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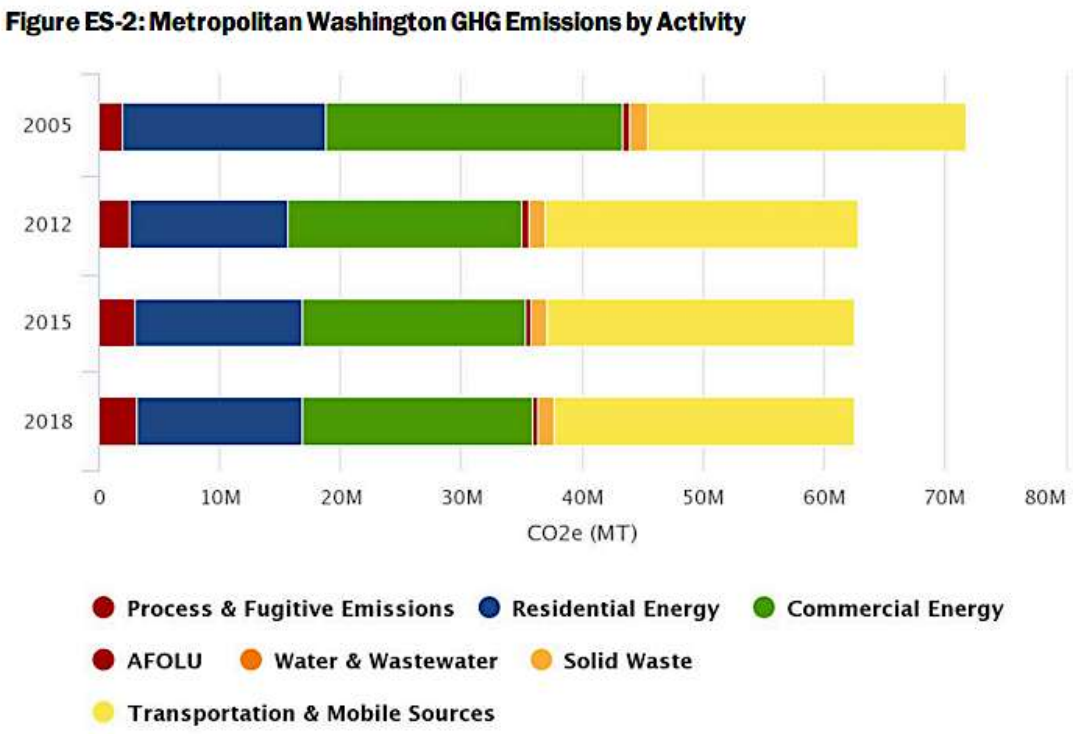
Greater Prince William TRAILS COALITION

To Meet the 2030 Target for Cutting Greenhouse Gas Emissions… Increase the Use of Trails



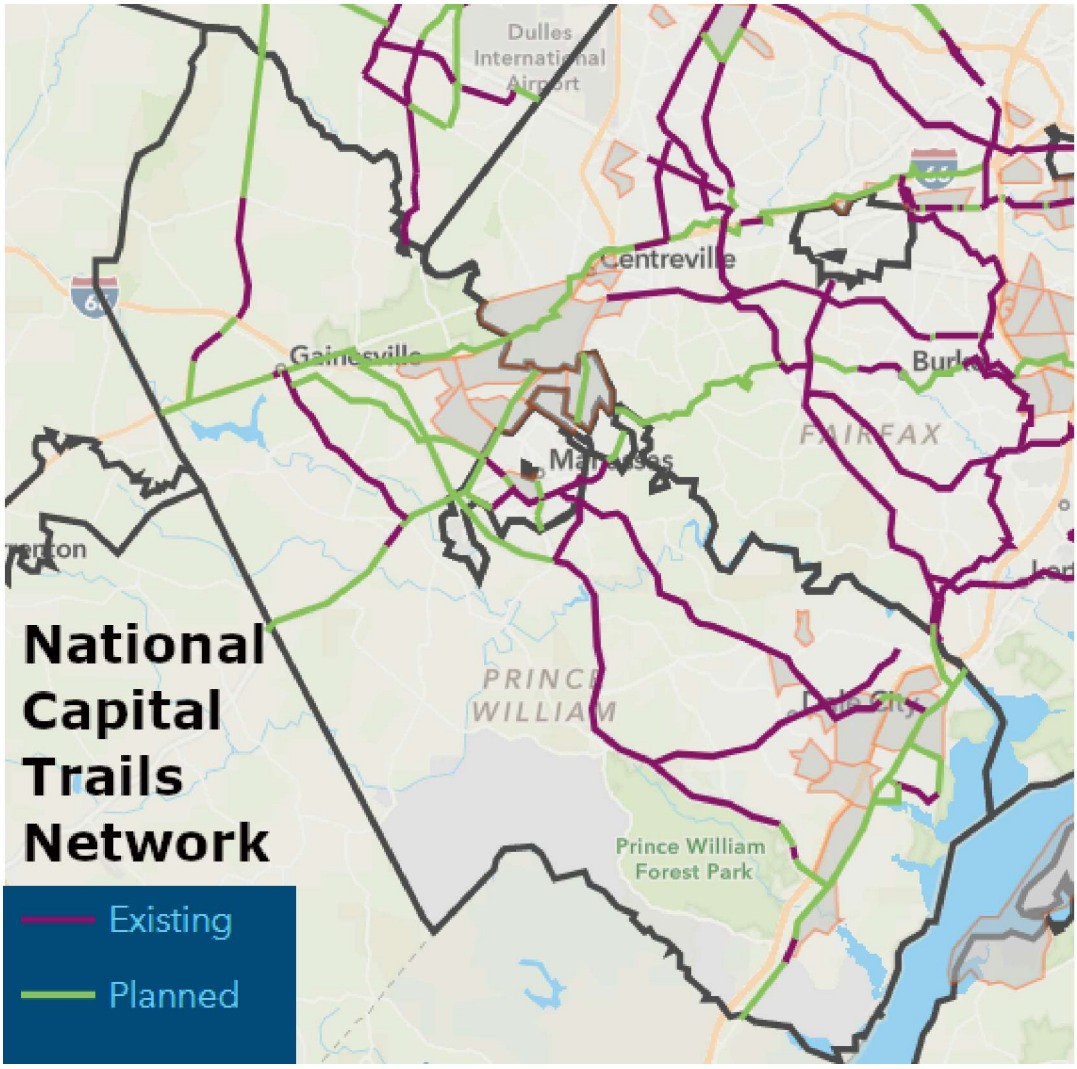
The climate is changing and the globe is warming.

In 2020, all 24 members of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments committed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 50% of the 2005 level by 2030.

The transportation sector is the greatest source of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions in our area. A key step towards meeting the 2030 target is to decrease the Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) of cars with tailpipes, and increasing bike/pedestrian trips instead. ***Trails are part of the solution***.

This past June, the Transportation Planning Board adopted a plan to complete the National Capital Trails Network by 2030. Jurisdictions in the Greater Prince William

area are now updating long-range Comprehensive Plans and transportation plans, so now is a good time to remind local officials that - you guessed it - *plan for trails as part of the path to meeting the 2030 target.*



Manassas Initiates Sustainability Plan

In Chapter 8 of the city's most recent Comprehensive Plan, Strategy ESH 1.1.1 was to create a sustainability plan. City officials are taking action now. A Sustainability Task Force has begun to meet, and George Mason University is providing technical assistance to inventory the sources and amounts of greenhouse gas emissions.

You can submit your thoughts now to Manassas officials.

October 9: Explore the Trails at Blooms Park, 1:00-3:00pm

Our “Second Sunday” hike will explore the trails network created initially for the Generals Ridge Golf Course. What is now Blooms Park has some steep spots, and developing a mountain bike course there or on public land nearby might be appropriate.

Alanna Mensing, vice-mayor of Manassas Park City, will take us to where the stone foundations of the original bridge are still visible.

Well-behaved dogs on a leash, with a smile on their face, are welcome. Please register at https://tinyurl.com/3adrn9bp, in case bad weather forces cancellation of the hike.

Public Access to Lake Jackson: Big Decision on October 11

Lake Jackson is a public lake. Prince William County spent $1 million to repair the dam after the 2011 earthquake and may spend more - but *there is no **public** access to the **public** lake*. All the current boat ramps are private.

The Doves Landing Park Master Plan proposes to create two public access boat ramps. The 2019 Community Needs Assessment Study determined that waterfront parks were the #2 recreational need in Prince William County. (#1 was walking and biking trails.)

The Prince William Board of County Supervisors has an agenda item to approve the Master Plan on October 11. However, neighbors have started a petition (*after the two public meetings to draft the Master Plan*) asking for limits on access to the blueway. For more, see information at the Prince William Trails and Streams Coalition.

You can contact the elected members of the Board of County Supervisors now, and/or sign up to speak on October 11.

October 15: Another Hike at Neabsco Boardwalk, 10:00am-noon

It rained so much on October 2, only two people came to explore. So… we'll do it again on Saturday morning, October 15.

Please register at https://tinyurl.com/bde9kwnk Park at 15125 Blackburn Rd, Woodbridge, VA 22191 Free, and dogs on a leash are allowed.

In Other News…

- The 10 Minute Walk program is an innovative approach to help ensure that all community members have easy and safe access to parks and green spaces. Learn more in an October 13 webinar, Equity and Walkability: Improving Pedestrian Infrastructure in Underserved Neighborhoods.
- Trail managers will be dealing with active vs. passive recreational challenges in perpetuity. To add some context to "multiple use trails," here is a fun video of Hikers vs. Bikers. (Note: after the yoga mat scene, there is some harsh language…)

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