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



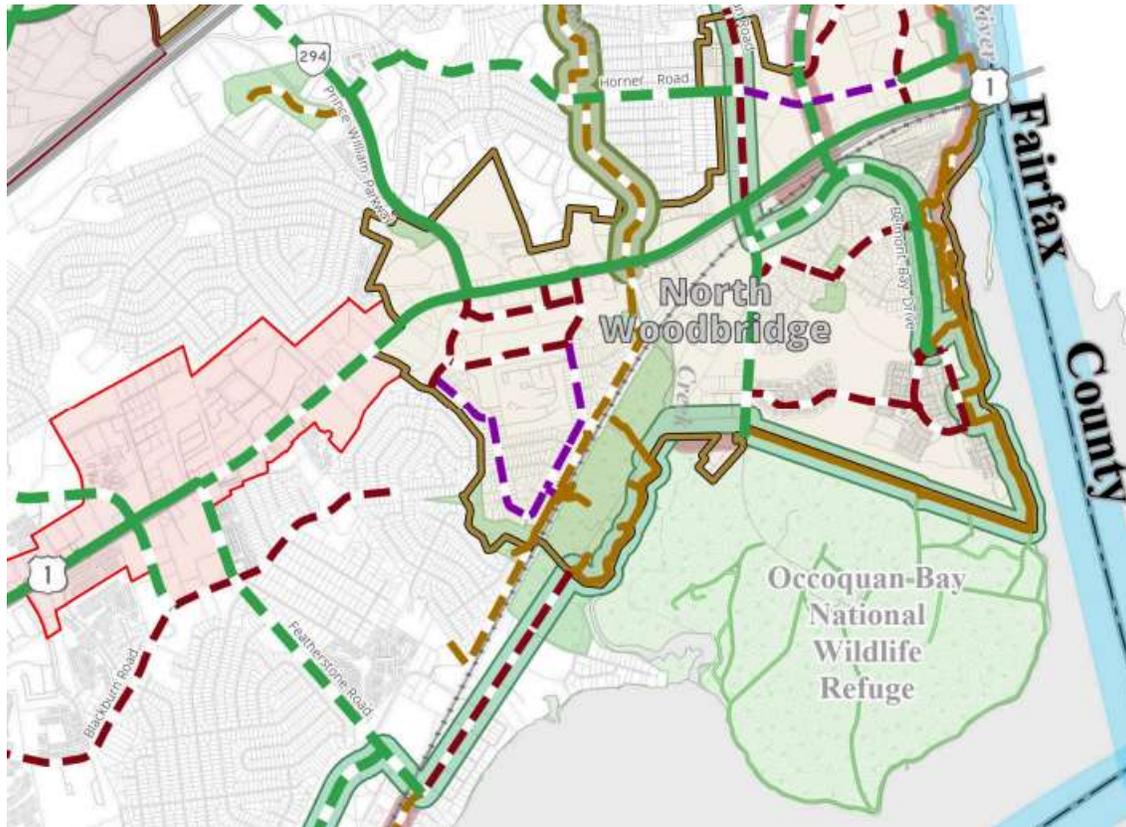
Quarterly Meeting: January 19, 10:00-11:00am

We will have a hybrid session, in-person at [GMU's Potomac Science Center](#) and on Zoom. Rewards for coming in person include free donuts, schmoozing, and an opportunity to explore a segment of the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail after we finish the meeting.

Get the latest updates on finally-official trails planning in Prince William County, and how you can volunteer with your fee/bike and a smart phone to build a regional trails map.

Sign up for in-person attendance at [SignUp Genius](#), or [register for Zoom link](#).

Quarterly Meetings for 2023 are scheduled on third Thursdays - April 20, June 15, and October 19 at 10:00-11:00am



Prince William County Adopts 2040 Trails Map

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

At some point, the county will post updates to the December maps showing existing and officially-planned trails, including 12 Greenways and 5 Blueways.

Mobility Chapter includes about 200 specific trail projects with defined termini. That level of detail, requested by the Trails and Blueways Council, facilitates inclusion in the FY24 Budget and Capital Improvements Program (CIP). Planning is only the first step. For the next two decades, trail advocates will need to press for funding for construction and maintenance.

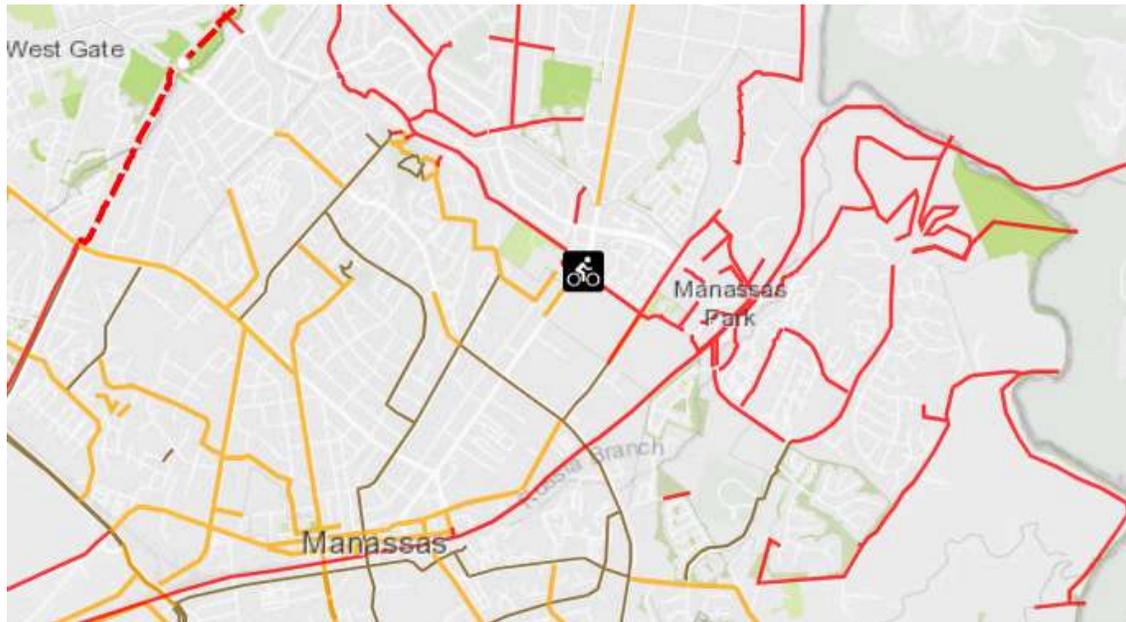
When the FY24 Budget is shared at February 21 meeting of Board of County Supervisors, we will know the level of commitment by the county supervisors to “walk the talk.” If we ask the elected officials to fund trails - **and ask now** - we may hear some good news next month...



Active Transportation in Manassas Park

Manassas Park is drafting an Active Transportation Plan and considering how to upgrade the trails network at Blooms Park.

The FY24 Capital Improvements Program for Manassas Park will be presented to that city's Planning Commission on February 8. The Governing Body (City Council) gets the budget on February 7 and 21. These are great opportunities to speak in support of Manassas Park preparing to invest in its bike/pedestrian network, as defined in the upcoming Active Transportation Plan.



Trails Map 3.0 - How You Can Help

The Greater Prince William Trails Coalition, with funding and support from the Community Healthcare Coalition of Greater Prince William, is now building Trails Map 3.0 to document existing, planned, and “aspirational” trails in Manassas, Manassas Park, and Prince William County.

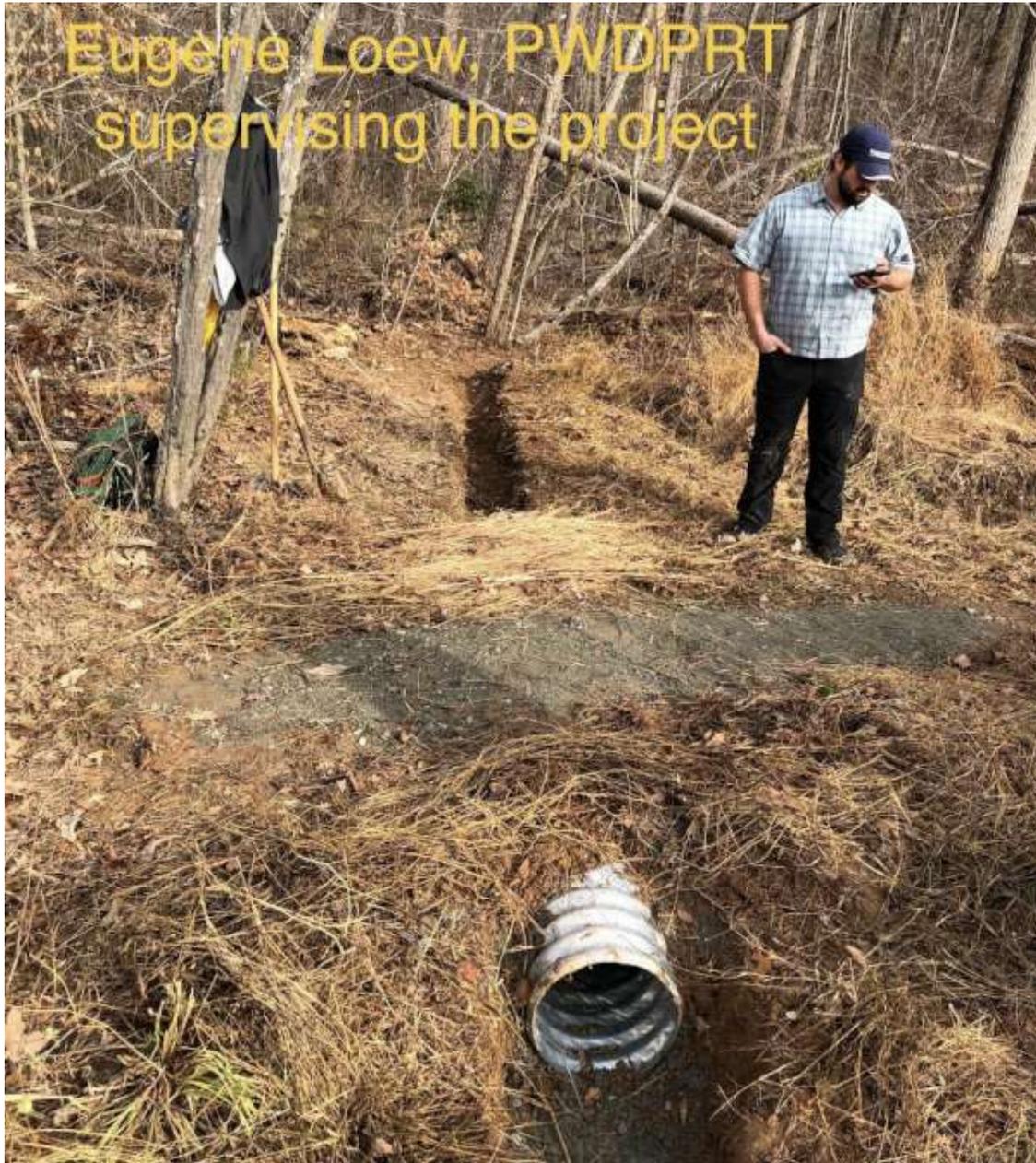
Aspirational Trails Map 2.0 was used in 2022 to identify trail segments that should be incorporated in city/county comprehensive plans and budgets. Those segments which are now included in official plans are eligible for funding. (The sequence to create a trail involves three major steps: *plan*, *budget*, *build*. Those steps are followed by *enjoy* and *maintain*.)

Other good ideas for new trails will appear on Trails Map 3.0 as *aspirational*, along with *existing* and *planned* segments. The simplest doctor’s prescription is “get outdoors and exercise,” and we are still identifying where new trails would be appropriate.

Each jurisdiction has its own version of a trails map, some more up-to-date than others. As discussed at the October Trails Summit hosted by the Northern Virginia Regional Commission (NVRC), Trails Map 3.0 is being created in 2023 to provide consistent trails data independent of jurisdictional boundaries.

Our goal is to offer the data to all jurisdictions, tourism organizations, GoogleMaps, AllTrails, restaurants, bike shops - whoever publishes public-facing trail maps. Our measure of success: everyone can access consistent “where can someone go, and what is the trail like” information.

Volunteers will be needed in 2023 to ground-truth the location and status of trail segments, so we can build an accurate geodatabase. Pilot testing is underway - ***attend the January 19 Quarterly Meeting to get details on how to participate.***



Creating an Official Volunteer Program with Prince William County

Prince William County Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism (PW DPRT) is dedicating scarce staff time to formalize a volunteer management program, including use of volunteers for trail maintenance consistent with county standards.

Volunteer Projects Liaison Jason Williams, with the Prince William Trails and Streams Coalition, organized a pilot project in December. Result: a section of the Discovery Trail next to the county's landfill no longer has poor drainage.

(Managing volunteers involves allocating staff time as well as having good intentions. The National Park Service currently is seeking a partner organization to manage its Community Volunteer Ambassador Program.)

Spotlight on “Trail Town” Occoquan and Greenway Update

A new sidewalk has been funded to connect Ellicott Street in the Town of Occoquan to the eastern end of the Occoquan Greenway. The \$2.4 million sidewalk project will provide a safe path along narrow Tanyard Hill Road. Construction is planned to begin in 2025.

Occoquan is emerging as a “trail town.” In addition to the Occoquan Greenway, it is on US Bike Route 1, the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail, the East Coast Greenway, and the Occoquan Water Trail. Bring a bike, boat, or boots and Explore Occoquan in 2023.



Independent Hill Story Trail

know anyone looking for a short hike that the kids would enjoy? Check out the 26 stations of the story trail at the Independent Hill Library, installed by Boy Scout Troop 35 of Dumfries. There’s even a video...

In Other News...

- January 19: Launch of the TrailNation Collaborative by the Rails to Trails Conservancy, 1:00-3:00pm.
- Thanks to the Virginia Trails Alliance, you can track bike/pedestrian bills in this session of the General Assembly.
- The 2023 federal budget includes \$4 million for the pedestrian bridge at the Woodbridge VRE Station, plus \$45 million statewide for the Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program to support multi-purpose trails.
- Are bike buses the future of the school run? (*Virginia Mercury*, December 16, 2022)
- Transportation Planning Board has provided funding for a Regional Roadway Safety Program. It was created in 2020 to assist with planning or preliminary engineering projects that address roadway safety issues.

- We can all do more to prevent roadway tragedies (*Virginia Mercury*, December 20, 2022 by Pamela Sebesky, chair of the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board and vice mayor of the City of Manassas)
- Where “Vision Zero” Is Working (*Bloomberg*, November 25, 2022)
- Prince William County has the second-highest number of traffic fatalities per 100,000 residents in the DC area.
- FYI, J&M Global Solutions is working on Trails Map 3.0 now. Rachel Tillinghast in that company just published "Bicycle Accessibility GIS Analysis for Bike Master Planning with a Consideration of Level of Traffic Stress (LTS) and Energy Consumption."
- Monthly newsletters from the Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Center (PBIC)

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