Columbia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, and Virginia

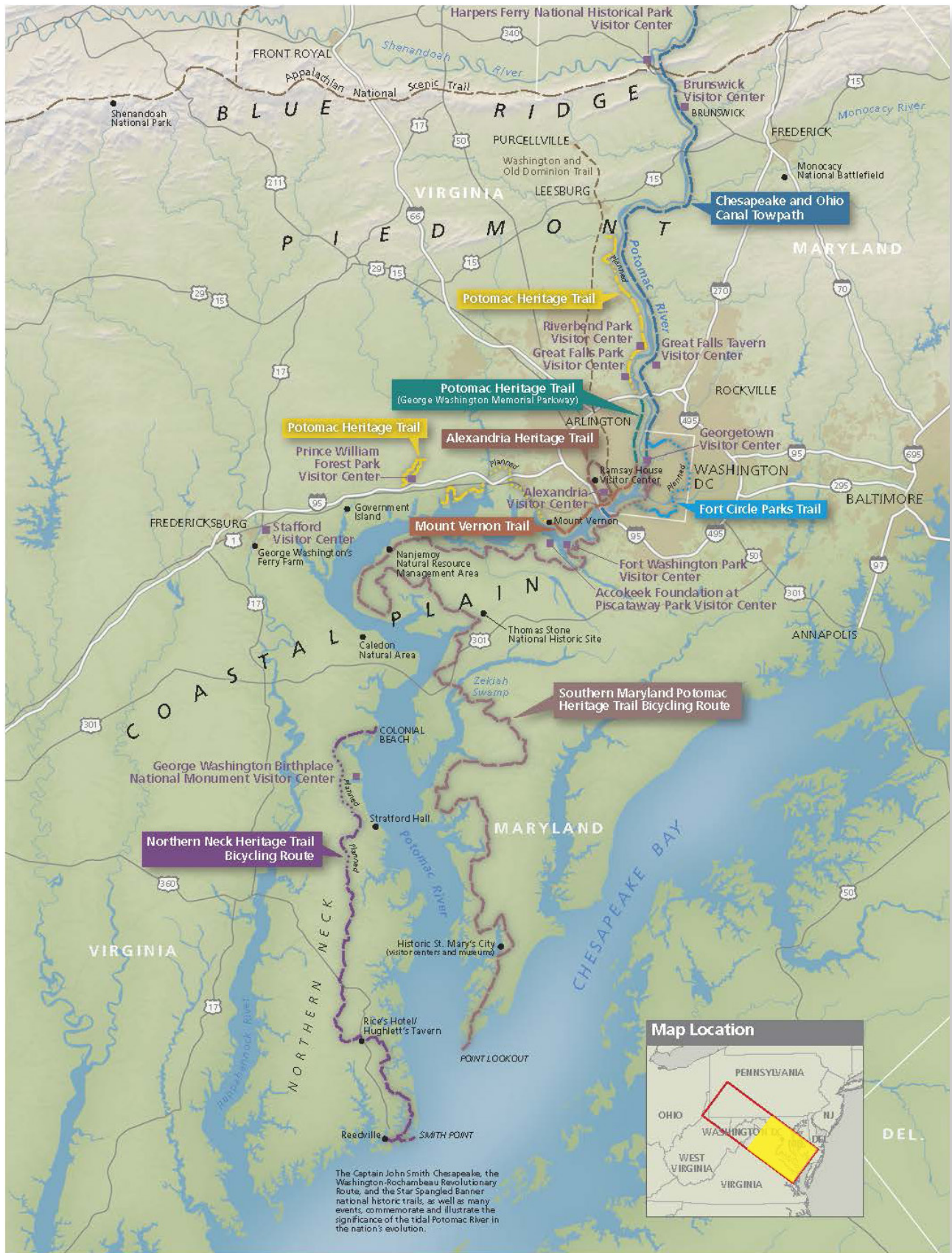
October 2014

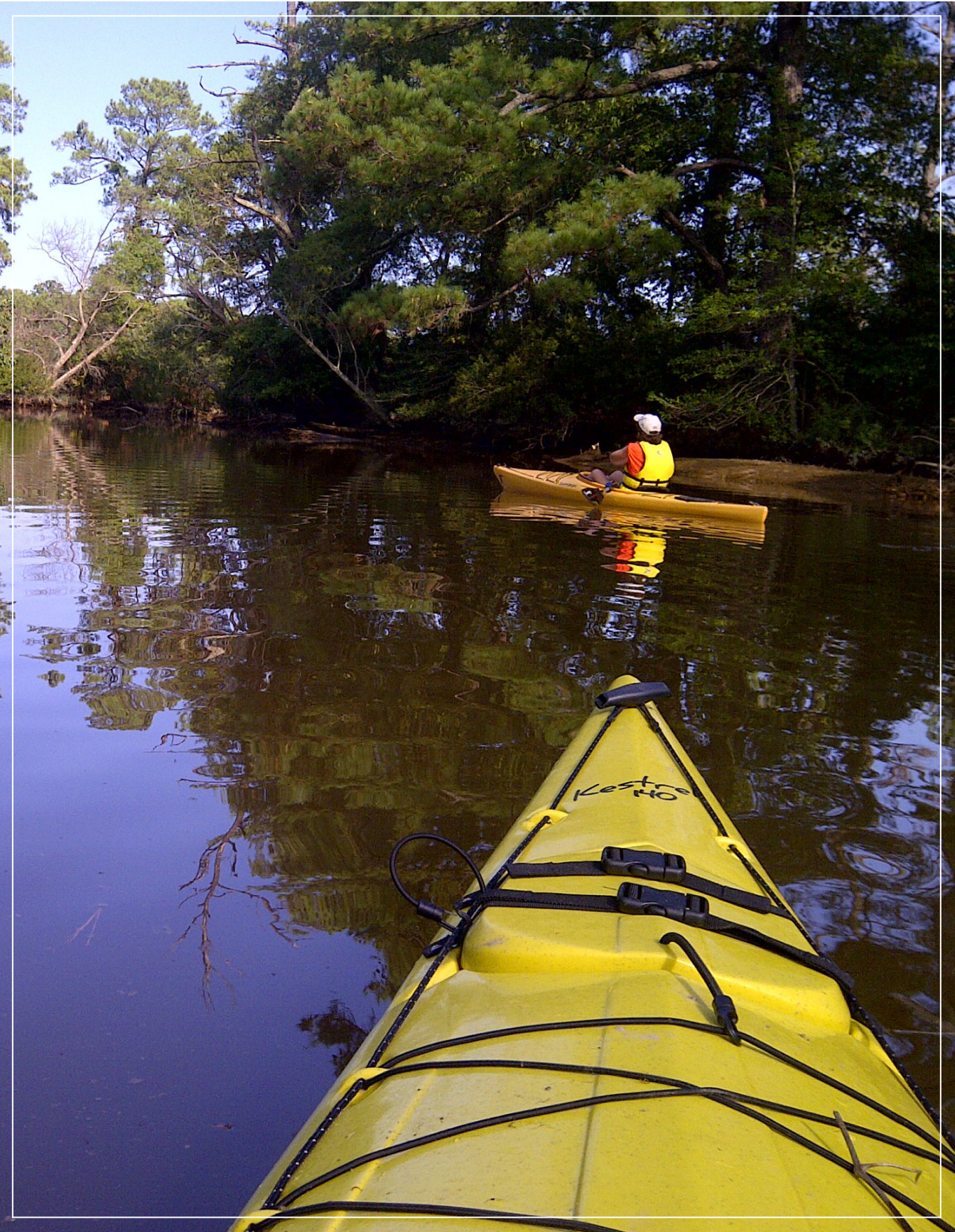


Northwest Section



Southeast Section





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Mission of the National Park Service

The National Park Service (NPS) preserves unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the national park system for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations. The National Park Service cooperates with partners to extend the benefits of natural and cultural resource conservation and outdoor recreation throughout this country and the world.

The NPS core values are a framework in which the National Park Service accomplishes its mission. They express the manner in which, both individually and collectively, the National Park Service pursues its mission. The NPS core values are:

- **Shared stewardship:** We share a commitment to resource stewardship with the global preservation community.
- **Excellence:** We strive continually to learn and improve so that we may achieve the highest ideals of public service.
- **Integrity:** We deal honestly and fairly with the public and one another.
- **Tradition:** We are proud of it; we learn from it; we are not bound by it.
- **Respect:** We embrace each other's differences so that we may enrich the well-being of everyone.

The National Park Service is a bureau within the Department of the Interior. While numerous national park system units were created prior to 1916, it was not until August 25, 1916, that President Woodrow Wilson signed the National Park Service Organic Act formally establishing the National Park Service.

The national park system continues to grow and comprises 401 park units covering more than 84 million acres in every state, the District of Columbia, American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. These units include, but are not limited to, national parks, monuments, battlefields, military parks, historical parks, historic sites, lakeshores, seashores, recreation areas, scenic rivers and trails, and the White House. The variety and diversity of park units throughout the nation require a strong commitment to resource stewardship and management in order to ensure both the protection and enjoyment of these resources for future generations.



The arrowhead was authorized as the official National Park Service emblem by the Secretary of the Interior on July 20, 1951. The sequoia tree and bison represent vegetation and wildlife, the mountains and water represent scenic and recreational values, and the arrowhead represents historical and archeological values.

Introduction

The Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail (the Trail) is a unit of the national park system and one of 30 national scenic and historic trails in the National Trails System. Every unit of the national park system will have a foundational document to provide basic guidance for planning and management decisions—a foundation for planning and management. The core components of a foundation document include a brief description of the Trail as well as the Trail’s purpose, significance, fundamental resources and values, and interpretive themes. The foundation document also includes special mandates and administrative commitments, an assessment of planning and data needs that identifies planning issues, planning products to be developed, and the associated studies and data required for trail planning. Along with the core components, the assessment provides a focus for planning activities and establishes a baseline from which planning documents are developed.

A primary benefit of developing a foundation document is the opportunity to integrate and coordinate all kinds and levels of planning from a single, shared understanding of what is most important about the Trail. The process of developing a foundation document begins with gathering and integrating information about the Trail. Next, this information is refined and focused to determine what the most important attributes of the Trail are. The process of preparing a foundation document aids trail managers, staff, and the public in identifying and clearly stating in one document the essential information that is necessary for NPS staff and others to consider when determining future planning efforts, outlining key planning issues, and protecting resources and values that are integral to Trail purpose and identity.

While not included in this document, a Trail atlas is also part of a foundation project. The atlas is a series of maps compiled from available geographic information system (GIS) data on natural and cultural resources, visitor use patterns, facilities, and other topics. It serves as a GIS-based support tool for planning and operations. The atlas is published as a (hard copy) paper product and as geospatial data for use in a web mapping environment. The Trail atlas for Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail can be accessed online at: <http://insideparkatlas.nps.gov/>.



Part 1: Core Components

The core components of a foundation document include a brief description of the Trail, purpose and significance statements, fundamental resources and values, and interpretive themes. These components are core because they typically do not change over time. Core components are expected to be used in future planning and management efforts.

Brief Description of the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail

The Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail (identified as “the Trail” in this foundation document) is a developing network of locally managed trails between the mouth of the Potomac River and the Allegheny Highlands, and is one of 30 congressionally designated scenic and historic trails in the national trails system. The designated Trail corridor embraces portions of five physiographic provinces and four states, the nation’s capital, and 20 other units of the national park system. The Trail intersects with other national trails,¹ which provides opportunities for cooperative trails development, resource conservation, partnerships, visitor services, interpretation, and sustainability. Trails within the network offer a means to explore the origins and continuing evolution of the nation. As a whole, the national scenic trail designation is being used locally and regionally as a catalyst to provide economic and health benefits, expanded nonmotorized transportation options, improved educational and interpretive experiences, and connections among communities, historic sites, wildlife areas, and parks.

The concept for the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail combines outdoor recreation with educational opportunities in a “braided” network of locally managed trails. Legislation for the Trail—a 1983 amendment to the National Trails System Act—authorizes the designation of trail “segments” outside the boundaries of federally managed lands through formal agreements; the legislation precludes designation of trail segments in West Virginia. The National Park Service has delegated responsibility for administration of the federal interest in the Trail, provides coordination among agency and organization partners, and assists with some technical and financial support for Trail-related projects. Partnerships permeate all aspects of Trail-related planning, management, interpretation, and promotion.

As the population along the Trail corridor increases and land uses change, the trail designation provides an institutional frame work—among volunteers, government agencies at all levels, nonprofit organizations, and business interests—for conservation and development of outstanding outdoor recreational experiences. In addition to resource conservation, outdoor recreation opportunities are increasingly recognized as an important component of local, regional, and state economies. From diverse regional perspectives, residents and visitors can explore a variety of historic and natural landscapes within the Trail corridor. Sites and features include working farms and orchards, canal systems, vineyards, historic home sites, museums, tidewater marshes, stream valleys, forested ridges, wildlife refuges, battlefields, and cemeteries. The concept of a “braided” trail network, with multiple trails intersecting and diverging at various points, provides the opportunity to promote different kinds of nonmotorized experiences including hiking, bicycling, horseback riding, paddling, and cross-country skiing.

¹ The trail intersects with the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail, Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail, Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route National Historic Trail, and Appalachian National Scenic Trail.

Purpose of the Trail Corridor Designation

The purpose statement identifies the specific reason for establishment of a particular park unit. The purpose statement for Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail was drafted through a careful analysis of its enabling legislation and the legislative history that influenced its development. In 1983, Congress passed an amendment to the National Trails System Act of 1968 designating the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail as a component of the national trail system (see appendix A for enabling legislation). The purpose statement lays the foundation for understanding what is most important about the National Scenic Trail.

The Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail designation provides a means to establish an inter-connected trail network between the mouth of the Potomac River and the Allegheny Highlands and offers—through partnerships with and among agencies and citizen groups—exceptional hiking and other nonmotorized recreational and educational experiences rich with geographic, ecological, historical, and social diversity.





Trail Significance

Significance statements express why resources and values are important enough to merit designation as a component of the national trails system and/or a unit of the national park system. These statements are linked to the purpose of the trail or unit and are supported by data, research, and consensus. Statements of significance describe the distinctive nature of the trail or unit and why the area is important within a global, national, regional, and systemwide context. They focus on the most important resources and values that will assist in park planning and management.

The following statements have been developed to describe the significance of the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail. With the Potomac River as the namesake and a primary resource, the Trail corridor and evolving network are significant in a national context. (Please note that the sequence of the statements does not reflect the level of significance):

1. The corridor designated for the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail expresses George Washington’s vision of a “great avenue into the Western Country.” The first president’s association with the Potomac River strengthened his life-long goal of “the practicability of an easy and short communication between the Waters of the Ohio and Potomac.”
2. Increased environmental awareness in the second half of the 20th century has led to cleaner rivers and streams in the Trail corridor, with the Potomac River recognized nationally as a model of successful restoration and an ongoing challenge for sustained ecological health.
3. The great national conflict of the Civil War is reflected in microcosm within the Trail corridor, with the Potomac River often acting as a boundary between North and South.
4. The Trail provides outstanding opportunities for people to explore the connections and contrasts between and among diverse landscapes and the history and communities in five physiographic provinces.

Fundamental Resources and Values

Fundamental resources and values (FRVs) are those features, systems, processes, experiences, stories, scenes, sounds, smells, or other attributes determined to warrant primary consideration during planning and management processes because they are essential to achieving the purpose of the park unit and maintaining its significance. Fundamental resources and values are closely related to legislative purpose and are more specific than significance statements. Fundamental resources and values help focus planning and management efforts on what is truly significant about the Trail.

The following fundamental resources and values have been identified for Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail:

The Ecological Value of the Potomac and Youghiogheny River Corridors. The Trail corridor embraces a variety of important natural resources. Specifically, the corridor spans two major watersheds—the Potomac (the second-largest tributary to the Chesapeake Bay) and the Youghiogheny in the Upper Ohio River basin—and also includes portions of five physiographic provinces: Coastal Plain, Piedmont, Blue Ridge, Valley and Ridge, and Appalachian Plateaus. Three national wildlife refuges and a network of other wildlife management areas are also included in the corridor.

A Trek through America’s Heritage. Important historic sites, cultural and natural resources, and other attractions are within the Trail corridor that offer residents and visitors opportunities for outstanding educational and recreational experiences. Prominent features include the birthplaces of George Washington and Robert E. Lee, Westmoreland Cliffs, the National Colonial Farm, the City of Alexandria Historic District, Civil War battlefields and fortifications, national natural and historic landmarks, 20 units of the national park system, historic canal and tunnel systems, the Great Falls of the Potomac, the confluence of the Shenandoah and Potomac Rivers at Harpers Ferry, the Great Allegheny Passage rail-trail, and the Laurel Highlands Hiking Trail following Laurel Ridge. Together, the experience of these resources reflect stories related to the founding and continuing evolution of the nation, as well as the tension in American society between conservation and exploitation.



Outstanding Recreation Opportunities. The Trail provides opportunities for nonmotorized recreation in diverse settings ranging from a paved river trail through dense urban and suburban landscapes to a secluded footpath winding through forested lowlands and rocky hills. These recreation opportunities encourage people to explore nature, connect with history, find adventure, exercise, relax, and recharge.

Community and Agency Partnerships. Continued development of the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail depends on productive and mutually beneficial partnerships among a variety of parties including municipal, county, regional, state and federal agencies; community groups; nonprofit organizations; volunteers; and business interests. Collectively, the whole of investments in the trail concept is greater than the sum of its individual parts.

Interpretive Themes

Interpretive themes are often described as the key stories or concepts that visitors should understand after visiting a scenic trail—they define the most important ideas or concepts communicated to visitors about a scenic trail. Themes are derived from, and should reflect, purpose, significance, resources, and values. The set of interpretive themes is complete when it provides the structure necessary for NPS staff and partners to develop opportunities for residents and visitors to explore and relate to all significance statements and fundamental resources and values.

Interpretive themes are an organizational tool that reveal and clarify meaning, concepts, contexts, and values represented by trail resources. Sound themes are accurate and reflect current scholarship and science. They encourage exploration of the context in which events or natural processes occurred and the effects of those events and processes. Interpretive themes go beyond a mere description of the event or process to foster multiple opportunities to experience and consider the Trail and its resources. These themes help explain why a story is relevant to people who may otherwise be unaware of connections they have to an event, time, or place associated with the Trail.

The following interpretive themes have been developed for use throughout the Trail network:

Meeting Ground of Ideas. The Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail relies on a network of mutually beneficial partnerships to develop and sustain a system of trails and associated resources for recreation, transportation, health, and education between the Chesapeake Bay and the Allegheny Highlands. Among its users and stakeholders, the Trail serves as a national 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.

Natural History and Human Ecology. Between the Chesapeake Bay and the Allegheny Highlands, the Trail corridor includes portions of five distinct physiographic regions. Each region, in different ways, has inspired and shaped hundreds of human generations with beauty, abundance, and utility.

Nation-Building / Nurturing a Nation. Routes connecting the Potomac River with the Forks of the Ohio River provided an essential context for the development of the US republic, and now connect Trail visitors and users with the places and stories related to the founding and continuing evolution of the nation.

Boundary, Corridor, and Crossroads. As a boundary between north and south and an east to west route into the North American interior, the Potomac River has been a crossroads of opportunity, diversity, and conflict.



Part 2: Dynamic Components

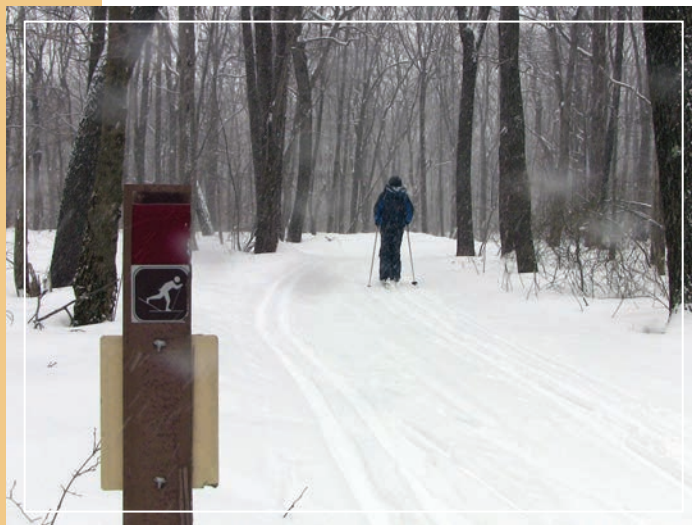
The dynamic components of a foundation document include special mandates and administrative commitments and an assessment of planning and data needs. These components are dynamic because they will change over time. New special mandates can be established and new administrative commitments made. As conditions and trends of fundamental resources and values change over time, the analysis of planning and data needs will need to be revisited and revised, along with key issues.

Special Mandates and Administrative Commitments

Some decisions related to the Trail are directed or influenced by special mandates and administrative commitments with other federal agencies, state and local governments, utility companies, partnering organizations, and other entities. Special mandates are requirements specific to a unit that must be fulfilled. Mandates can be expressed in enabling legislation, in separate legislation following the establishment of the Trail, or through a judicial process. They may expand on purpose or introduce elements unrelated to the purpose of the Trail. Administrative commitments are, in general, agreements that have been reached through formal, documented processes, often through memorandums of agreement. Examples include easements, rights-of-way, arrangements for emergency service responses, etc. Special mandates and administrative commitments can support, in many cases, a network of partnerships that help fulfill the objectives of the Trail and facilitate working relationships with other organizations. The following are components comprising Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail administration.

Special Mandates

- For all trails authorized under the National Trails System Act, the legislation directs that “A uniform marker system shall be established, with a distinctive and appropriate marker for each national trail. These markers shall be provided by the appropriate secretary to non-Federal landowners who shall erect and maintain them to set standards.”
- Specific to administration of the federal interest in the Trail, the 1986 Omnibus Appropriations Act (Public Law 99-500) directed the Secretary of the Interior to recognize the Laurel Highlands Hiking Trail as a segment of the Trail network.



Administrative Commitments

For information about current administrative commitments for Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail, please see appendix B.



Assessment of Planning and Data Needs

Once the core components of part 1 of the foundation document have been identified, it is important to gather and evaluate existing information about the Trail's fundamental resources and values, and develop a full assessment of the Trail's planning and data needs. The assessment of planning and data needs section presents planning issues, the planning projects that will address these issues, and the associated information requirements for planning, such as resource inventories and data collection, including GIS data.

There are three sections in the assessment of planning and data needs:

1. analysis of fundamental resources and values
2. identification of key issues and associated planning and data needs
3. identification of planning and data needs (including spatial mapping activities and/or GIS-based maps)

The analysis of fundamental resources and values and identification of key issues leads up to and supports the identification of planning and data collection needs.

Analysis of Fundamental Resources and Values

The fundamental resource or value analysis table includes current conditions and trends, threats and opportunities, planning and data needs, and laws and NPS policies related to administration of the federal interest in the Trail network. (Note: With the exception of existing NPS units in the Trail corridor, NPS staff does not manage lands included in the Trail network.)

Fundamental Resource or Value	The Ecological Value of the Potomac and Youghiogheny River Corridors
Related Significance Statements	<p>Increased environmental awareness in the second half of the 20th century has led to cleaner rivers and streams in the Trail corridor, with the Potomac River recognized nationally as a model of successful restoration and an ongoing challenge for sustained ecological health.</p>
Current Conditions and Trends	<p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The waters of the Potomac and adjacent C&O Canal (and many of the tributaries of these waters) continue to be listed as impaired in 2012 under the Clean Water Act by the states and District of Columbia for a variety of pollutants including PCBs in fish tissue, nutrients, pH, bacteria, suspended solids, and other contaminants. • Total maximum daily loads have been completed for certain impairments but the waters still do not meet water quality standards. (For more information, consult http://www.nature.nps.gov/water/his/ for a specific park [other than Potomac Heritage] along the Potomac River. For more information visit http://nature.nps.gov/water/his/). • Five physiographic provinces are traversed by the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail (the Coastal Plain, Piedmont, Blue Ridge, Valley and Ridge, and Appalachian Plateaus). Each physiographic province is distinguished by its particular geology, topography, and climate that represent different episodes in the geologic history of eastern North America. • The Trail corridor embraces terrain that contains carbonate-rich rocks ranging from the Paleozoic to the Cambrian geologic eras. Karst springs, caves, and sinkholes are also found within the corridor. • Springs and caves within the Trail corridor contain rare and sensitive endemic invertebrate species. Numerous bat species are known in the area along the Trail corridor and white-nose syndrome has been found in bats from mines and caves near the Trail. • A formal paleontological resource inventory has not been undertaken for the Trail and there is presently limited paleontological locality data known for the corridor. • An important Pleistocene fossil locality known as Cumberland Bone Cave is directly along the Trail. • For karst springs within Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park there is an ongoing study to determine recharge zones outside the park unit that will help pinpoint potential contamination sites and protect sensitive endemic species and water quality. • Although night sky quality along the Trail corridor is degraded due to the proximity of multiple population centers, the conditions along some Trail segments are better than other surrounding areas. These darker areas provide habitat for nocturnal animals and offer after-dark recreation opportunities such as camping and star gazing. • Although acoustic conditions in the Trail corridor are degraded due to the proximity of multiple population centers, the conditions along some Trail segments are better than other surrounding areas. These more natural acoustic conditions benefit the acoustic environment, wildlife communications, and visitor experience. • An ongoing project is underway by the NCR History Program to document the Potomac River Gorge through a Historic Resource Study / Environmental History. <p>Trends</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The population of the Washington, D.C., metro area continues to grow and urban development continues to expand outward toward rural areas.

Fundamental Resource or Value	The Ecological Value of the Potomac and Youghiogheny River Corridors
Threats and Opportunities	<p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encroaching urban development continues to be a major influence on sensitive resources along the Trail corridor and within NPS units in the Trail corridor. • Water sources continue to have the potential for contamination from urban and agricultural runoff. • The interconnectivity of the karst aquifers means that during high-flow conditions contamination can cross groundwater boundaries into adjacent water basins. • Climate change (increase in average annual temperature, extreme precipitation events, heat waves, and sea level rise) and the associated influences to water resources and ecological systems. • Night sky quality and the acoustic environment are threatened by urban development. <p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A connected system of trails and greenways can enhance ecological functions and biodiversity by providing migratory routes for wildlife. It can also enhance the water quality function of riparian areas by protecting stream valley forests and wetlands. • The National Park Service could partner with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources to monitor and interpret the Cumberland Bone Cave locality along the Great Allegheny Passage. An interpretive panel is now on-site. • Opportunity exists to improve lighting and acoustic conditions through education and outreach, improvements to park facilities and operations, and cooperating with neighboring landowners. • Land conservation easements or other protective measures could be sought to mitigate or buffer encroaching urban development.
Existing Data and Plans Related to the FRV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “A Development and Management Plan for the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail in Virginia” (2006). • “Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail Centennial Implementation Plan” (2008). • Statewide comprehensive outdoor recreation plans for Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, and the District of Columbia. • “Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail Interpretive Concept Plan” (2004). • Also see: http://www.nps.gov/pohe/parkmgmt/planning.htm. • Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail Comprehensive Management Plan. • Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail Comprehensive Management Plan. • Chesapeake Bay Watershed Public Access Plan.
Data and/or GIS Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add protected lands layer to GIS. • Compare and integrate GIS centerline data to local, regional, state, federal, and nongovernmental organization data. • Trail user assessment (to gain insight into visitor/Trail user demographics, experience, and expectations). • Climate change vulnerability assessment for select resources. • Web and social media assessment. • Conduct inventory and annotated outline of “Junior Ranger” programs with the Trail corridor.

Fundamental Resource or Value	The Ecological Value of the Potomac and Youghiogheny River Corridors
Planning Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trail stewardship plan. • Partnership and communication strategy • Interpretive concept plan
Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV, and NPS Policy-level Guidance	<p>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Federal Cave Resources Protection Act of 1988 • Paleontological Resources Preservation Act of 2009 • Clean Water Act, 1972 • National Environmental Policy Act, 1969 <p>NPS Policy-level Guidance (NPS Management Policies 2006 and Director’s Orders)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (4.8.2) • Secretarial Order 3289, “Addressing the Impacts of Climate Change on America’s Water, Land, and Other Natural and Cultural Resources,” section 3a, “Climate Change Response Planning Requirements”

Fundamental Resource or Value	A Trek through America’s Heritage
Related Significance Statements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The corridor designated for the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail expresses George Washington’s vision of a “great avenue into the Western Country.” The first president’s association with the Potomac River strengthened his life-long goal of “the practicability of an easy and short communication between the Waters of the Ohio and Potomac.” • The great national conflict of the Civil War is reflected in microcosm within the Trail corridor, with the Potomac River often acting as a boundary between North and South. • The Trail provides outstanding opportunities for people to explore the connections and contrasts between and among diverse landscapes and the history and communities in five physiographic provinces.

Fundamental Resource or Value	A Trek through America's Heritage
Current Conditions and Trends	<p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The multitude of historic sites, archeological resources, and other properties of interest within the Trail corridor are preserved and managed by other NPS units and a variety of state and local agencies and independent organizations. • The level of preservation of historic and archeological sites and the interpretation of those sites varies widely. • Many Trail segments and respective trailheads are complemented by educational facilities, including visitor centers, museums, nature centers, youth facilities, art galleries, and historic sites. • Cultural sounds are integral to the setting and association of cultural and historical parks. The cultural soundscape is degraded in some areas due to noise from urban development. • An ongoing project is underway by the NPS National Capital Region history program to document the Potomac River Gorge through a historic resource study / environmental history. <p>Trends</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Efforts begun in February 2007 to establish partnerships among heritage tourism organizations and tourism marketing professionals have resulted in a suite of Trail travel itineraries and increased coordination to promote Trail-related experiences. Such efforts foster continuity of experience throughout the Trail network and support local, regional, and state heritage tourism promotion.
Threats and Opportunities	<p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Historic properties are subject to deterioration from natural weathering processes and from visitor use (e.g., wear and tear of historic fabric from visitation and other factors). • Vandalism of historic resources is a potential threat throughout the Trail corridor including disturbance and looting of archeological sites. • Climate change (increase in average annual temperature, extreme precipitation events, heat waves, and sea level rise) and associated impacts (e.g., weathering, flooding, storm surge) to cultural resources. <p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emphasize partnerships to connect people with the resources within the Trail corridor. • Establish an identity for the Trail network and a consistent appearance for graphic media associated with the Trail. • Expand the breadth and depth of volunteer involvement in and support for specific Trail projects. • Opportunity exists to improve acoustic conditions through education and outreach, improvements to park facilities and operations, and cooperating with neighboring landowners. • Trail users could be alerted to historic and heritage resources along the corridor by means of NPS website, apps, waysides, brochures, history-themed trail guides, etc.

Fundamental Resource or Value	A Trek through America’s Heritage
Existing Data and Plans Related to the FRV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “A Development and Management Plan for the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail in Virginia” (2006). • “Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail Centennial Implementation Plan” (2008). • Statewide comprehensive outdoor recreation plans for Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, and the District of Columbia. • “Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail Interpretive Concept Plan” (2004). • Also see: http://www.nps.gov/pohe/parkmgmt/planning.htm • Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail Comprehensive Management Plan. • Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail Comprehensive Management Plan. • Chesapeake Bay Watershed Public Access Plan.
Data and/or GIS Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trail user assessment. • Web and social media assessment. • Cultural landscape survey. • Ethnographic overview and assessment. • Archeological overview and assessment. • Cultural resource inventory and condition assessment. • An historic resources study or a special history study. • Climate change vulnerability assessment for select resources. • Compare and integrate GIS centerline data with local, regional, state, federal, and nongovernmental organization data. • Conduct inventory and annotated outline of “Junior Ranger” programs with the Trail corridor.
Planning Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Route marking and graphic identity guidelines. • Interpretive concept plan update. • Trail stewardship plan. • Partnership and communication strategy.

Fundamental Resource or Value	A Trek through America’s Heritage
<p>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV, and NPS Policy-level Guidance</p>	<p>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 36 CFR 800 “Protection of Historic Properties” • National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (16 USC 470) • Antiquities Act of 1906 • Archeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974 • Historic Sites Act of 1935 <p>NPS Policy-level Guidance (NPS Management Policies 2006 and Director’s Orders)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Director’s Order 28: <i>Cultural Resource Management</i> • <i>The Secretary of the Interior’s Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation</i> • <i>The Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties</i> • <i>The Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes</i> • Programmatic Agreement among the National Park Service, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers (2008) • NPS <i>Natural Resource Management Reference Manual #77</i> • Secretarial Order 3289, “Addressing the Impacts of Climate Change on America’s Water, Land and Other Natural and Cultural Resources” section 3a, “Climate Change Response Planning Requirements.”

Fundamental Resource or Value	Outstanding Recreation Opportunities
<p>Related Significance Statements</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased environmental awareness in the second half of the 20th century has led to cleaner rivers and streams in the Trail corridor, with the Potomac River recognized nationally as a model of successful restoration and an ongoing challenge for sustained ecological health. • The Trail provides outstanding opportunities for people to explore the connections and contrasts between and among diverse landscapes and the history and communities in five physiographic provinces.

Fundamental Resource or Value	Outstanding Recreation Opportunities
Current Conditions and Trends	<p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Different segments of the Trail provide opportunities for various forms of nonmotorized recreation, including hiking, running, cycling, canoeing, kayaking, and horseback riding. Trail segments also provide a setting for a number of other recreational activities that are reflective in nature, such as bird-watching, picnicking, and photography. • The following trails are currently recognized as segments within the 425-mile Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail corridor, including parts of the District of Columbia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, and Virginia. (The current list of Trail segments can be found at http://www.nps.gov/pohe/planyourvisit/the-potomac-heritage-national-scenic-trail-network.htm.) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 70-mile Laurel Highlands Hiking Trail, a footpath following Laurel Ridge between Ohiopyle State Park and Seward, Pennsylvania (west of Johnstown). Portions of the Trail are within Laurel Ridge State Park. • The 74 miles of the Great Allegheny Passage between Ohiopyle, Pennsylvania, and Cumberland, Maryland, managed by a coalition of organizations and agencies. • The 184.5-mile Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Towpath within Chesapeake and Ohio National Historical Park. • A linear park system in eastern Loudoun and northern Fairfax Counties between White’s Ferry and the northern terminus of the Potomac Heritage Trail in George Washington Memorial Parkway, two partially completed routes within the District of Columbia—the 23-mile Fort Circle Parks Trail (part of the Civil War Defenses of Washington) and a multiuse route between Georgetown and Oxon Cove Park. • The 18.5-mile Mount Vernon Trail and the 10-mile Potomac Heritage Trail within George Washington Memorial Parkway. • A 27-mile Potomac Heritage Trail On-Road Bicycling Route in Prince Georges County, Maryland. • A 1-mile trail along the north shore of Piscataway Creek in Piscataway Park. • A 2-mile route within Douglas Point Special Recreation Management Area (BLM), Charles County, Maryland. • The Southern Maryland Potomac Heritage Trail Bicycling Route in Charles and Saint Mary’s Counties. • Two 4.5-mile routes in Prince William Forest Park and a partially completed route between the towns of Occoquan and Dumfries in Prince William County, Virginia. • The Government Island Trail and the planned 5-mile Historic Falmouth-Ferry Farm Trail in Stafford County, Virginia. • The Northern Neck Heritage Trail Bicycling Route Network in the four-county area of Westmoreland, Northumberland, Lancaster, and Richmond (Virginia).

Fundamental Resource or Value	Outstanding Recreation Opportunities
<p>Current Conditions and Trends</p>	<p>Trends</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The demand for recreation trails continues to grow throughout the Trail corridor, and additional Trail segments (particularly those that eliminate gaps and contribute to a continuous network) can be recognized in the future. • Many recreation trails in the Washington, D.C., area are regularly used for commuting and local travel. • The number of recreational users continues to grow on most Trail segments where visitation is monitored. • Within the Trail corridor, foot travel is a primary mode of recreation and a means to establish continuity throughout the Trail network. Modes of nonmotorized recreation (e.g., bicycling, paddling, horseback riding, and cross-country skiing) vary depending on the particular area of the Trail network.
<p>Threats and Opportunities</p>	<p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Urban development continues to encroach on the Trail corridor. • Expanding urban areas may degrade trail user experience, including impacts to the quality of the night sky and the acoustic environment. <p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish an identity for the Trail network and a consistent appearance for graphic media associated with the Trail. • Expand the breadth and depth of volunteer involvement in and support for specific Trail projects. • To enhance visitor experience, opportunity exists to improve lighting and acoustic conditions through education and outreach, improvements to park facilities and operations, and cooperating with neighboring landowners. • The Potomac Heritage Trail has tremendous opportunities to strengthen land-water connections to enhance visitor experience and connect with Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail and the Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail. Connections can occur through media, shared investment in infrastructure, interpretive media, and coordinated signage. • Land conservation easements or other protective measures could be sought to mitigate or buffer encroaching urban development. • The Trail atlas can serve to provide the public with information regarding bike-share, multimodal and water-based opportunities that improve access and infrastructure to enhance visitor experience and continuity.
<p>Existing Data and Plans Related to the FRV</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “A Development and Management Plan for the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail in Virginia” (2006). • “Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail Centennial Implementation Plan” (2008). • Statewide comprehensive outdoor recreation plans for Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, and the District of Columbia. • “Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail Interpretive Concept Plan” (2004). • Also see: http://www.nps.gov/pohe/parkmgmt/planning.htm. • Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail Comprehensive Management Plan. • Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail Comprehensive Management Plan. • Chesapeake Bay Watershed Public Access Plan.

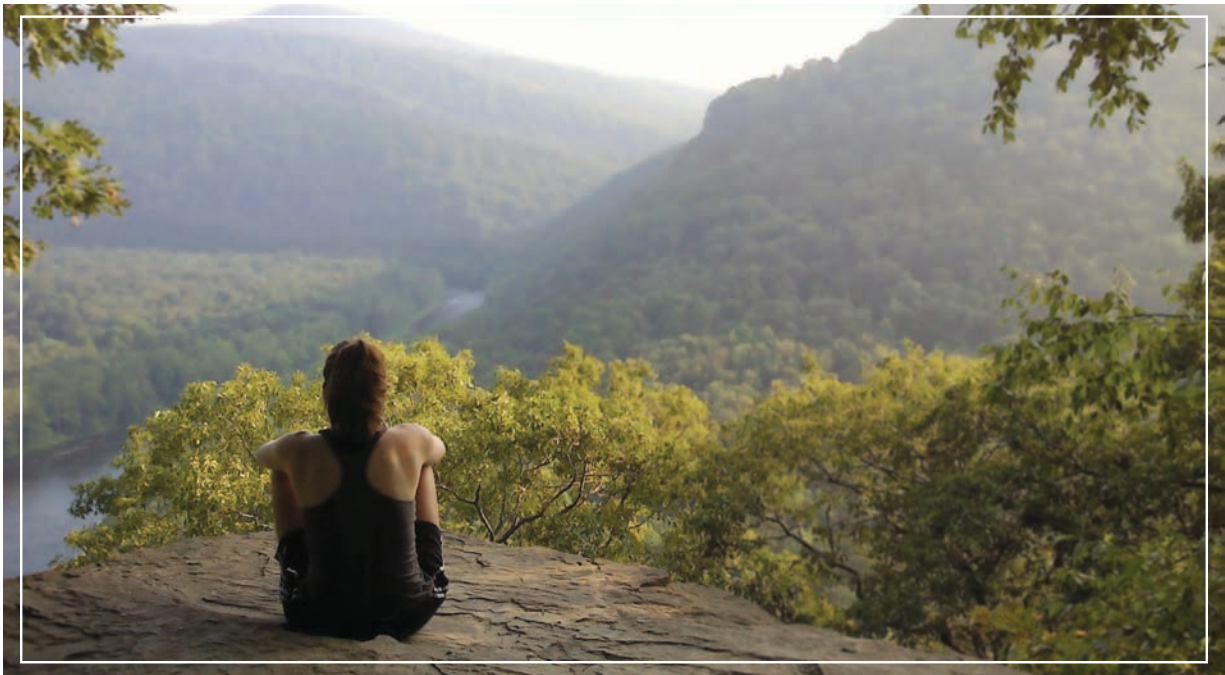
Fundamental Resource or Value	Outstanding Recreation Opportunities
<p>Data and/or GIS Needs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compare and integrate GIS centerline data with local, regional, state, federal, and nongovernmental organization data. • Trail user assessment. • Web and social media assessment. • Summarize demographic and outdoor recreation trend in the Trail corridor. • Conduct inventory and annotated outline of “Junior Ranger” programs within the Trail corridor. • Perform visual resource inventory to assess the condition, value, and risks to change of scenic views and visual settings important to the visitor experience.
<p>Planning Needs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Route marking and graphic identity guidelines. • Plan for event coordination. • Interpretive concept plan. • Trail stewardship plan. • Partnership and communication strategy.
<p>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV, and NPS Policy-level Guidance</p>	<p>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Environmental Policy Act <p>NPS Policy-level Guidance (NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> and <i>Director’s Orders</i>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Director’s Order 7: <i>Volunteers in Parks</i> • Director’s Order 75A: <i>Civic Engagement and Public Involvement</i>



Fundamental Resource or Value	Community and Agency Partnerships
Related Significance Statements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The corridor designated for the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail expresses George Washington’s vision of a “great avenue into the Western Country.” The first president’s association with the Potomac River strengthened his life-long goal of “the practicability of an easy and short communication between the Waters of the Ohio and Potomac.” • Increased environmental awareness in the second half of the 20th century has led to cleaner rivers and streams in the Trail corridor, with the Potomac River recognized nationally as a model of successful restoration and an ongoing challenge for sustained ecological health. • The great national conflict of the Civil War is reflected in microcosm within the Trail corridor, with the Potomac River often acting as a boundary between North and South. • The Trail provides outstanding opportunities for people to explore the connections and contrasts between and among diverse landscapes and the history and communities in five physiographic provinces.
Current Conditions and Trends	<p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partnerships (both formal and informal) are the essence of the Trail network. NPS staff, primarily through the Trail Office, manages relationships with and among other government agencies, nonprofit organizations, and individual volunteers. • The Trail Office provides some financial and technical assistance for specific projects, as well as opportunities for coordination among Trail partners. In general, Trail partners seek to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • encourage resource conservation that contributes to the identity and well-being of communities in the Trail corridor for present and future generations • establish a seamless trail network and experience for Trail users, providing opportunities to learn about the significance of the natural, historical, and cultural resources in the Trail corridor and the relationships among them • encourage public involvement and leadership in development and management of Trail segments and in conservation of the Trail corridor • recognize Trail segments in local and regional comprehensive plans • foster opportunities for local business owners and managers to contribute to the Trail experience and the sustainability of the associated resources • coordinate activities with other Trail partners to realize the purpose of the Trail network <p>Trends</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is increasing awareness among elected officials of the economic value of outdoor recreation.

Fundamental Resource or Value	Community and Agency Partnerships
<p>Threats and Opportunities</p>	<p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Entities / initiatives competing for available (donated) funds and volunteer contributions could hinder funding for related trail projects and proposals. <p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish an identity for the Trail network and a consistent appearance for graphic media associated with the Trail. • Expand the breadth and depth of volunteer involvement in and support for specific Trail projects. • Expand the appeal of the Trail to business interests and increase/coordinate their support of the Trail. • The Trail Transitional Management Assessment Program (TMAP) provides information to inform threats and opportunities associated with community and agency partnerships. • Route marking and identify could be coordinated with the Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail, Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail and other national historic trails to ensure that NPS-administered trails on the Potomac provide consistent route marking that minimizes visitor confusion. • The Trail atlas can serve to provide the public with information regarding bike-share, multimodal, and water-based opportunities that improve access and infrastructure to enhance visitor experience and continuity.
<p>Existing Data and Plans Related to the FRV</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “A Development and Management Plan for the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail in Virginia” (2006). • “Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail Centennial Implementation Plan” (2008). • Statewide comprehensive outdoor recreation plans for Virginia and Maryland. • “Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail Interpretive Concept Plan” (2004). • Also see: http://www.nps.gov/pohe/parkmgmt/planning.htm. • Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail Comprehensive Management Plan. • Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail Comprehensive Management Plan. • Chesapeake Bay Watershed Public Access Plan.
<p>Data and/or GIS Needs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compare and integrate GIS centerline data with local, regional, state, federal, and nongovernmental organization data. • Inventory and analysis of route marking practices and graphic identity. • Research to identify existing practices and opportunities for coordination among destination management organizations (DMOs), volunteers, Trail segment management partners, and related heritage tourism stakeholders. • Web and social media assessment. • Devise methods to track nonfederal investments in development and management of the Trail network. • Summarize demographic and outdoor recreation trends in the Trail corridor. • Conduct inventory and annotated outline of “Junior Ranger” programs within the Trail corridor. • Add protected lands layer to GIS. • Trail user assessment.

Fundamental Resource or Value	Community and Agency Partnerships
<p>Planning Needs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Route marking and graphic identity guidelines. • Plan for event coordination. • Interpretive concept plan. • Partnership and communication strategy. • Trail stewardship strategy.
<p>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV, and NPS Policy-level Guidance</p>	<p>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Environmental Policy Act <p>NPS Policy-level Guidance (NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> and Director's Orders)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Director's Order 7: <i>Volunteers in Parks</i> • Director's Order 75A: <i>Civic Engagement and Public Involvement</i>



Identification of Key Issues and Associated Planning and Data Needs

This section considers key issues to be addressed in planning and management and therefore takes a broader view over the primary focus of part 1. A key issue focuses on a question that is important for a park unit. Key issues often raise questions regarding park purpose and significance and fundamental resources and values. For example, a key issue may pertain to the potential for a fundamental resource or value in a park to be detrimentally affected by discretionary management decisions. A key issue may also address crucial questions that are not directly related to purpose and significance, but which still affect them indirectly. Usually, a key issue is one that a future planning effort or data collection needs to address and requires a decision by NPS managers.

The following are key issues for Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail and its partners and the associated planning and data needs to address them:

- **Urban development and transformation of the landscape.** Despite the rapid transformation from rural to urban and suburban landscapes, much of the rich history and natural beauty of the Potomac River corridor remains. In this changing environment, however, the tasks of planning, constructing, and maintaining segments of the Trail are challenging. Rapid development of rural landscapes and natural areas, combined with increasing demands for outdoor recreation, threaten the natural and cultural integrity of the Trail Network and pose serious problems for local planners and elected officials.

Related planning and/or data needs:

- » trail stewardship strategy
- » partnership and communication strategy

- **Establishing continuity of experience.** The geographical, ecological, and social diversity of the Trail network and Trail corridor is an asset and one of the justifications for national significance. However, developing “continuity of experience” (i.e., developing and maintaining a cohesive identity among the various Trail segments throughout the network) is challenging at best. Coordination among Trail segment planning and management entities is complicated by diverse perspectives and varied priorities.

Related planning and/or data needs:

- » route marking and graphic identity guidelines
- » plan for event coordination
- » partnership and communication strategy
- » interpretive concept plan update
- » devise method to track nonfederal investments in development and management of the trail network



- **The complexities of dual status.** The Trail is considered both a component of the national trails system and a “unit” of the national park system—attention to two legislative authorities can sometimes result in redundant and/or conflicting administrative requirements, lack of clear programmatic guidance, and confusion among institutional Trail partners.

Related planning and/or data needs:

- » route marking and graphic identity guidelines
- » trail user assessment

Other Issues

- **Climate change.** Average annual temperature, extreme precipitation events, and sea level rise are projected to increase for the region. These changes may impact natural and cultural resources and the federal interest in administering the Trail network.

Related planning and/or data needs:

- » cultural resource inventory and condition assessment
- » climate change vulnerability assessment

Planning and Data Needs

To maintain connection to the core elements of the foundation and the importance of these core foundation elements, the planning and data needs listed here are directly related to protecting fundamental resources and values, Trail purpose and significance, as well as addressing key issues. To successfully undertake a planning effort, information from sources such as inventories, studies, research activities, and analyses may be required to provide adequate knowledge of park unit resources and visitor information. Such information sources have been identified as data needs. Geospatial mapping tasks and products are included in data needs.

Items considered of the utmost importance were identified as high priority, and other items identified, but not rising to the level of high priority, were listed as either medium- or low-priority needs. These priorities inform Trail management efforts to secure funding and support for planning projects.



Planning Needs – Where A Decision-making Process Is Needed			
Related to an FRV or OIRV?	Planning Needs	Priority (H, M, L)	Notes
Trek through Heritage; Partnerships; Recreation	Route marking and graphic identity guidelines	H	Guidelines will help establish continuity of experience for Trail users. The current set of guidelines, completed in 2006, lacks breadth and detail. Creative solutions are particularly needed in densely populated urban areas.
Partnerships; Recreation	Plan for event coordination	H	A plan is needed to organize and promote a series of annual events spanning the entire Trail network in order to establish continuity among users, partners, and stakeholders, including heritage tourism groups and Trail segment managers. This plan will probably be accomplished through a partnership with the International Institute for Tourism Studies at George Washington University.
Partnerships; Ecological Value; Recreation; Trek through Heritage	Trail stewardship plan	M	The plan would specify effective management strategies for achieving important Trail conservation objectives (e.g., viewshed analysis, resource protection) in cooperation with partners. The plan would include priority coordination with CAJO, STSP, and LWCF Rivers of the Chesapeake.
Partnerships; Ecological Value; Recreation; Trek through Heritage	Interpretive concept plan update	L	An update to the interpretive concept plan would engage partners in an exploration of the significance of the Trail corridor and the utility of Trail segment designation. It would also improve interpretation on a Trail-wide scale.
Partnerships; Ecological Value; Recreation; Trek through Heritage	Partnership and communication strategy	L	This plan would be an internal document exploring a range of options/models for developing alliances among partners, agencies, and organizations to enhance Trail connections. It would evaluate potential partners, identify opportunities to collaborate with them, and provide recommendations for roles and responsibilities.

Data Needs – Where Information Is Needed Before Decisions Can Be Made			
Related to an FRV or OIRV?	Data and GIS Needs	Priority (H, M, L)	Notes
Ecological Value; Partnerships	Add protected lands layer to GIS	H	This layer will help with analyzing the spatial configuration of protected lands in the trail corridor, important viewsheds, and gaps to identify land conservation priorities.
Partnerships; Ecological Value; Recreation; Trek through Heritage	Compare and integrate GIS centerline data with local, regional, state, federal, and nongovernmental organization data	H	This GIS work is needed to coordinate trail-related projects with various partners, including generating maps for planning and design, memorandums of understanding, and interpretive media projects.
Partnerships	Inventory and analysis of route marking practices and graphic identity	H	This inventory will identify what is currently out there, the effectiveness of route marking, as well as opportunities and constraints to develop continuity of experience and to provide effective guidance to trail management partners, heritage tourism stakeholders, and related businesses.
Partnerships	Research to identify existing practices and opportunities for coordination among destination management organizations (DMOs), volunteers, trail segment management partners, and related heritage tourism stakeholders	H	NPS staff have proposed a partnership with the International Institute for Tourism Studies at George Washington University to conduct research and provide coordination among trail partners.
Partnerships; Ecological Value; Recreation; Trek through Heritage	Trail user assessment	H	Assess the relevancy of the national scenic trail designation. Research questions include: Who is using the Trail, who is not, and why? Are users aware they are on a national scenic Trail segment and are they getting what they need from the National Park Service and partners? How valuable is the national scenic Trail designation to partners and users?

Data Needs – Where Information Is Needed Before Decisions Can Be Made			
Related to an FRV or OIRV?	Data and GIS Needs	Priority (H, M, L)	Notes
Partnerships; Ecological Value; Recreation; Trek through Heritage	Web and social media assessment	H	This assessment should explore how often Trail-related social media and Internet sites are being used and whether those sites are helpful and meeting user needs and advancing the goals of the Trail. The assessment should provide recommendations on whether to support the Potomac Heritage Explorer site. This assessment will help Trail managers understand how these technologies are discovered and used by various audiences. The assessment would include the Chesapeake Explorer App, which currently features the Trail and sites along the Trail.
Partnerships; Recreation	Economic impact analysis	M	An economic impact analysis would assess the economic benefits related to the Trail and identify strategies for enhancing and coordinating business interests in support of Trail development, promotion, and use. The economic benefits of the Trail are broadly linked to the outdoor recreation industry and support other regional and overlapping trails in the national trail system: the Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route National Historic Trail; Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail; Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail; and the Appalachian National Scenic Trail.
Trek through Heritage	Cultural landscape survey	M	The survey should identify related lands and resources and integrate those into the existing interpretive theme framework to improve interpretive opportunities.
Partnerships	Devise method to track nonfederal investments in development and management of the trail network	M	This method or calculation should compile annual investments in the Trail as a result of the Trail legislation and NPS administration. Such numbers, complemented by other economic data, would illustrate the importance of federal funding for Trail administration and financial support.
Partnerships; Recreation	Summarize demographic and outdoor recreation trends in the trail corridor	M	Consolidate data from statewide comprehensive outdoor recreation plans, U.S. Census, businesses and other sources to improve planning emphasis and justifications for project funding.
Partnerships; Ecological Value; Recreation; Trek through Heritage	Conduct inventory and annotated outline of “Junior Ranger” programs within the trail corridor	L	Need to understand existing opportunities as a basis for designing and launching a Trail-related Junior Ranger program.

Data Needs – Where Information Is Needed Before Decisions Can Be Made			
Related to an FRV or OIRV?	Data and GIS Needs	Priority (H, M, L)	Notes
Trek through Heritage	Ethnographic overview and assessment	L	This overview would provide a regional ethnographic literature review to identify culturally associated groups along the Trail corridor.
Trek through Heritage	Archeological overview and assessment	L	Similar to the archeological overview completed for the C&O Canal. This overview would describe the known and potential archeological resources within a particular area and assess potential impacts on the resource base.
Recreation	Visual resource inventory / viewshed analysis	L	Need to assess the condition, value, and risks to change of scenic views and visual settings important to the visitor experience.
Ecological Value	Climate change vulnerability assessment	L	In collaboration with partners and stakeholders, this assessment would identify and characterize the anticipated consequences of climate change on Trail resources and features.
Trek through Heritage	Cultural resource inventory and condition assessment	L	This assessment would compile available information on cultural resources along the Trail corridor along with an assessment of current conditions and resource integrity.
Trek through Heritage	Historic resources study or a special history study	L	These studies would identify / survey and research historic resources along the Trail corridor.

Part 3: Contributors

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Appendix A: Enabling Legislation for Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail

June 1968 Senate Report 1233 (for the establishment of a national trails system)

PURPOSE

As set forth in its statement of policy, the purpose of S. 827 is to promote public access to, travel within, and enjoyment of the National and State parks, forests, recreation areas, historic sites, and other areas. It states that existing trails should be improved and maintained, and additional trails should be established both in the remaining highly scenic and unspoiled areas and in the metropolitan areas of the Nation.

NEED

The statement of policy of S. 827 also sets forth that it is directed at providing for the ever-increasing recreation needs of an expanding population. Trails represent a major opportunity and yet a practicable and low-cost method of satisfying the demand for outdoor recreation for our citizens. By their nature, they afford a low-concentration, dispersed type of recreation that is much sought after today. Trails are the means to some of the most beneficial kinds of exercise and enjoyment of nature—walking, hiking, horseback riding, and cycling. Trails enable people to reach prime areas for hunting, fishing, and camping; they lead to areas prized by students of nature and history; they are used by scientists, artists, and photographers; they help to satisfy the craving many people have for solitude and the beauty of untrammelled lands and waters.

There is a multiplying need for outdoor recreation opportunities for Americans.

The Commission also predicted that walking for pleasure will increase from 566 million occasions of participation in 1960 to 1,569 million by the year 2000, a 277-percent increase. Hiking will jump 368 percent, from 34 million to 125 million. The number of bicycles and cyclists also is multiplying with almost explosive suddenness.

The Bureau of Outdoor Recreation points out that there is a pressing need for places in which to ride bicycles safely.

4. The Potomac Heritage Trail, extending 825 miles along the Potomac River from its mouth to its sources in Pennsylvania and West Virginia.

POTOMAC HERITAGE TRAIL

The study report, "Trails for America," points out that no other river in the country is historically as rich as the Potomac, and adds:

The National Government grew up and reached its maturity in the Potomac River Valley. Many famous Americans were born, reared, and lived on the banks of the Potomac. The Potomac Heritage Trail would follow the course of the Potomac from source to mouth, linking an astounding array of superlative historic, scenic, natural, and cultural features, and offering an outstanding recreation opportunity for the residents of the Potomac Valley and its annual millions of visitors.

October 1968 Act establishing the National Trails System (Public Law 90-543)

Public Law 90-543

AN ACT

October 2, 1968
[S. 827]

To establish a national trails system, and for other purposes.

NATIONAL SCENIC TRAILS

SEC. 5. (a) National scenic trails shall be authorized and designated only by Act of Congress. There are hereby established as the initial National Scenic Trails:

(2) Potomac Heritage Trail, an eight-hundred-and-twenty-five-mile trail extending generally from the mouth of the Potomac River to its sources in Pennsylvania and West Virginia, including the one-hundred-and-seventy-mile Chesapeake and Ohio Canal towpath.

March 1983 Act (Public Law 98-11) amending the National Trails System Act

Public Law 98-11

Mar. 28, 1983
[S. 271]

“(11) The Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail, a corridor of approximately seven hundred and four miles following the route as generally depicted on the map identified as ‘National Trails System, Proposed Potomac Heritage Trail’ in ‘The Potomac Heritage Trail’, a report prepared by the Department of the Interior and dated December 1974, except that no designation of the trail shall be made in the State of West Virginia.

Appendix B: Inventory of Current Administrative Commitments

Memorandums of Understanding and Regional Director Letters					
Name	Agreement Type	Start Date	Expiration Date	Primary Stakeholders	Purpose/Notes
Manage use of the trail insignia	Varies (e.g., through 5-year MOUs to one-time permissions)	n/a	n/a	Trail segment partners	Control, interpretation, identity, and promotion
Laurel Highlands Hiking Trail – footpath following Laurel Ridge between Ohiopyle State Park and Seward, PA (west of Johnstown)	MOU	7/19/2012	7/19/2017	Laurel Highlands trail manager	Public Law 99-500 (Omnibus Appropriations Act, 1986) directs the Secretary of the Interior to recognize the Laurel Highlands Hiking Trail as a segment of the Trail network; cooperative agreement w/Penn. DCR 2011
Great Allegheny Passage – multiuse rail-trail connecting with C&O Canal Towpath in Cumberland, MD, and with Laurel Highlands Hiking Trails in Ohiopyle, PA; completed in 2013	RD letter	9/1/2003	n/a	Secretary, Penn DCNR; Secretary MD DNR	Designated the corridor between Ohiopyle State Park and Point State Park as a connecting route in September 2003 via letter from Regional Director (RD) Carlstrom to Secretaries MD and PA based on an application; need to reaffirm through Secretarial designation
	MOU	8/28/2013	8/28/2018	Allegheny Trail Alliance; Ohiopyle State Park, Penn DCNR; Mountain Maryland Trails; County of Somerset (PA); Regional Trail Corporation	MOU includes resolutions by Somerset County Commissioners and Somerset Rails to Trails Association; September 2003 in a letter from RD Carlstrom to Secretaries MD and PA, Cumberland – Ohiopyle as a segment; see list of NPS-supported projects
Eastern Continental Divide Loop Trail (pending) – connecting with the Great Allegheny Passage at two locations	Draft MOU			Garrett County Trails, Inc.; MD DNR; MD State Highway Administration; Chamber of Commerce; Mountain Maryland Heritage Area	MOU pending route review and public event(s)

Memorandums of Understanding and Regional Director Letters					
Name	Agreement Type	Start Date	Expiration Date	Primary Stakeholders	Purpose/Notes
Potomac Heritage Trail in Northern Virginia (Fairfax/Loudoun border – KLB Park within Riverbend)	Regional Director letter	5/26/2006		Fairfax County Park Authority	based on application
Prince William County, VA: existing and planned multiuse route between Woodbridge Virginia Railway Express station and Leesylvania State Park (inclusive)	MOU	9/25/2010		Prince William Park Authority (lead), Dept. of Planning, etc.; USFWS Potomac River Complex; VDCR Leesylvania S.P.; others	expires after 5 years
Mount Vernon-Occoquan Regional Park	Regional Director letter	7/9/2008		Fairfax County DOT; Fairfax County Park Authority	based on application
Consolidating above agreements into one Northern Virginia MOU (incl. "Mason Neck Heritage Trail") – pending				Loudoun, Fairfax, Prince William Counties; NVRPA, NVRC, VDCR, USFWS, BLM, NPS GWMP, PRWI, POHE	part of scope of work in fiscal year 2013 task agreement with Northern Virginia Regional Commission
Civil War Defenses of Washington Trail in D.C. (pending) – hiking route on natural surface trails and sidewalks connecting the Civil War Defenses of Washington between Anacostia Metro/FRDO and C&O Canal Towpath	RD letter to DDOT			DDOT, ROCR, NACE DDOT; NPS ROCR, NACE, POHE	based on application need MOU to re-recognize route
POHE multiuse route in D.C. (pending) – Between OXON-CHOH (near MP 0)				DDOT; NPS NACE, MANA, POHE; CTDC; DCDP&R	need MOU to re-recognize route

Memorandums of Understanding and Regional Director Letters					
Name	Agreement Type	Start Date	Expiration Date	Primary Stakeholders	Purpose/Notes
Southern Maryland Potomac Heritage Trail On-Road Bicycling Route (pending) – on-road bicycling route between Point Lookout State Park (MDNR) and Oxon Cove Park (NPS)	RD letters			Prince Georges County, Charles County, St. Mary's County, MD State Highway Admin.; witnesses: Potomac Heritage Trail Association	based on applications: Prince George's County Potomac Heritage Trail On-Road Route designated in 2006; St. Mary's and Charles Potomac Heritage Trail On-Road Bicycling Route designated in 2008
Government Island Trail; Belmont - Ferry Farm Trail: Stafford County, VA: existing 2-mile foot trail on Government Island; existing/planned 5-mile multiuse trail Belmont / Stafford Visitor Center- Chatham-Ferry Farm	RD letter				to Stafford County Administrator based on application in 2006; see GW Region bicycle and pedestrian master plan 2013
Northern Neck Heritage Trail – on-road bicycling route between Colonial Beach and Reedville, VA, with M1-8a PHT route markers	MOU	2/10/2014	2/10/2019	Northern Neck Planning District Commission; Northern Neck Tourism Commission	through-route connects loops; signed through a CA between NPS and NNPD; previous designation in 2008 by NCR Regional Director based on application and resolutions of support
Potomac River Water Trail (pending) – Jennings Randolph Dam–Great Falls Tidal section: Great Falls–mouth of the Potomac					see CAJO Potomac Segment Plan

Memorandums of Understanding and Regional Director Letters					
Name	Agreement Type	Start Date	Expiration Date	Primary Stakeholders	Purpose/Notes
Potential connecting routes: Great Allegheny Passage (GAP) – from Point State Park to Ohiopyle State Park Alexandria Heritage Trail – connecting hiking and bicycling loop to Mount Vernon Trail Northern Neck Heritage Trail bicycling route “loops” various water trails	RD letter	6/13/2006		City of Alexandria	connecting with Laurel Highlands Hiking Trail letter from RD to Mayor Euille; need to reaffirm through Secretarial designation
Statewide comprehensive recreation plans for Pennsylvania, Washington, D.C., Virginia, Maryland				State officials and organizations responsible for recreation planning	five- to six-year agreements prepared by the various partnership organizations responsible for outdoor recreation planning; allows trail management considerations to be coordinated with state planning efforts

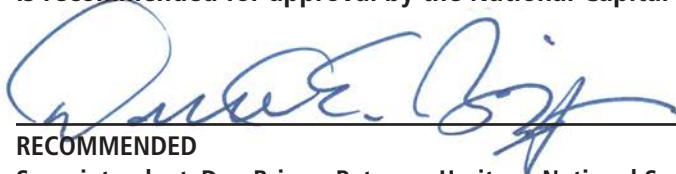
Cooperative Agreements / Other Agreements					
Name	Agreement Type	Start Date	Expiration Date	Primary Stakeholders	Purpose/Notes
American Hiking Society	Task agreement		06/27/14	n/a	Hiking route assessment; guides
Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority	Cooperative agreement		04/24/19	n/a	Authorizes use of Trail marker and provides for subagreements
Regional Trail Corporation	Cooperative agreement		03/30/15	n/a	Authorizes use of Trail marker and provides for subagreements
Virginia Dept. of Conservation and Recreation	Cooperative agreement		12/15/15	n/a	Authorizes use of Trail marker and provides for subagreements
Northern Virginia Regional Commission	Cooperative agreement		06/30/15	n/a	Authorizes use of Trail marker and provides for subagreements

Cooperative Agreements / Other Agreements					
Name	Agreement Type	Start Date	Expiration Date	Primary Stakeholders	Purpose/Notes
Prince William County Park Authority	Cooperative agreement		09/25/15	n/a	Authorizes use of Trail marker and provides for subagreements
Northern Neck Planning District Commission	Cooperative agreement		06/30/15	n/a	Authorizes use of Trail marker and provides for subagreements
Maryland Dept. of Natural Resources	Cooperative agreement		09/22/15	n/a	Hiking route assessment and authorizes use of Trail marker
Garrett Trails, Inc.	Cooperative agreement		09/29/15	n/a	Identify PHNST segment; MOU; event
Penn. Dept. of Conservation and Natural Resources	Cooperative agreement		06/15/16	n/a	Coordination and authority to use Trail marker
Shared staff within NPS National Capital Region and Northeast Region	General agreement			n/a	Provides operational efficiency
Agreement for USPS mail and phone service	General agreement with Harpers Ferry Center				Provides operational efficiency
Agreement for office maintenance	ROW with HAFE				Provides operational efficiency
Local, regional, state, and federal area trail, transportation, conservation, and related planning processes (e.g., local jurisdiction; RPOs; DOD, NPS, NWR, BLM area and facility plans, etc.)	General agreements	Ongoing	Ongoing	Other municipal, county, state, and federal agencies	Trail managers consult and participate in a variety of interagency planning processes throughout the Trail corridor; this duty is specified in the Trail's enabling legislation

National Capital Region Foundation Document Recommendation Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail

October 2014

This Foundation Document has been prepared as a collaborative effort between park and regional staff and is recommended for approval by the National Capital Regional Director.



RECOMMENDED

Superintendent, Don Briggs, Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail

22 Sept. 2014

Date



APPROVED

Acting Regional Director, Lisa Mendelson-Ielmini, National Capital Region

September 22, 2014

Date



As the nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has responsibility for most of our nationally owned public lands and natural resources. This includes fostering sound use of our land and water resources; protecting our fish, wildlife, and biological diversity; preserving the environmental and cultural values of our national parks and historic places; and providing for the enjoyment of life through outdoor recreation. The department assesses our energy and mineral resources and works to ensure that their development is in the best interests of all our people by encouraging stewardship and citizen participation in their care. The department also has a major responsibility for American Indian reservation communities and for people who live in island territories under U.S. administration.

POHE 866/126770

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