View this email in your browser

Greater Prince William TRAILS COALITION

December 7 - Ribbon Cutting on Occoquan Greenway

The 110' steel bridge on **Segment 3** of the **Occoquan Greenway** will be dedicated on December 7, 11:00am. Check the **public invitation** for parking details.

A similar bridge is planned for Segment 6. The design for a shorter Segment 4 bridge is now under review.

Second Sunday Hike on December 10: Preserve at Long Branch

The trail is on land that will become a public park in the future when the proffered land transfers to Prince William County. The trail, trailhead, and parking lot have been completed. The developer has given permission to conduct a hike, but asks that each participant complete and sign the **waiver form** (send the completed form to **secretary@pwtsc.org**, or bring the printed form to the hike).

The first segment of the hike down to Lake Jackson will be about 2.5 miles. The second segment will be about 1.0 mile. This is a natural surface established trail with wooden bridges across stream channels.

Hike starts at 1:00pm. **Register online**. *NOTE: Carpooling is encouraged due to limited space at the trailhead parking lot.*

Trail Development at Doves Landing Park

The **controversial rezoning** to authorize development of the Preserve at Long Branch included proffers to add acreage to Doves Landing Park, plus build trails and a boat ramp on Lake Jackson at the Sinclair Mill site.
Stanley Martin is now the developer of the **Preserve at Long Branch**. Trail construction is being done by **Ironwood Outdoors**. A trailhead and parking lot have been completed. Sometime in 2024 the trail will be opened for public use. In the meantime, see *Second Sunday Hike: Preserve at Long Branch* (above).

A crossing is still needed to extend the trail over Long Branch and complete a trail connection to the Sinclair Mill historic site and future boat ramp, as identified in the **Master Plan** for Doves Landing Park. Department of Parks and Recreation is planning to advertise soon for a contract to design new facilities at the park.

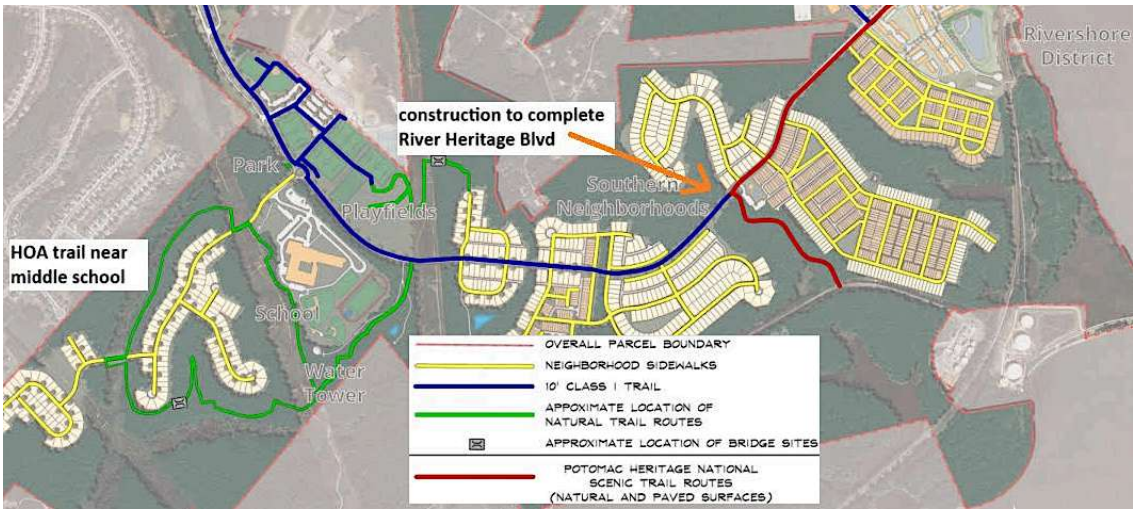
According to 13.A in **the proffers** "*All perennial and major intermittent streams shall be crossed with US Forest Service Armored Fords or equivalent non-bridge water crossings or fords as determined by DPRT*." The Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism (DPRT) is now the Department of Parks and Recreation.

See Neabsco Boardwalk At Night

The 2nd annual Holiday Walk of Lights is back this year and brighter than ever! Experience the magic of the holiday season as you walk down a path of unique, hand-crafted light displays at Neabsco Regional Park. Bring family and friends and be prepared to be in awe of the dazzling lights that surround us!

Free - no registration required. Parking at Neabsco Regional Park is reserved for those with disabled license plates or placards ONLY. Free Shuttle Bus from **designated parking lots**.

Hours of Operation:
Dec 1-3, Friday - Sunday, 5:30-9pm
December 8-10, Friday - Sunday, 5:30-9pm
December 12 (Tuesday, Sensory Friendly Event only*), 5:30-8pm
December 15-17, Friday - Sunday, 5:30-9pm
December 20-23, Wednesday – Saturday, 5:30-9pm (Final Night!)
**Sensory Night = Reduced volume and low lights*



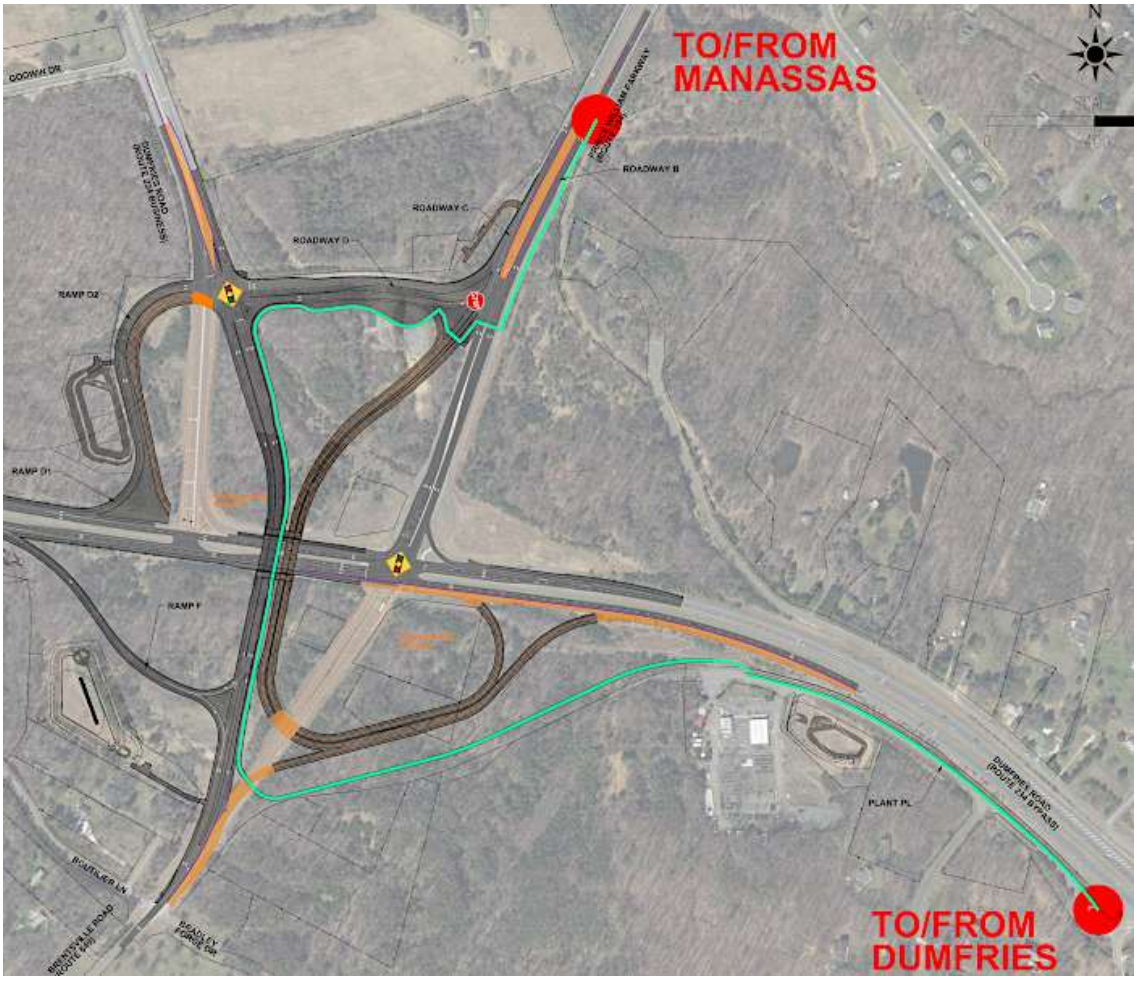
Closing the Trail Gap on River Heritage Boulevard

A 10-foot wide shared use path is planned in Potomac Shores along River Heritage Boulevard. Initial construction completed roads and houses on each side of a stream. Now that the road is being constructed across the stream, look for the shared use path to be built. *(Images by Neil Nelson)*

Trails and Blueways Council (TBC) Meeting Notes

- The Federal Land Access Program (FLAP) **grant** for dealing with gaps in the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail is still in the administrative process and requires one more approval from the Board of County Supervisors.
- Prince William Transportation Department has forwarded **National Capital Trail Network** corrections to the Transportation Planning Board. Bike Route 1 and East Coast Greenway routes in the county will be submitted when a more comprehensive update is done in Spring 2024. Trails and Blueways Council resolution in 2024 may identify which trail segments in 2040 Mobility Chapter are considered **family-friendly/fully accessible enough** to qualify for inclusion in the National Capital Trail Network.
- County staff are exploring how to provide better bike/pedestrian connectivity to Northern Virginia Community College as part of the proposed **Parkridge Center** rezoning. **Active Prince William** submitted detailed recommendations.
- Kickoff meeting will be in December with Foursquare, contractor for the Yorkshire Multimodal Corridor Planning Study. Prince William County received an **$80,000 Transportation Land-Use Connections (TLC) grant** from Transportation Planning Board to consider options for this “pedestrian-unfriendly area.”
- Capital Projects Team in Department of Parks and Recreation is managing 83 projects now. Funding has come from maintenance, 2019 bond issue, and the

American Rescue Plan Act. In hopes of finally receiving General Fund appropriation, Department of Parks and Recreation has submitted highest priority proposals for FY25 budget, based on **Systemwide Master Plan**.



Until the Brentsville Interchange Is Completed…

…bikers and pedestrians headed towards Liberia Avenue can use the route marked by the green line (above).

The **Prince William Transportation Department** quickly responded with the map, once alerted that access was blocked by construction.

In Other News…

Pedestrian Traffic Crashes and Fatalities, 2022

2022	Alexandria City	Arlington Co.	Fairfax City	Fairfax Co.	Falls Church City	Loudoun Co.	Manassas City	Manassas Park City	Prince William Co.
							FATALITIES		
Pedestrian	1	2	1	32	0	1	0	0	11
Bicyclist	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
All traffic	5	4	2	66	0	16	2	0	30
							CRASHES		
Pedestrian	45	94	14	191	8	49	8	0	78
Bicyclist	13	41	0	74	2	17	2	0	20
All traffic	1,163	2,042	437	11,571	85	4,604	355	101	6,025

Source: Spring 2023 Street Smart Public Education Campaign
https://tinyurl.com/482anuz4

- **How changing a word on a sign could help Alexandria keep pedestrians safer** (WTOP, November 17)
- Know someone looking for a trails-related job? Recommend they check out the **Career Pathways Portal** from American Trails.
- You know that biking is good for the body, but did you know that **Bike riding in middle school may boost mental health**? (National Public Radio, October 18)
- **Old train routes are getting recycled into new trail networks** (*Washington Post*, November 27) *In Prince William Forest Park, the trail near the pyrite mine is the route of an old railroad used to carry ore to Dumfries.*
- Nominations are **now open** for the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) Most Outstanding Crossing Guard Award. **Crossing Guard Appreciation Day** is February 7, 2024.
- The Virginia Capital Trail Foundation is seeking a **Special Events and Program Manager**.
- **Potomac Appalachian Trail Club** is seeking a Supervisor of Communication, Supervisor of Marketing, Communication Committee members, and Marketing Committee members to implement a new website. Interested? E-mail **nominations@patc.net** to get the job descriptions and fill out the **volunteer form**.
- Magisterial district office year-end savings **will be appropriated** at the December 5 meeting of the Prince William Board of County Supervisors. Projects to be funded include $30,000 for a new BMX starting gate and $89,000 for accessible parking on Blackburn Road at the Neabsco Boardwalk.

Copyright (C) 2023 Greater Prince William Trails Coalition. All rights reserved.

Our mailing address is:

unsubscribe