



## May 11: Second Sunday Hike, 1:00-3:00pm

We will explore Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail through a part of Leesylvania State Park, including the planned site of the [Powells Creek Crossing](#) on the north side of Powells Creek. The hike will be about 3.4 miles on natural surface trails with some hills. [Please register](#) to get details, and in case weather forces us to postpone the hike.



## Four Meetings in May to Plan Prince William County Trails

### April 30 - Transportation Town Hall, 6:00-8:00pm at A. J. Ferlazzo Building

Prince William Transportation Department staff will describe planned road, trail, and transit projects for eastern end of county. See [Potomac Local interview](#) with Rick Canizales.

**May 7 - Transportation Town Hall, 6:00-8:00pm at Patriot High School**

Projects in western end of county will be highlighted.

**May 15 - Transportation Town Hall, 6:00-8:00pm at McCoart Government Center**

Projects in mid-county will be highlighted.

**May 19 - Doves Landing Master Plan, 7:00pm at Kelly Leadership Center**

The Prince William County Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) has moved into the design phase of the development of the Sinclair Mill Site and the greater Doves Landing Park. DPR is currently working with a consultant team to create 35% design plan based on the approved Master Plan for the park and the 10% design. This meeting is another opportunity for community engagement and comment. People can attend in-person or virtually. Comments can also be submitted via e-mail at [DovesLanding@pwgov.org](mailto:DovesLanding@pwgov.org)

**May 29 - Trails Master Plan kickoff meeting with stakeholders, 7:00-9:00pm at Kelly Leadership Center**  
**Action Strategy RT9.2 in 2040 Mobility Chapter says "Develop a County-wide Trails Master Plan that identifies trail and active mobility gaps and includes priorities for inclusion into capital improvement and capital maintenance budgets..."**

Boaters, equestrians, bikers, hikers, and everyone interested in trails are invited. This will be no online option; DPR is seeking engagement and interaction over 2 hours. A second community meeting is likely in October, with adoption of the Trails Master Plan by the Board of County Supervisors in January 2026. Like the Parks Master Plan, the Trails Master Plan is expected to be updated every 10 years.

In preparation for the Trails Master Plan kickoff, the Greater Prince William Trails Coalition held two workshops on March 31 and April 12. The meetings produced ideas for updating the existing **Countywide Trails Plan** map, which was adopted in 2022 as part of the **2040 Mobility Chapter**.

In addition to proposing refinements in the routes of existing trail segments on the map, attendees also reviewed the linkages between the county and Manassas/Manassas Park/Fairfax County and identified new trail segments to create a more-complete bike/pedestrian network.

At the April 24 Quarterly Meeting of the Greater Prince William Trails Coalition, much of the discussion focused on completing the planning for the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail (PHNST), getting funding, and completing segments before the 250th Semiquincentennial of the Battle of Yorktown in 2031 - particularly the **Washington-Rochambeau Route through Prince William Forest Park**. Jennifer Wampler, the PHNST point of contact for partnerships, presented an overview of grants and various funding opportunities that might facilitate finding private/regional/state/Federal funding.

Broad Run Greenway Improvements (ARPA) (Project# 22CA1303 - BRENTSVILLE)

- \* Broad Run Linear Park - Amenity: Trails & Blueways -
- \* This project involves improvements to existing trail and bridges.
- \* Project Update: Field work and staff estimates for trail development of 1.5 mile section connecting Sowder Village Square to Broad Run Trail behind Victory Elementary complete.
- \* Status: Planning
- \* Estimated Completion: Fall 2025

## \$\$\$ for Prince William County Trails

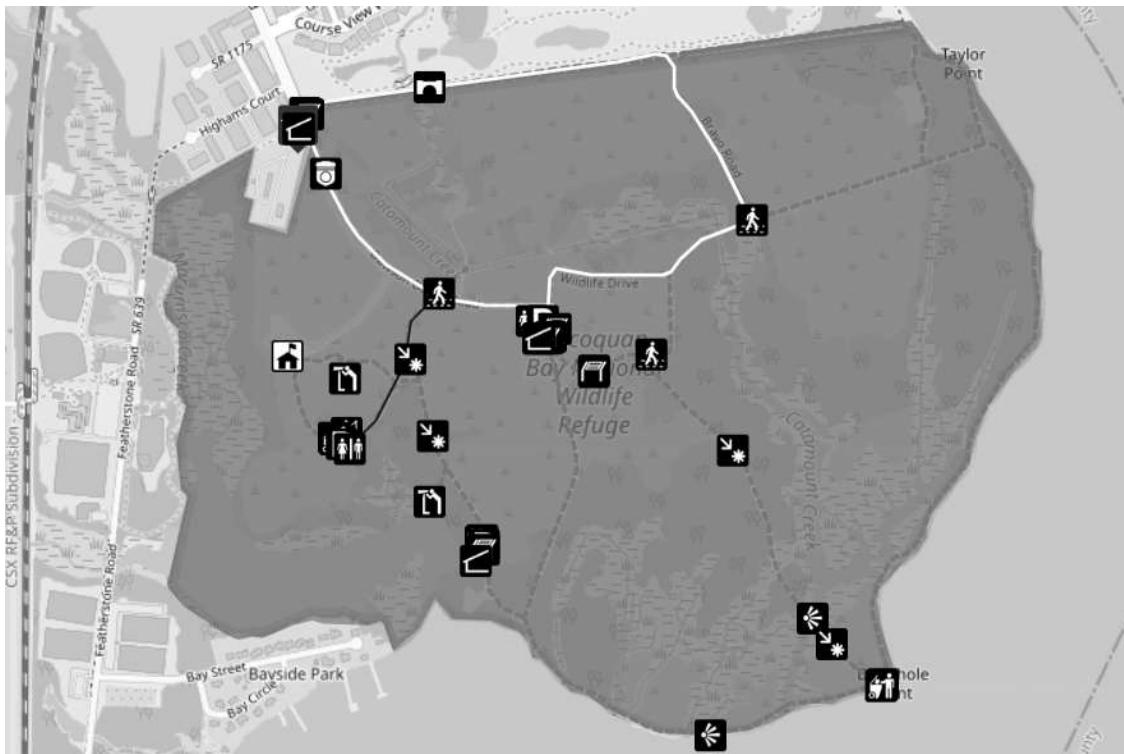
The final FY26 budget adopted by the Prince William Board of County Supervisors (BOCS) included a new line item - \$2.5 million of discretionary capital improvement funding for the Department of Parks and Recreation. County staff will determine which projects (potentially including trails) will be built using that funding, which should be repeated in future budgets.

However, the BOCS did not increase base funding for trails construction from the existing \$1 million to \$5 million. Trails advocates will now focus on the FY27 budget process, which starts with staff proposals getting prepared in October.

The FY26 budget also provided \$450,000 of Transportation & Roadway Improvement Program (TRIP) funds to each of the eight county supervisors. TRIP funds are intended for small scale projects, and could be used for "low hanging fruit" trail projects.

Three positions proposed in FY26 for maintaining the Occoquan Greenway were deleted from the County Executive's proposed FY26 budget during "mark-up" on April 15. Those positions are likely to appear in the FY27 proposed budget, after more segments of the greenway are completed this year.

Status of projects already in the county budget is now easy to track on the Department of Parks and Recreation's Capital Improvements Program (CIP) Dashboard (see example, above).



## May 17: Sierra Club Social and Trails Talk

The Potomac Region Outings sponsored by the Sierra Club includes a hike, potluck lunch, and trails talk at [Occoquan Bay National Wildlife Refuge](#) on May 17. Explore the refuge, then munch and learn about Prince William County's grand plan to greatly expand parks and trails throughout the county - including routing the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail from Occoquan through Belmont Bay and the wildlife refuge.

Sign up separately for the [hike](#) (there's a waitlist...) at 9:30am and/or the [potluck lunch/trails talk](#) at noon. You can stay after the 1:00pm talk for the Sierra Club PRO Leaders Meeting if you wish; that meeting starts at 2:00pm.

# Youth Wellness Conference

Empower. Educate. Elevate.





## Trails Can Enhance Mental Health

The Trails and Blueways Council will be reaching with the health community during three separate events in May.

High school students are the target audience for the [\*\*Youth Wellness Conference\*\*](#) on May 3, 10:00am-3:00pm at the McCoart Administrative Center. Conference will focus on mental health. Getting outdoors for a walking/bike ride is a cost-effective prescription for both physical and mental health - check the League of American Bicyclists' [\*\*public health indicators\*\*](#). On May 3, look for the posters with maps of local trails to explore.

The local chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) takes a broad perspective on how to address addition and mental illness. Healthy exercise is one of the tools to help stabilize people and lead to recovery. One program is [\*\*NAMI Walks\*\*](#), and the next event is on May 4 in Alexandria.

Greater Prince William Trails Coalition has partnered with the [\*\*Prevention Coalition of Greater Prince William\*\*](#) and Prince William County's [\*\*Department of Community Services\*\*](#) to install [\*\*“Walk and Talk Wellness”\*\*](#) signs on trails in Manassas, Manassas Park, and Prince William

County. Signs with messages such as “Reach out, give hope” will be in place between May 10-June 8, in honor of National Mental Health Awareness Month and National Trails Day.



## Update: Will VDOT Block the Neabsco Creek Greenway?

The original design by the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) for repairing the I-95 southbound bridge over Neabsco Creek proposed a culvert that would totally block pedestrian use.

After strong negative responses to that proposal, VDOT is now offering a design (*see above*) that it claimed would accommodate a trail. The Trails and Blueways Council made clear at its April 23 meeting that VDOT’s proposed 5’ wide path through a 250’ long culvert, with curved walls limiting use of the path, was not a safe and adequate response. A resolution called for a minimum 10’ wide trail.

VDOT reported that funding for its project is limited to maintaining the bridge. Adding lights, handrail, etc. along the bench within the culvert would require extra Prince William County funding.



## Parking Spaces for Bikes

There are 1,400 parking spaces for cars at the Neabsco-Potomac Commuter Garage. The \$55 million facility opened in November 2024. Above, you can see the expected demand for bicycle parking is much less...



## Bike to Work Day/Bike Month

Bike Month events in Manassas, Manassas Park and Prince William County include:  
May 3 - 8:00am-1:00pm: Bike Month at the Farmers Market on Prince William Street in Manassas

May 7- **National Bike, Walk and Roll to School Day**. Two Prince William County Schools, Antietam Elementary School and Sudley Elementary School, are hosting official Bike & Roll events.

May 10 - 2:00-5:00pm: **Adult Learn to Ride Class** with **WABA**. This is a very basic class for adults who have never ridden a bicycle before or want to master mounting/dismounting, balancing, steering, pedaling, braking, and shifting gears. It's a parking lot class, not a trail or street riding class

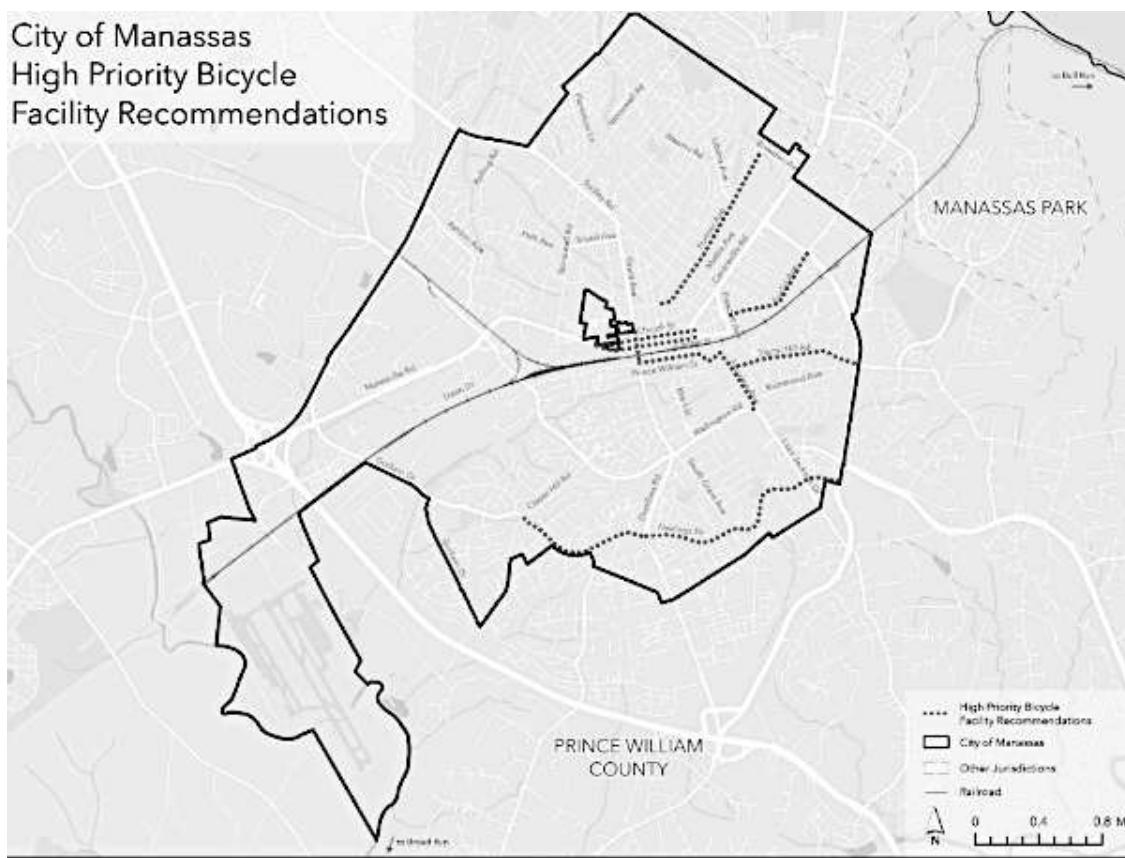
May 15 - **Bike to Work Day**. There are **9 local pit stops** operating from roughly 6:00am-9:00am

May 16 - 4:45pm-6:00pm: Bike Rodeo for kids at Boys & Girls Club at Jennie Dean Park. Bring your own bike and helmet.

May 17 - Manassas **Family Bike Ride**. Meet at 9:30am at Dean Park.

May 22 - Virtual Annual Manassas **Bike/Pedestrian Improvement meeting**, 7:00pm

May 24 - **Tour D'Ecoles** is a community bike ride on a 12-mile loop route through the City of Manassas visiting all the schools. Expedition is sponsored by the **Potomac Pedalers**.



## Manassas Mobility Update

Manassas has released the **draft Mobility Chapter** to update the 2019 Transportation Plan, with its **Bike Feasibility Study**. Over one-third of daily vehicle trips in the City are shorter than two miles. **Comments** are accepted until May 18.

Since adoption of the 2020 Comprehensive Plan, the city has added 12 miles of bicycle lanes, shared use paths, and signed shared roads. Manassas now has 24 centerline miles of bike lanes and shared use paths with a target of 40 miles by 2045, plus signed shared roads. 4.2% of residents reported using a bike for commuting or other utilitarian trips.

Manassas is currently a Bronze-level Bicycle Friendly Community, and seeks Gold designation by 2045.

Under discussion now is the creation of protected bike lanes downtown on Church and Center streets, and on Grant Avenue by potentially extending the “road diet” to the Old Manassas Courthouse. The draft plan proposes two themed long-distance trails, a Historic Trail plus a Nature and Rail Trail that would require coordination with adjacent jurisdictions.

The Virtual Annual Bike/Pedestrian Improvement meeting for Manassas will be on May 22 at 7:00pm. [Register](#) to join.



## Trails and Blueways Council (TBC) Update

At its April 22 meeting:

- the TBC provided clear feedback for VDOT to consider when redesigning the proposed culvert underneath the I-95 bridge over Neabsco Creek. There were no happy campers in the room.
- Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) clarified that stewardship agreements with volunteer groups deal with maintenance of existing trails, not construction of new segments.
- DPR responsibility for trails planning and capital projects (including Recreation Needs Assessment every 5 years) is expected to move to Prince William Transportation Department in FY27 budget.
- Manassas, Manassas Park, and Prince William County are contributing about \$90,000 each to fund feasibility study to build a rail-with-trail connection parallel to railroad tracks between downtown Manassas train station and Bull Run.
- Prince William Transportation Department is examining how to build new trail segment underneath Route 15 at Catharpin Creek, to provide safe way to cross the highway between Dominion Valley and Battlefield High School/Long Park.
- TBC will hold joint meeting with Parks and Recreation Commission, probably in July/August.
- After a land donation by Stack Infrastructure, Prince William County now owns all the land needed to build the trail on the north side of Broad Run (see above). The bridge over Rocky Branch is now scheduled to be re-installed in September.
- New stone dust trail between Jefferson Park and Marumsco Acres will connect Route 1 communities to Veterans Park via existing bridge over CSX tracks. Project will be funded by the \$1 million added to FY25 budget.



## In Other News...

- New trails system at Bull Run Mountains Natural Area Preserve will include a new parking lot (see above) and site for crossing Norfolk Southern railroad track. Look for the trails to open Spring 2026.
- Potomac Shores advertises its trail system as a move-in gift. The community now has 8 miles of trails, after adding four new trails in 2024. Trail Committee members will lead the annual cleanup on April 26, 9:00-10:30am. Meet at the Multipurpose Court next to the Social Barn.

- Stakeholders for the **Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail** (PHNST) met on April 17 to plan a roundtable discussion in the Fall, assuming funding is available. A virtual meeting on September 5 will review the state of the trail. Field trips are scheduled on October 9-10, to prepare for the development of the PHNST Comprehensive Management Plan.
- Northern Virginia Regional Commission has issued its **latest quarterly newsletter**. NVRC will not hold a 2025 **Trails Summit** this Fall.
- The **April issue** of Haymarket Gainesville Lifestyle Magazine tells the story of mountain biking trails developed by **Mid Atlantic Off-Road Enthusiasts** (MORE) at Long Park: "*The trails are ideal for hikers, trail runners, mountain or dirt bikers and equestrians.*"
- Miss the dedication of the Neabsco Creek kayak launch? Read [all about it](#).
- Major Taylor Cycling Club of Virginia is sponsoring a **Ride of Silence** starting at 6:30pm on May 21. The 8-mile ride begins at **A-1 Cycling** on Sudley Manor Drive, and honors those who have been injured or killed while cycling on public roadways.



*construction started on Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail at Featherstone National Wildlife Refuge*

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