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Greater Prince William TRAILS COALITION

June 16 - Quarterly Meeting, Greater Prince William Trails Coalition

Hybrid meeting from 10:00-11:00am on Thursday, June 16. Register for Zoom, or join us at George Mason University's Potomac Science Center. ***Much is happening regaining trails planning in Prince William County in particular, as Mobility Chapter of 2040 Comprehensive Plan is evolving.***

The Superintendent's Advisory Council on Sustainability is leading the charge in advocating for improved walking and biking access to schools.

Manassas Trails Near Completion

Plans can become reality, rather than dusty documents on a shelf. The City of Manassas has planned and funded many of the trail projects in the Long Range Bike Network Plan. Check out the city's May 19, 2022 report.

Coalition Moves Towards Formal Incorporation

Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws are being drafted. Representatives of member organizations in the Greater Prince William Trails Coalition have volunteered to serve on a Board of Directors that will meet monthly.

Once we complete the steps with the State Corporation Commission, we will seek tax-exempt 501(c)(3) status from the Internal Revenue Service. Then the Coalition will be positioned to serve as a private partner for grant applications.

Want to join the Board as a representative of your organization? Contact us at info@gpwtrails.org

Could the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail Go… Here?

The route of the PHNST through southern Prince William County remains under study. Check out maps from the Northern Virginia Regional Commission for some possibilities.

One option, proposed in the draft Trails Map for the 2040 Comprehensive Plan in Prince William County, would go through the Forest Green Golf Course and then

underneath I-95. The toughest challenge would be getting across I-95, though there is a culvert similar to one formerly used (and now closed) for the Rappahannock River Trail in Fredericksburg.

Got your own ideas? Share them now with Prince William officials via the comment form or e-mail to Pathwayto2040@pwcva.gov *It is also time to share your other suggestions for revising/expanding the draft lines on the map for trails that could be funded/constructed by 2040.*

More…

- June 4: National Trails Day. Check out events near you. It's also the 33rd Annual Clean the Bay Day at Leesylvania State Park.

- June 23: The Past, Present, and Future of Electric Bicycling webinar by Smart Growth Online
- July 23: Tour of Prince William cycling event will start at the Brentsville Courthouse Historic Centre. All cyclists are welcome. Register by May 31 to get the t-shirt. There are two routes of approximately 20 miles and 62 miles using public roads and multi-use trails. Net proceeds benefit the Prince William Trails and Streams Coalition and the Prince William Historic Preservation Foundation.
- The Virginia budget funded a State Trails Office within the Department of Transportation, consistent with the recommendations of the January 2022 report on the "Virginia Multi-Use Trails Initiative." For background, see Does Virginia need an Office of Trails?
- See the special Virginia Walkability Action Institute Monthly Newsletter on Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Program
- The League of American Bicyclists has upgraded Virginia's ranking as a bike-friendly state. We were once #23. In the 2022 ranking, Virginia is now #7.
- Fairfax County just approved a Safe Streets for All Program, and Federal government has a National Roadway Safety Strategy.
- Fairfax is also combining the Bicycle Master Plan and the Countywide Trails Plan into the ActiveFairfax Transportation Plan. The Potomac Heritage Trail Association has been working with Fairfax officials to define where bike/pedestrian crossings should be planned to connect with Prince William and Manassas ark.
- Check out Virginia's e-Bike Law
- May is Mental Health Awareness Month in Prince William, so get outdoors!
- Intersection safety can be improved for bikers and pedestrians - check out Designing Roundabouts to Support Walkability and Smart Growth

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