
Greater Prince William TRAILS COALITION

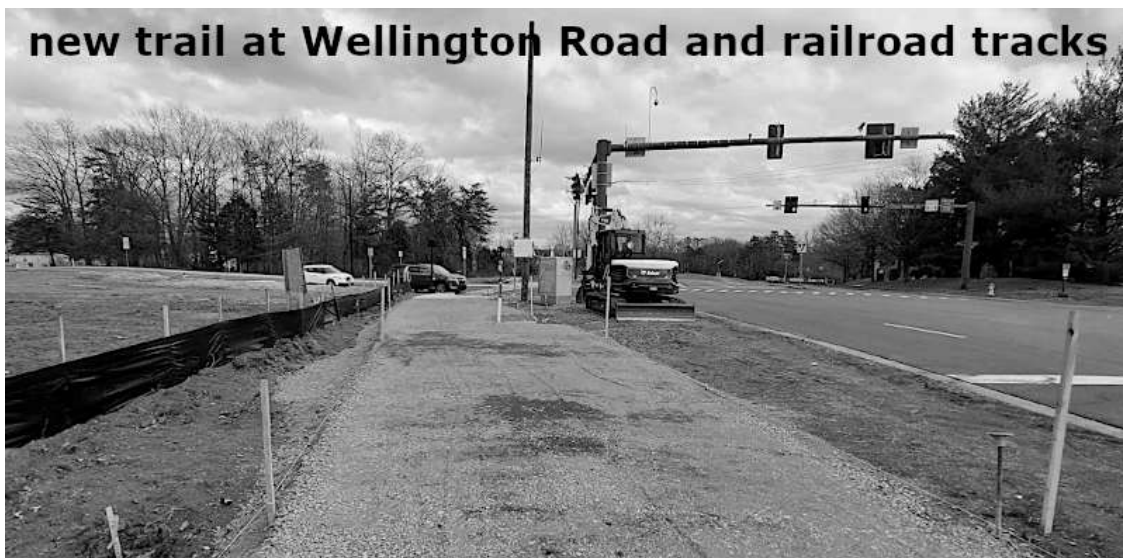
E-Mails for Trails - Write/Right Now

Residents can dream of new trails. County staff can plan new trails. But only the elected Board of County Supervisors can fund construction of new trails.

The FY26 budget process for Prince William County is about to end. Key decisions are being made in mid-March - and there may be enough \$\$\$ available to start funding new trail construction at \$5 million/year.

That will happen only if enough people - and their friends - who want to see new trails in real life send an e-mail to bocs@pwcgov.org and express support for \$5 million. If elected officials hear from enough local residents, they may respond. There's no guarantee - but if they do not hear an "ask," there will be no new funding.

*(The 2019 **Prince William County Parks and Recreation Needs Assessment Survey** identified walking trails as a top priority for residents in Prince William County. Odds are, the 2025 assessment about to be released will repeat the need, continuing to justify funding for trails...)*



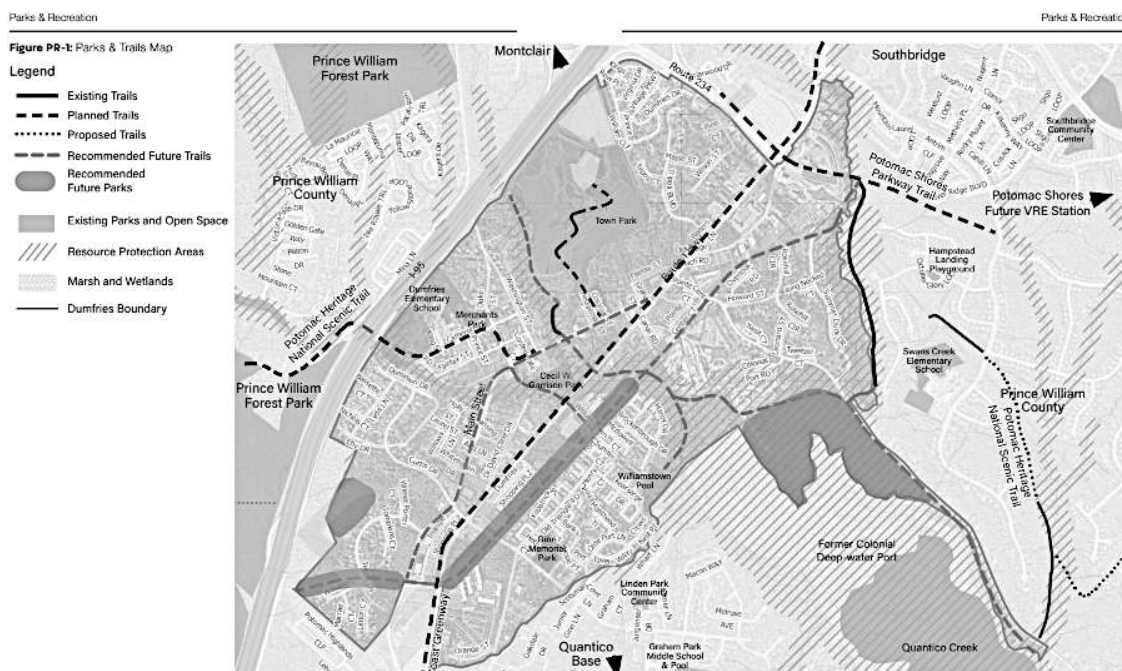
Trails Planning: You Can Contribute Ideas Early

Prince William Department of Parks and Recreation has started to gather stakeholder input for creating the Trails Master Plan in 2025, refining the **Countywide Trails Plan** published in 2022. Want a walk through history? Check out the **1993 Trails and Greenways Master Plan**.

Got ideas for refining the current trails plan? Prince William Department of Parks and Recreation has not yet announced its formal public input process, but the Greater Prince William Trails Coalition is planning ahead right now. Comments can be provided to Manassas Park and Manassas officials as well (*Wellington Road project shown above is in Manassas*).

Do you know of gaps in existing trails? Got ideas for the route of a new trail segment? Think planned alignments should be revised? Join us in a Zoom meeting on **March 31** or in-person at Chinn Community Center on **April 12**.

We'll provide a short history of trails planning, put the current county trails planning initiative into context, and then share/collect ideas so we can make the county's existing good trails plan even better.



Trails Planning in Dumfries

The draft Dumfries Comprehensive Plan, **Destination Dumfries 2044**, is now available for comment. Feedback is requested by March 26 to **Dumfries2044@dumfriesva.gov**

Draft is intended to implement the town's **Strategic Plan**, which includes the objective "Ensure Beautiful Outdoor Spaces." An action to implement that objective is "Develop a small area plan for waterfront development, balancing economic opportunities with environmental preservation." That could include building a boardwalk and boat ramp for canoes/kayaks to access Quantico Creek.

Draft Comprehensive Plan includes several active transportation policies:

- TI-2.2 Continue to enhance and implement the Town's multimodal transportation network to create an all-encompassing transportation network with modernized facilities for all roadway users, including motorized and non-motorized modes such as bicycles and pedestrians.
- TI-3.1 Expand and upgrade the town's network of bicycle and pedestrian facilities to provide safe and easy access to jobs, schools, commercial and entertainment hubs.
- TI-3.3 Provide safe pedestrian and bicycle connections between the east side of town and Main Street.
- Lul-1.5b Ensure pedestrian and bicycle access to mixed-use development and new park at the former Potomac Landfill for both employees and visitors
- PR-2.2 Pursue construction of a comprehensive trail network (Blueways/Greenways system) to provide safe and convenient connections between parks, open space, neighborhoods, and destinations, including Mixed-Use Hubs, to provide opportunities for non-motorized travel and active and passive recreation throughout the town



Department of Parks and Recreation Hikes

Check out the Prince William County [Department of Parks and Recreation programs](#), including:

- March 22, 9:00-10:30am [Spring Wildflower Hike](#) (Nokesville Park)
- March 29, 9:00-10:30am - [Spring Wildflower Hike](#) (Ben Lomond Regional Park)
- April 12, 7:00-9:00pm - [Full Moon Hike](#) (Neabsco Boardwalk)



2025 Trail Care Academy

Northern Virginia Regional Commission (NVRC) and Fina Trails, with funding from the National Park Foundation, are launching a training program for volunteers, organizations, and government agencies to learn how to maintain trails. Training includes two, half-day in-person events as well as webinars.

Trail Management 101, focused on natural surface trails, is scheduled for April 1. [Get details and register.](#)



Comprehensive Traffic Safety Action Plan Meetings

Prince William Transportation Department held public meetings on February 20 and 28 to get public input into the [Community Traffic Safety Action Plan](#) (CTSAP).

*NOTE: from the Washington Post, February 23: **The D.C. region is twice as deadly for pedestrians as a decade ago**, "...safety interventions can reduce crashes and serious injuries by as much as 75 percent. But...the vast majority of deaths last year — nearly 80 percent — 'were tied to reckless and antisocial behavior' that is difficult to combat through engineering alone."*

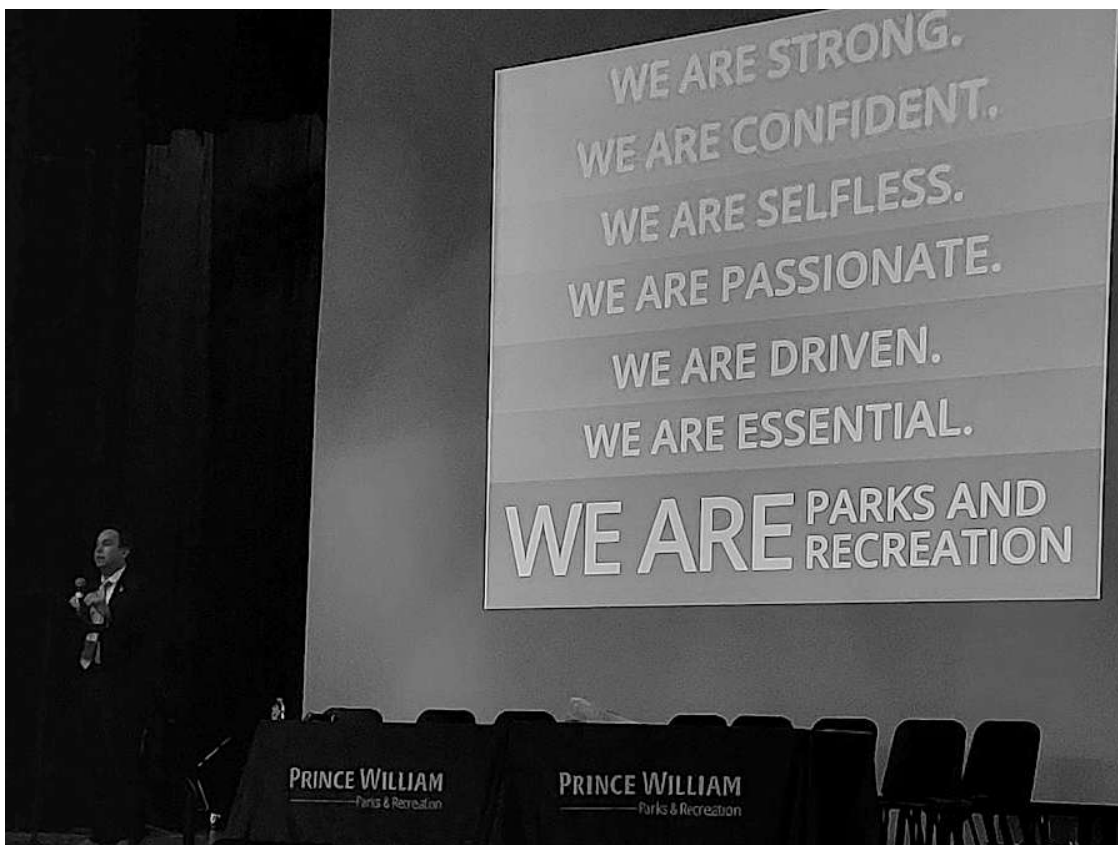
*From Governing, March 11: **Pedestrian Deaths Decline, but Remain at Record Highs**: "...Pedestrian deaths on U.S. roads declined for a second straight year, but remain 48 percent higher than a decade ago"*



State of the Parks Report

On March 6, the Prince William County Department of Parks and Recreation assembled key county officials and local residents to hear the accomplishments over the last year. There were many, including adding 8 miles of trail (up to 65 miles now) and 300 acres to the county park system. Check out the [2024 Annual Report](#).

What's happening now? Check out the [events page](#). What's coming in 2025? For trails, big events include creation of the Trails Master Plan, completion of one mile of Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail along Featherstone National Wildlife Refuge, construction of the Hooes Run bridge on the Occoquan Greenway, detailed planning of the Powells Creek Crossing, and publication of the 2025 Recreation Needs Assessment.



And In Other News...

- Thanks to Mid-Atlantic Off-Road Enthusiasts (MORE) volunteers, local trails are being uploaded/updated on **Trail Forks** now. Newest trails added are at Silver Lake and James Long Park and Andrew Leitch Park.
- Check out the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) **Health in the Commonwealth podcasts**, including one on how painting a mural slowed traffic and increased pedestrian access.
- Rick Canizales, Director of Prince William Transportation Department, was interviewed for the March 2 story **Around Prince William: Everything is connected – and here's why.** *"The traditional way to do transportation planning is to think about how to move cars around, but Canizales explained how he and his team now focus on how to move people around."*
- Alexandria's Complete Streets program will be the focus of **Agenda: Alexandria** discussion on March 24.
- Sierra Club has scheduled at **hike at Occoquan Bay National Wildlife Refuge** on May 17, 9:30am-noon. A clue regarding level of interest in local hiking: you can only join the waitlist now.
- **Bike to Work Day** is May 15. Not working that day? Bike to a pit stop just for the fun of it.
- The Association of Pedestrian and Bicycle Professionals (APBP) offers **recordings of free webinars** online.
- Stay cool while getting in some cardio in a Lazy River this summer! Water walking will be available Monday-Thursday from 6:30-7:15pm at **Signal Bay Water Park** in Manassas Park. No tubes or children are allowed during water walking.
- Rails to Trails Conservancy has **drafted a letter** to US Secretary of Transportation Patrick Duffy for local elected officials and business associations to sign, expressing support of continued Federal funding for biking and hiking infrastructure.
- The Urban Land Institute has provided recommendations to Prince William County for redeveloping the Sudley Road corridor from Godwin Drive to Manassas Battlefield National Park. As noted in **Prince William Living**: *"...recommendations focus on a phased approach to development, pedestrian safety improvements and initiatives to better connect existing community resources while incentivizing future redevelopment."*
- The National Park Service is organizing a Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail roundtable this Fall. Roundtable will be open to all, not just land managers for:
September 5: Virtual State of the Trail online meeting
October 9-10: In-person meetings and field trips
- **Arlington's \$8M funding bid for trail along Long Bridge Drive is rejected** (from ArlNOW, March 4) The Commuter Choice program was not a legitimate funding source for a trail that *"would run from the terminus of the future Long Bridge Park multi-use pedestrian and bicycle bridge to the Crystal City Bike Network."*

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