

**Indigenous Cultural Landscapes Study for the
Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail**

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Indigenous Cultural Landscapes Study for the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail is in fulfillment of the Chesapeake Watershed Cooperative Ecosystems Studies Unit Cooperative Agreement between the National Park Service and the University of Maryland, College Park. We began work on this study in September 2012 and throughout the process enjoyed the active cooperation and participation of the indigenous cultural landscapes team at the National Park Service Chesapeake Bay.

This report summarizes what we have learned about the history of the concept of indigenous cultural landscapes, as well as methodology and criteria for identifying and representing indigenous cultural landscapes for the purposes of conservation and interpretation. Herein we rely on the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail's Comprehensive Management Plan Draft definition of "indigenous cultural landscapes" as areas that reflect "the contexts of the American Indian peoples in the Chesapeake Bay and their interaction with the landscape" (National Park Service 2010: 4.22). The identification of indigenous cultural landscapes "includes both cultural and natural resources and the wildlife therein associated with historic lifestyle and settlement patterns and exhibiting the cultural or esthetic values of American Indian peoples," which fall under the purview of the National Park Service and its partner organizations for the purposes of conservation and development of recreation and interpretation (National Park Service 2010: 4.22). We provide a 15-step process for identifying indigenous cultural landscapes along the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail, and provide insight into potential limitations and challenges of the indigenous cultural landscape identification and representation process.