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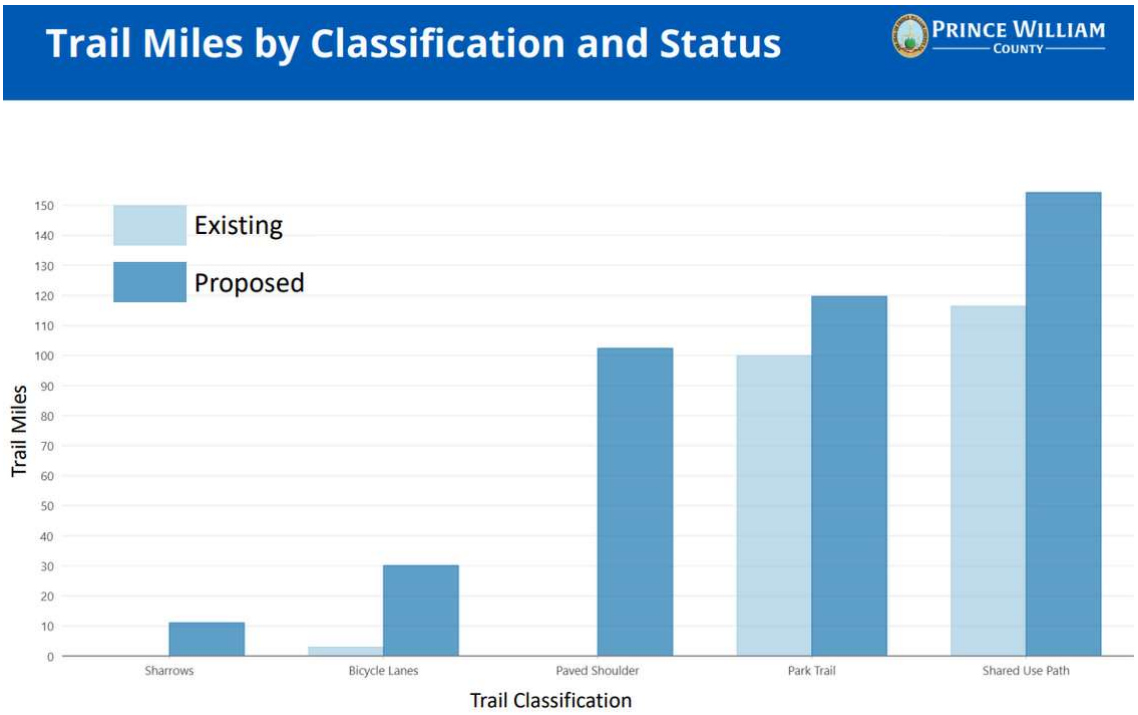
Greater Prince William TRAILS COALITION



2040 Mobility Chapter - Official Trails Plan

The Board of County Supervisors adopted the Mobility Chapter of the 2040 Comprehensive Plan on December 13, 2022.

The new Trails Map plans to almost triple the length of the existing network of trails. That will require building 25 miles of trails per year until 2040.

Total - 636.5 Miles
Existing - 219.3 miles
Planned - 417.2 miles

Shared Use Paths – 270.7 miles
Existing – 116.4 miles
Planned – 154.3 miles

Bike Lanes – 33 miles
Existing – 2.9 miles

Planned – 30.1 miles

Sharrows – 11.1 miles
Existing – N/A
Planned – 11.1 miles

Park Trails – 219.6 miles
Existing – 100 miles
Planned – 119.7 miles

Paved Shoulder - 102 miles
Existing – N/A (county has no data at this time)
Planned - 102 miles

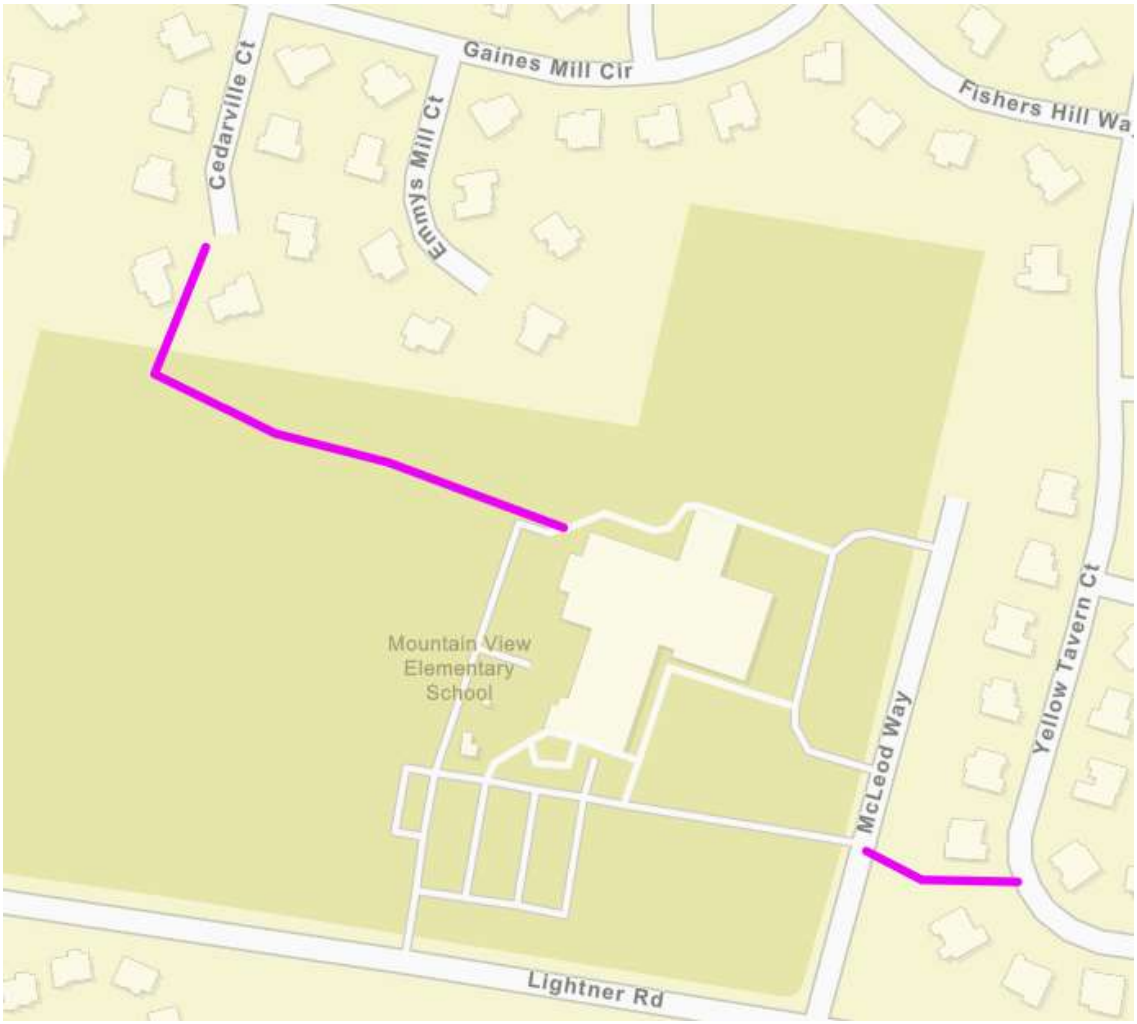
GPWTC Trails Map 3.0 and Trails Data Warehouse

At our hybrid Quarterly Meeting on January 19 (see above), we briefly discussed creating Trails Map 3.0.

We are developing the nitty-gritty procedures so volunteers with smartphones can document descriptions of existing trails. Ultimate goal is for Trails Map 3.0 to evolve into a Trails Data Warehouse that supplies accurate information to public-facing websites and maps.

This project has been funded by the Community Health Care Coalition of Greater Prince William, which is implementing the Greater Prince William Community Health Improvement Plan.

Other key partners are the Northern Virginia Regional Commission and WABA/Capital Trails Coalition, which are co-leading the Mapping and Data Roundtable initiated at the October trails summit.



Safe Routes to Schools

As the 2040 Mobility Chapter was being drafted in 2022, members of the Greater Prince William Trails Coalition proposed Safe Routes to Schools (SRTS) segments. Few were adopted by county staff in the end, however, in part because the segments were so short.

Trails Map 3.0 has layers for officially “Existing” and officially “Planned” trails - plus “Aspirational” trails (in purple) which could be added at a later date to the official Trails Map in the 2040 Comprehensive Plan. *NOTE: potential Safe Routes to Schools, shown as purple lines on Trails Map 3.0, still need to be ground-truthed and coordinated with Prince William County Public Schools.*

In Prince William County schools, the Superintendent's Advisory Council On Sustainability has been supportive of expanding the SRTS program.

The Prince William County Board of Supervisors/School Board Joint Environmental Taskforce ("JET") will meet for the first time on February 9. That is another opportunity to express public support for improving bike/pedestrian access to key public facilities.

Revolutionary War Trails in Prince William County

The 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence will be in 2026 - and Prince William County has already created an official PWC 250 Commemoration Local Committee. After all, the semiquincentennial of the Prince William Resolves is June 6, 2024.

Experiencing the Revolutionary War Trails in the county will be a key part of the commemoration. September 2031 is the 250th anniversary of George Washington and the comte de Rochambeau marching through Prince William on the way to Yorktown.

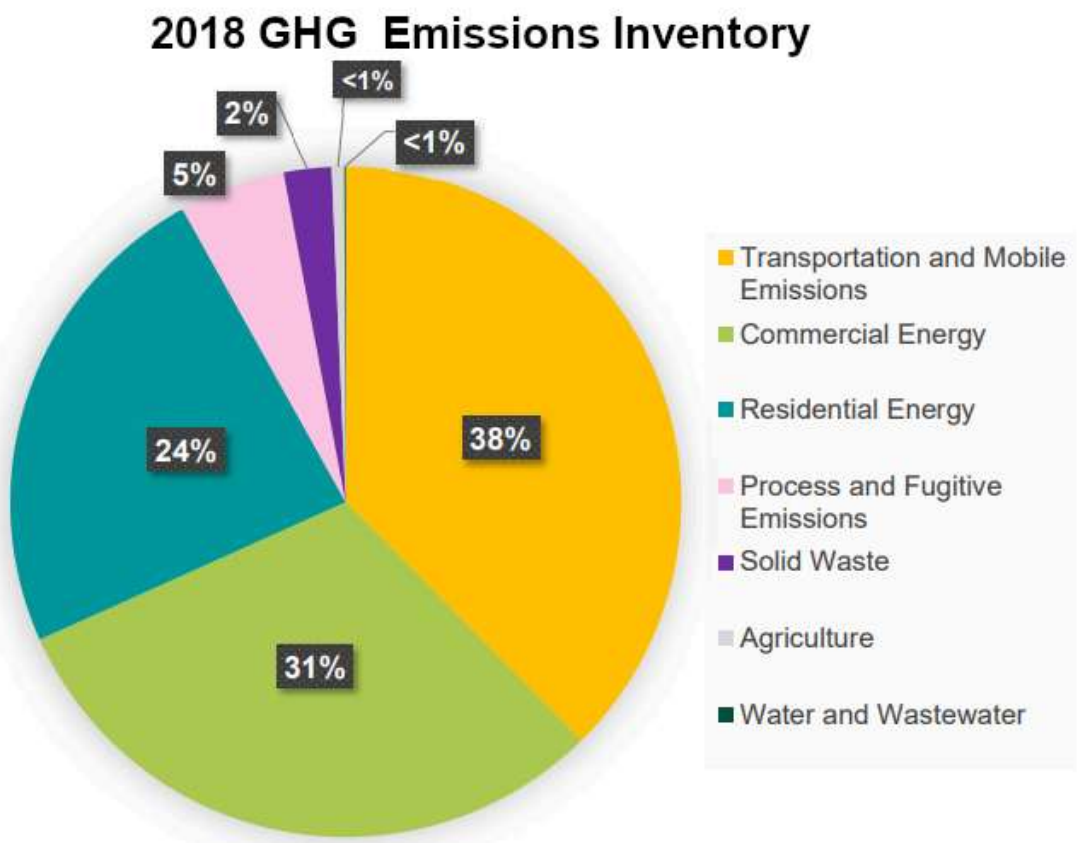
Hey, no need to wait until 2026-2031 to get on the trails. The Virginia Volkssport Association, a member of the Greater Prince William Trails Coalition, already has scheduled walks along the trail.

Also, check out the Washington, Rochambeau, & the Potomac Path in Prince William Forest Park and the rest of the Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route.

Soon: A Volunteer Program for Building/Maintaining Trails?

It appears that the Prince William Board of County Supervisors must officially authorize the Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism (DPRT) to sign agreements to use volunteers to build and maintain trails.

Look for an opportunity, as soon as in February, to encourage the eight elected officials to empower volunteers/DPRT to partner and improve the trails network.



Sustainability and Climate Change

The transportation sector is the largest generator of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases in Northern Virginia. Better bike/pedestrian trails offer an alternative to driving a car and help limit global warming, as well as increase health.

Manassas has created a Sustainability Task Force, and Prince William County has a Sustainability Commission, identifying the action steps required to meet the commitment made in 2020 by all the jurisdictions in the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOG) to cut greenhouse gas emissions to 50% of the 2005 level by 2030.

Reducing emissions from vehicles is an essential part of the Sustainability Commission's GHG Reduction Scenario. Walking/biking rather than driving for short trips will get easier before 2030 if the FY2024 budgets for the cities and county include funding to expand the current trails network.

Commonwealth of Virginia

STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION

Richmond, January 26, 2023

This is to certify that the certificate of incorporation of

Greater Prince William Trails Coalition

was this day issued and admitted to record in this office and that the said corporation is authorized to transact its business subject to all Virginia laws applicable to the corporation and its business.

Effective date: January 26, 2023

STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION
Attest:

Clerk of the Commission

And In Other News…

- Virginia Bicycling Federation reports that Senator Deeds' "Safety Stop" bill (SB 1293) and Senator Favola's "Bicyclists May Proceed on Walk Signals" bill (SB 847) may face votes in the State Senate on Wednesday. For more, see NHTSA's March 2022 Bicyclist "Stop-As-Yield" Laws and Safety Fact Sheet. You can look up your Senator and their phone number or submit comments via the Bike/Walk RVA Action Center.
- NoVA Sees 'Startling Increase' In Pedestrian Deaths In 2022: DMV *(Manassas Patch, January 20, 2023)*

- The Washington Area Bicyclist Association (WABA) has established a position for its first full-time Virginia Organizer. Kevin O'Brien is already hard at work in that job.
- The Partnership for the National Trails System (PNTS) is accepting applications for the 2023 Trail Apprentice Program through February 28. Young adults aged 18-28 who are interested in a career in a trails-related field (recreation, natural resource management, conservation, environmental studies, history, etc.) are invited to apply.

Greater Prince William TRAILS COALITION

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