



Top: Boat docks at Point Lookout State Park (photo credit: Sarah Rogers)

## Chapter 4

# Coordination and Implementation Strategies

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"The most exciting, powerful and enduring way to engage people in stewardship of precious landscapes such as Piscataway Park is to share its stories, old and new, and nurture personal connections to this land."

-Lisa Hayes, Accokeek Foundation  
(from Accokeek Foundation FY13  
Annual Report)



### Coordination Strategy

The National Park Service is responsible for administration of the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail, the Star-Spangled National Historic Trail and the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail. In this role, the Park Service collaborates with a wide range of partners at site-specific, local, state, regional and federal levels.

Federal partners include the Department of Defense, USDA Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management and the US Fish & Wildlife Service. At the state level, agencies associated with parks, wildlife management, historic resources, tourism and transportation are typically the managing authorities. Regional, county, district and city parks also play active roles in managing public lands identified in the plan.

Non-government partners or supporting parties that do not manage lands include non-profits, park "friends-of" groups, community advocates, privately owned companies, conservation organizations, local community boards and many others.

It is this group of partners that will ultimately be responsible for bringing to fruition any of the hundreds of opportunities articulated within the segment plan.

## Building Partnerships

The collaborating partners for this segment plan will serve as a steering group for the implementation of the action items identified in the plan. The core planning team includes representatives from: the National Park Service (both the Chesapeake Bay office, Fort McHenry and POHE office), the Potomac Conservancy, the Chesapeake Conservancy, the Commonwealth of Virginia and the State of Maryland.

The steering group will focus on the following set of functions:

- Support and coordinate implementation of commitments made by specific partners and the actions identified for key locations;
- Help advance a list of top priorities that can be completed in the near term;
- Detail how additional actions outlined in the plan will be implemented; and
- Determine a strategy for long-term segment coordination and management.



The steering group will focus on the following top priorities over the coming year. Each is critical to raising awareness of the national trails and making the trails more “real” to visitors.

- Provide clear, consistent trail orientation signage at key locations.
- Assist in and promote development of guided tours and prescribed itineraries to help visitors use the trails and engage in trail-related stories.
- Promote and assist in development of interpretive programs that explicitly convey trail themes and highlight trail-related resources at key locations.
- Work towards an effective, collaborative marketing campaign for the trails that dovetails with other marketing efforts; emphasis in initial stages will be placed on linking with and expanding electronic media opportunities.
- Help create additional physical linkages between trail segments and sites to establish connectivity within trail corridors.
- Work to enhance public access opportunities/facilities at feasible sites, with an emphasis on water access and paddle-in camping accommodations.

While the steering group has key roles, trail implementation is even more dependent on leadership from the many organizations managing sites and resources along Potomac River that can contribute to visitor's experience of the three national trails. The real action takes place on the ground at these locales and will compliment individual site management goals. The role of NPS will be to encourage river-wide continuity of site-specific land protection goals and visitor experience enhancements beyond jurisdictional boundaries to reveal Trail experiences at partner sites and along the national trail routes that follow the Tidal Potomac River.

"The Potomac runs deep through the nation's history and the hearts of all Americans. As a nation, and a region, we can look to the beauty of the Potomac and declare that we are unwilling to deprive future generations of clean air, clean water, wild places; all vital for health, happiness and fuel for the soul."

-Joel Dunn, President and CEO,  
Chesapeake Conservancy

Bottom: Accessible  
kayak launch (photo  
credit: NPS archive)



## Management and Implementation

Chapter 3 highlighted potential enhancement actions within each of the seven river sections. (These actions were presented in grids based on geographic areas.)

Many of these actions are relatively low in cost and have the potential to be implemented quickly if funds are available. These are the actions trail partners and the steering group will seek to advance as quickly as is feasible. Other actions – such as development of new access sites – will require more site-specific assessment and additional resources to implement.

## Potential Trail Development Funding Sources

### NPS Chesapeake Financial Assistance Program

- The NPS Chesapeake Bay Financial Assistance Program is an annual program dedicated to providing technical assistance and financial support to promote public access projects along the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail. The program offers award amounts for public access projects that range from \$10,000 to \$125,000 but must be matched by an equal (1:1) or greater amount of non-Federal support. <http://www.nps.gov/chba/learn/management/financial-assistance-for-partners.htm>

### NPS Project Management Information Systems (PMIS)

- Individual NPS parks and units can submit program funding requests to the Project Management Information Systems. PMIS is a National Park Service-wide application within the NPS to manage information about requests for project funding. It enables parks and NPS offices to submit project proposals to be reviewed, approved and prioritized at park units, regional directorates and the Washington Office (WASO). In response to a budget call for a particular NPS program for a specific fiscal year (FY), project proposals are submitted, reviewed, approved, prioritized and then formulated under an available funding source by utilizing PMIS. During formulation process for a budget call, a program manager at WASO or a budget officer at a regional directorate determines which project funding requests meet the eligibility criteria for the call to be considered as part of the NPS Budget for a specific FY.

### The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)

- This 1965 act established a federal reimbursement program for the acquisition and/or development of public outdoor recreation areas. The LWCF is a 50/50 matching reimbursement program that provides funding nationwide for federal and state land acquisition
- <http://www.lwcfcoalition.org/>

### Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP)

- FLAP, funded by contract authority from the Highway Trust Fund, was established to improve transportation facilities that provide access to, or are located within Federal lands. The Access Program supplements State and local resources for public roads, transit systems, and other transportation facilities, with an emphasis on high-use recreation sites and economic generators. <http://flh.fhwa.dot.gov/programs/flap/>

### Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration (REPI)

- Through the REPI program, the Department of Defense (DOD) funds cost-sharing partnerships among the Military Departments, private conservation groups, and state and local governments. These partnerships support military readiness by protecting compatible land uses and preserving natural habitat on non-DOD lands. The partnerships help avoid or reduce restrictions that may inhibit the use of existing DOD facilities for training, testing, and operating by preventing these lands from being developed or converted to other incompatible uses. [http://www.repi.mil/Portals/44/Documents/Primers/Primer\\_REPIBufferPartnerships.pdf](http://www.repi.mil/Portals/44/Documents/Primers/Primer_REPIBufferPartnerships.pdf)

### The Recreational Trails Program (RTP)

- The RTP provides funds to States to develop and maintain recreational trails and trail-related facilities for both non-motorized and motorized recreational trail uses. The RTP is an assistance program of the Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). [http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/recreational\\_trails/](http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/recreational_trails/)
- RTP contacts by state: <http://www.americantrails.org/resources/fedfund/RTPcontacts.html>

Top: Youth engaged in fishing (photo credit: Sultana Education Instagram feed)

### National Park Foundation (NPF)

- NPF provides stewardship grants and conservation funding. The approaching 2016 NPS Centennial has provided a catalyst for NPS leadership, NPF and Friends Groups to assess what the highest priority needs are for the coming years and to determine where philanthropic support can best assist. Centennial priority projects have been identified, and these will be the focus of all NPF fundraising efforts moving forward. As a result of this transition to a new method of delivering impact, NPF will be moving away from the traditional "RFP" model for funding projects and programs. The conduits for the Centennial projects are the regional offices, Centennial coordinators and WASO Centennial and Partnership offices. You can find the list of those contacts here:
- <http://www.nationalparks.org/our-work/grant-applications>

### Maryland State Highway Administration Recreational Trails Program

- This program funds the development of community-based, motorized and non-motorized recreational trail projects. Administered by the State Highway Administration (SHA), this program matches federal funds with local funds or in-kind contributions to implement trail projects. Projects can be sponsored by a county or municipal government, a private non-profit agency, a community group or an individual (non-governmental agencies must secure an appropriate government agency as a cosponsor).
- <http://sha.maryland.gov/Index.aspx?PageId=98>

### Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Grants and Loans Center

- DNR provides a number of direct grant, project grant programs as well as reimbursement programs and low interest and no interest loans. Some are federal funds matched by state dollars and some are state funds often matched by local dollars. This section will review DNR Grants and Loans programs.
- <http://dnr.maryland.gov/land/grantsandloans/grants.asp>

### The Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (DGIF)

- The Virginia DGIF provides grants to Virginia counties, cities and towns for public boating access facilities for new development or the renovation or improvements to existing public boating access facilities.
- <http://www.dgif.virginia.gov/boating/access/grants/>

### Virginia Land Conservation Fund (VLCF)

- The VLCF provides state funding to conserve four categories of special land. Those categories are open spaces and parks, natural areas, historic areas, and farmland and forest preservation. A portion of the fund may be used for matching grants to localities, other public bodies and nonprofit organizations, and for grants to state agencies to purchase land or conservation easements.
- [http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/virginia\\_land\\_conservation\\_foundation/](http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/virginia_land_conservation_foundation/)

### Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR)

- Virginia offers a variety of state and federal grant opportunities [http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/land\\_conservation/tools02g.shtml](http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/land_conservation/tools02g.shtml)

### American Trails – Supporting Trails Advocacy

- General information on trail advocacy including news, funding opportunities and shared resources.
- <http://www.americantrails.org/support.html>

### Additional potential sources of funding:

- Local/state conservation agencies
- State outdoors plans
- Heritage tourism grants



Top: Capital Bikeshare rental bicycle along the Potomac River (photo credit: Overthebarsinmilwaukee wordpress blog)

## Legacy of the Segment Plan

The Potomac Segment Plan is intended to be a living document, dynamic in adding new content and updating progress over the next two to five years. It is the goal of the steering group that the implementation of the action items identified in the plan will create momentum along the Trails and spur additional conservation, interpretation and public access development at partner sites along the river.

Updates to Focus Area boundaries, newly identified Anchor Sites and additional trail destinations are anticipated to be released in future years as the plan is continuously evaluated for opportunities to better engage, protect and honor the trail resources located along the tidal Potomac River.

Outreach to new stakeholders will be ongoing. Publications regarding the progress of implementing Action Items from the plan will be extended by the steering group to stakeholders and trail partners. Regular communication and tracking the overall success of the plan's efforts are crucial to strengthening the network between the National Park Service and the trail partners that support the three national trails along the Tidal Potomac River.

"We need to work together in creative new ways to make sure we protect what we have against weather emergencies, climate effects or over-development, we have a lot of work to do."

-Senator Tim Kaine (D), Virginia  
(from Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve competitive grant award announcement, November 1, 2013)

Bottom: Recreational enthusiast (photo credit: Sylvan Sport)



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A Partnership for National Trails on the Tidal Potomac River

2015