

Indigenous Cultural Landscapes Study for
the
Captain John Smith Chesapeake National
Historic Trail:
Nanticoke River Watershed

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and

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Nanticoke River watershed indigenous cultural landscape study area is home to well over 100 sites, landscapes, and waterways meaningful to the history and present-day lives of the Nanticoke people. This report provides background and evidence for the inclusion of many of these locations within a high-probability indigenous cultural landscape boundary—a focus area provided to the National Park Service Chesapeake Bay and the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail Advisory Council for the purposes of future conservation and interpretation as an indigenous cultural landscape, and to satisfy the Identification and Mapping portion of the Chesapeake Watershed Cooperative Ecosystems Studies Unit Cooperative Agreement between the National Park Service and the University of Maryland, College Park.

Herein we define indigenous cultural landscapes as areas that reflect “the contexts of the American Indian peoples in the Nanticoke River area and their interaction with the landscape.” 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). Using this definition, we provide nine indigenous cultural landscape criteria met by the area we define as being a high-probability area for an indigenous cultural landscape, and we describe the methodology used to obtain this information and represent the resulting landscape. Finally, this report provides and describes a series of maps leading to the high-probability indigenous cultural landscape boundary for internal use within the National Park Service.