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**Greater
Prince
William** **TRAILS**
COALITION



Second Sunday Hike on December 8, 1:00-3:00pm

We'll hike for 3.2 miles around Occoquan Bay National Wildlife Refuge and the Belmont Bay community on December 8, 1:00-3:00pm. The hike is on gravel trails within the Refuge and on blacktop path in Belmont Bay. Pets are not allowed inside the Refuge.

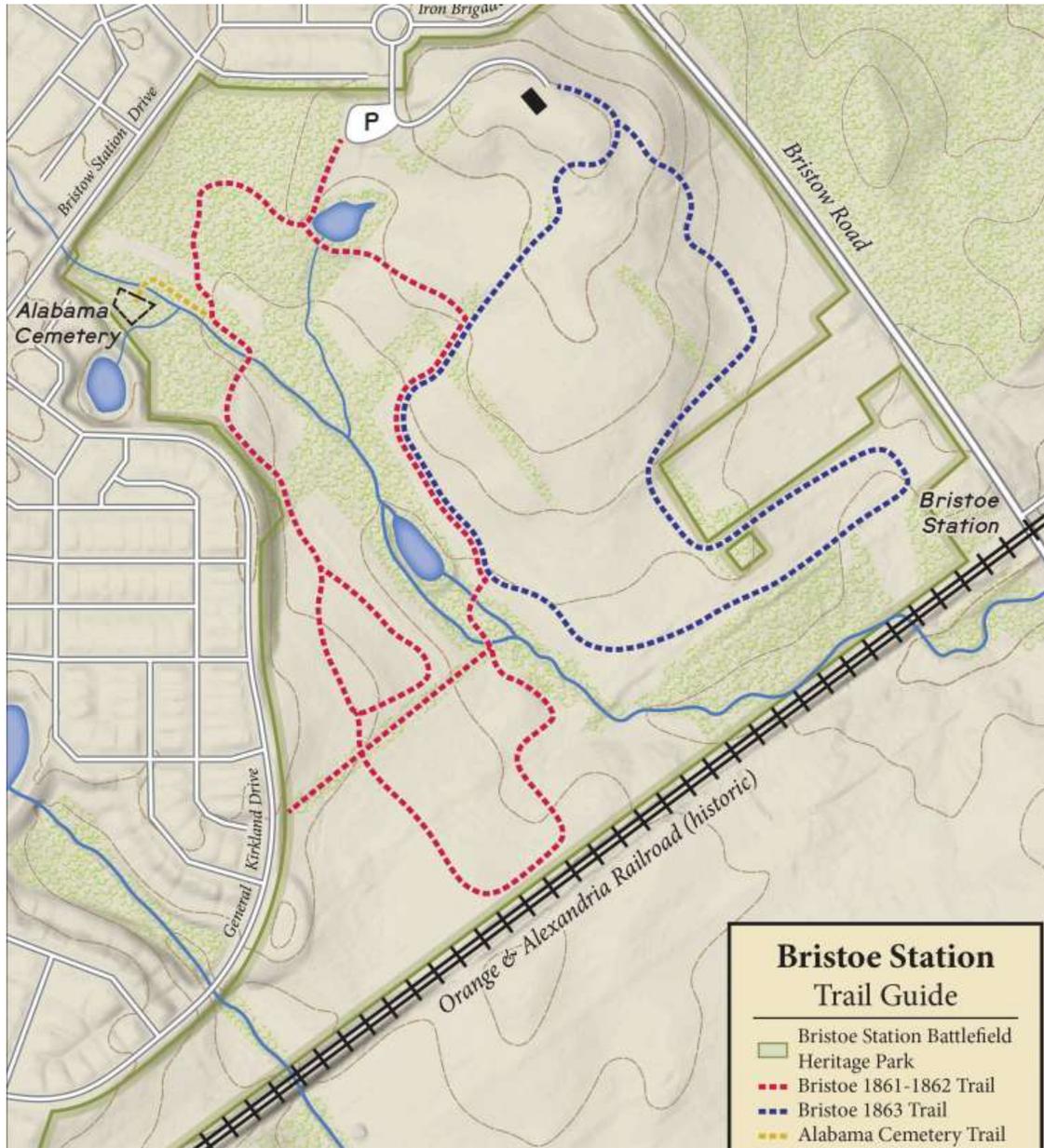
Please register so we can notify you if the hike is postponed or cancelled because of weather conditions.



Volunteers Needed: Help Build a Bridge on December 7

A 20' footbridge on the Fern Hollow Trail at **Bull Run Mountains Natural Area Preserve** needs repair. Volunteers are needed to carry in the wooden stringers and planks on December 7, starting at 9:00am. All tools and materials are provided by Virginia Outdoors Foundation; bring leather work gloves and be on time.

Register online at <https://www.meetup.com/bull-run-mountains-natural-area-preserve-volunteers/events/304494381/>



First Day (January 1) Hike

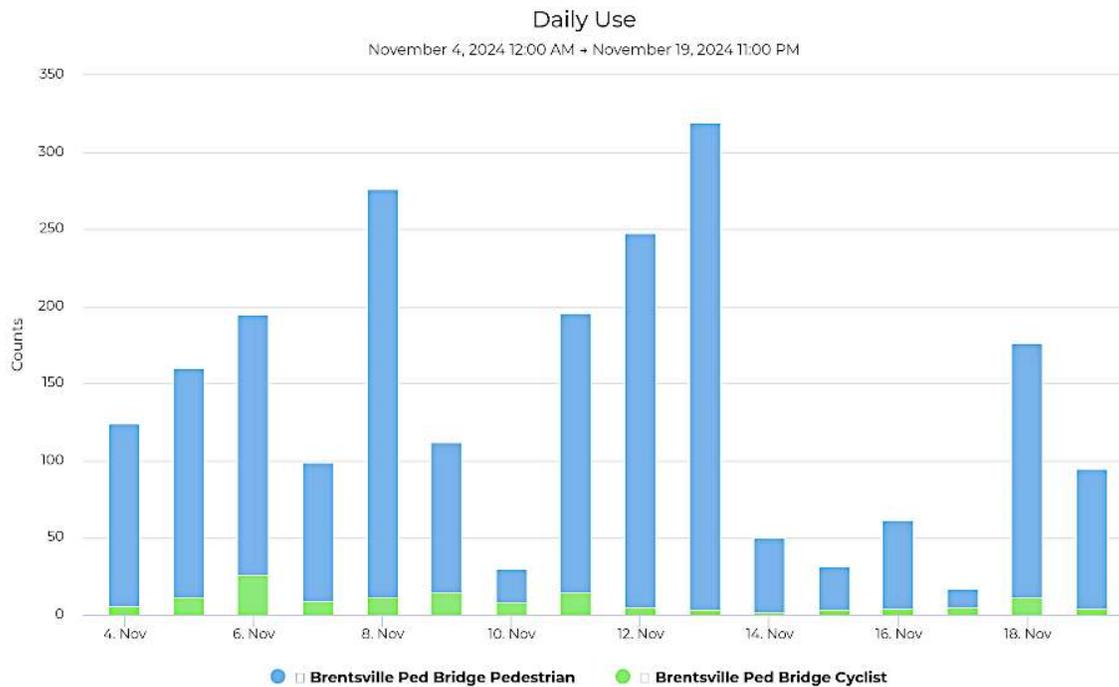
Registration opens December 10 for the First Day Hike sponsored by the Prince William County Department of Parks and Recreation. You can stretch your legs on a 90-minute, 3-mile hike at **Bristoe Station Battlefield Heritage Park**. Pets are welcome to join, but the trail is not accessible for strollers.



Building Another Mile of Trail

Prince William Department of Parks and Recreation **has announced** *“After 8 years of planning, the one-mile segment of trail through the Featherstone Wildlife Refuge is underway! As part of the 20 mile stretch of the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail through Prince William County, this trail will transport visitors into the depths of nature to explore the sights and sounds of a protected area not currently open to the public.”*

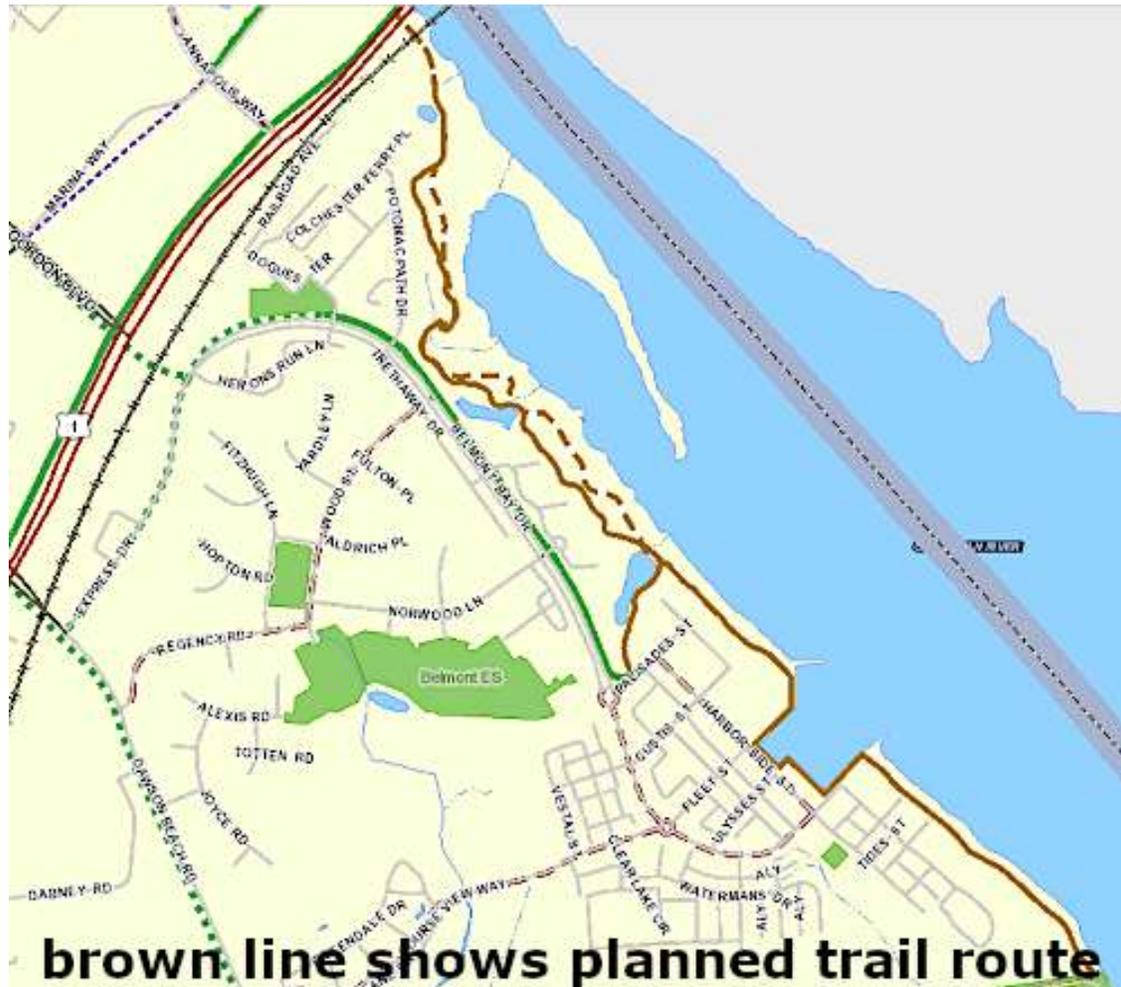
Also, on December 10 the agenda for the Prince William Board of County Supervisors includes **approval of additional funding** so the Occoquan Greenway will connect from Tanyard Hill Road to Mill Street (shown on map as Poplar Alley).



Counting Bikers and Pedestrians at Brentsville Interchange

Prince William County’s trail counter was used at the bridge over the Brentsville Interchange between November 1-22. Using infrared sensors, the counter documents the number of bikes using pneumatic tubing and pedestrians. There were 137 people crossing the bridge per day, on average, with over 300 pedestrians on the peak day in November.

When weather warms up, many more bikers and pedestrians will be able to cross Prince William Parkway safely because of the new bridge.



Routing the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail Through Belmont Bay

Belmont Bay rezoning proposals remain in flux, and only a portion of the **Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail** has been completed along the Occoquan River there.

On November 19, the **Trails and Blueways Council** passed Resolution 24-21 to advise the Board of County Supervisors that “*the Trails and Blueways Council recommends that the County’s Board of Supervisors request that the land encompassed in Open Space 1 be dedicated to the Prince William County Department of Parks and Recreation so that the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail can be constructed along the waterfront completing the PHNST through the Belmont Bay community.*”



Neabsco Creek Boat Ramp to Open by January 1

There is progress in a forward direction on the kayak/canoe launch next to the Neabsco Boardwalk (photo above, courtesy Russell Bryant).

The Prince William Department of Parks and Recreation anticipates **completion by the end of 2024**: “The non-motorized small boat launch will allow visitors to take their kayaks out through the Neabsco Creek which connects to the Potomac River. Neabsco Creek is a 13.9-mile-long tributary of the lower tidal segment of the Potomac River in eastern Prince William County, Virginia.”

Prince William County Parks & Recreation Presents
HOLIDAY WALK OF LIGHTS
 Neabsco Regional Park

FREE Event!
 No registration required

Our 3rd Annual Holiday Walk of Lights is back this year and brighter than ever!

Dec. 6-8 5:30-9pm
 Dec. 13-15 5:30-9pm
 Dec. 18-22 5:30-9pm
 Sensory Friendly Night:
 Dec. 10 5:30-8pm

For detailed information please visit our website:
pwcparks.info/holidaywalkoflights

In Other News...

- The Roanoke Greenway has incentivized a \$50 million mixed-use project. The **developer said** “*I would not be there if it wasn’t for the Greenway... The Greenway changes everything to me, the public access.*”
- Interested in trails at Potomac Shores? Check out the **Potomac Shores Facebook Group**.
- It’s dark out there. **Slow Down Life Ahead**.
- From Greater Greater Washington: **Capital Bikeshare (CaBi) broke its all-time monthly ridership record** for the sixth consecutive month in October with 725,346 rides. *This is the first time the regional bikesharing system has recorded over 700,000 rides, and represents the 34th straight month of year-over-year ridership growth....*
- Need holiday bling? In Virginia, the **East Coast Greenway** plans for 270 miles of “spine routing” plus about 130 miles of “alternate routing.” If you know someone in need of a cycling jersey, hat, or other biking bling, check out the **online store**.
- Sierra Club Potomac Region Outings (SCPRO) is already **looking for volunteers** for the C&O Canal **One Day Hike** on May 3.
- **Trails and Blueways Council** will meet on December 17, one week earlier than normal due to the “holiday.” Look for further discussion on prioritizing particular projects that could be included in FY26 budget.



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The Greater Price William Trails Coalition is a 501(c)(3) organization (EIN: 92-3087298).
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