



Designation of the Susquehanna River, Chester River, Upper Nanticoke River, and Upper James River Connecting Trails as Historic Components of the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail

Whereas: The National Trails System Act provides for a national system of trails composed of national recreation trails, national scenic trails, national historic trails, and national connecting or side trails. 16 U.S.C. 1242. The Secretary of the Interior has the authority to designate connecting trails as connecting components of a national historic trail on lands administered by interstate, state, or local government agencies with their consent and on privately owned lands with the consent of the landowners. 16 U.S.C. 1245.

Whereas: To commemorate Captain John Smith's voyages of exploration along waters of the Chesapeake Bay, in 2006 Congress designated the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail as part of the National Trails System. 16 U.S.C. 1244 (5)(a)(25). The Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail connects water routes extending approximately 3,000 miles along the Chesapeake Bay and its lower tributaries in Virginia, Maryland, and Delaware.

Whereas: Executive Order 13508 of May 15, 2009, established the Chesapeake Bay and its rivers as a national treasure and directed the Department of the Interior to take the lead in expanding public access to waters and open spaces of the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries.

Whereas: The Susquehanna River Trail is a 552-mile system of water trails along the main stem and West Branch of the Susquehanna River in Maryland, Pennsylvania, and New York that at its southern end links directly to the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail. The Trail is managed by the Susquehanna Greenway Partnership in concert with a broad coalition of organizations that serve as local managers for the series of interconnected water trail sections that encompass the total length of the Susquehanna River Connecting Trail. The Partnership and the Chesapeake Conservancy submitted the application for this designation. The Susquehanna River flows through three states providing the largest inflow of fresh water into the Chesapeake Bay. Along its banks are historic river towns, splendid forests, farmlands, indigenous cultural landscapes, and hundreds of miles of recreational opportunities.

Whereas: The Chester River Trail is a 46-mile system of trails along the Chester River that includes all of its principal tributaries and connects to the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail at its mouth just south of Rock Hall, Maryland. Sultana Projects of Chestertown, Maryland, manages the trail system. Sultana Projects submitted the application for this designation along with the Chesapeake Conservancy as a cooperating partner. The Chester River is culturally, historically, and environmentally significant and offers a wealth of recreational opportunities.

Whereas: The Upper Nanticoke River Trail is an existing 23-mile trail in Delaware along the Nanticoke River, Broad Creek, and Deep Creek. It is managed by the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control. The Trail's western end links to the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail. The Secretary of the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control submitted the application for this designation with the Chesapeake Conservancy as a supporting partner. The Upper Nanticoke is culturally, historically, and environmentally significant and offers a wealth of recreational opportunities.

Whereas: The Upper James River Trail is a 220-mile water trail that crosses nine counties and connects to the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail at the Falls of the James River near Richmond, Virginia. The Trail is managed by the James River Association. The Upper James River has a wealth of natural, cultural, and recreational features and provides tremendous recreation and tourism opportunities. The Trail celebrates the rich history and important role that the River has played in Virginia's development. The James River Association submitted the application for this designation with the Chesapeake Conservancy as a cooperating partner.

Whereas: The *Comprehensive Management Plan* for the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail sets out criteria and a designation process for proposed connecting trails.

Whereas: The Susquehanna River, Chester River, Upper Nanticoke River, and Upper James River Connecting Trails were determined to be significantly associated with the voyages of exploration of Captain John Smith in 1607-1609, significantly associated with the Native American towns and cultures of the 17th century Chesapeake Bay, or significantly illustrative of the natural history of the 17th century Chesapeake Bay.

Whereas: The Governors of Maryland, Virginia, Delaware, New York, and Pennsylvania, as stewards of the state waters through which the trails pass, have given their consent and support this designation.

Whereas: The National Park Service has reviewed the applications for designation and found them to meet all criteria and requirements set out in the National Trails System Act and the *Comprehensive Management Plan* and has recommended them for designation by the Secretary.

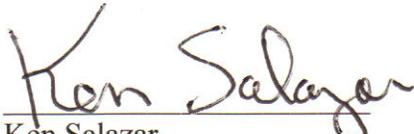
Whereas: Today many of these rivers remain evocative of the landscape and natural history connected with Captain John Smith and the Native American cultures of the 17th century Chesapeake Bay. Because of their historic relevance and connection to Captain John Smith's explorations, these four connecting trails are appropriate for designation as historic components of the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail.

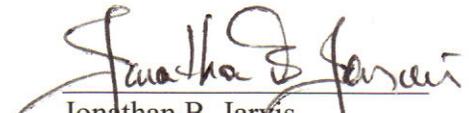
Whereas: Designating these four connecting trails as historic components of the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail implements and supports the President's Executive Order 13508 of May 15, 2009.

Whereas: The Susquehanna River, Chester River, Upper Nanticoke River, and Upper James River Connecting Trails provide important recreation and tourism opportunities and additional points of public access for exploring the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail.

Whereas: This proclamation formally recognizes the Susquehanna River, Chester River, Upper Nanticoke River, and Upper James River Connecting Trails as historic components of the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail.

Now, Therefore: Pursuant to 16 U.S.C. 1242 and 1245, and with great pleasure, we hereby designate the Susquehanna River, Chester River, Upper Nanticoke River, and Upper James River Connecting Trails as historic components of the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail.


Ken Salazar
Secretary of the Interior


Jonathan B. Jarvis
Director, National Park Service

Date: 5/16/2012

Witnessed:


Governor Martin O'Malley