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Greater Prince William TRAILS COALITION

Mark your calendar - October Regional Trails Summit

Northern Virginia Regional Commission will host another annual Regional Trails Summit, with tentative date of October 24, 2023. Agenda is now being crafted, but expect discusson of trail-related data standards, GIS/Map/Data Warehouse, and bike/pedestrian safety.

That summit will serve as the quarterly meeting of the Greater Prince William Trails Coalition.

Greater Prince William Trails Coalition Profiled in ”Discover Western Prince William”

The Greater Prince William Trails Coalition made the News - well, OK, the Features. Check out the **article online.**

Occoquan Greenway Making Progress, In a Forward Direction

- On the **Occquan Greenway,** the new **Hedges Run Segment 3 bridge** was "blessed" by an old oak tree during August 7 storm - before the structure was even accepted by the Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism (DPRT).

That bridge, when open this Fall, will replace three splash-through creek crossings with a single elevated pedestrian/bicycle route.

- Hooes Run bridge design and permitting is moving forward and DPRT can use the Service Authority facility for access and staging site
- Sections of the planned trail route are within the power line corridor, and negotiations are underway with Dominion Energy
- A short section of Segment 2 along the reservoir will be re-routed to stay on Lake Ridge Parks and Recreation Association (LRPRA) property

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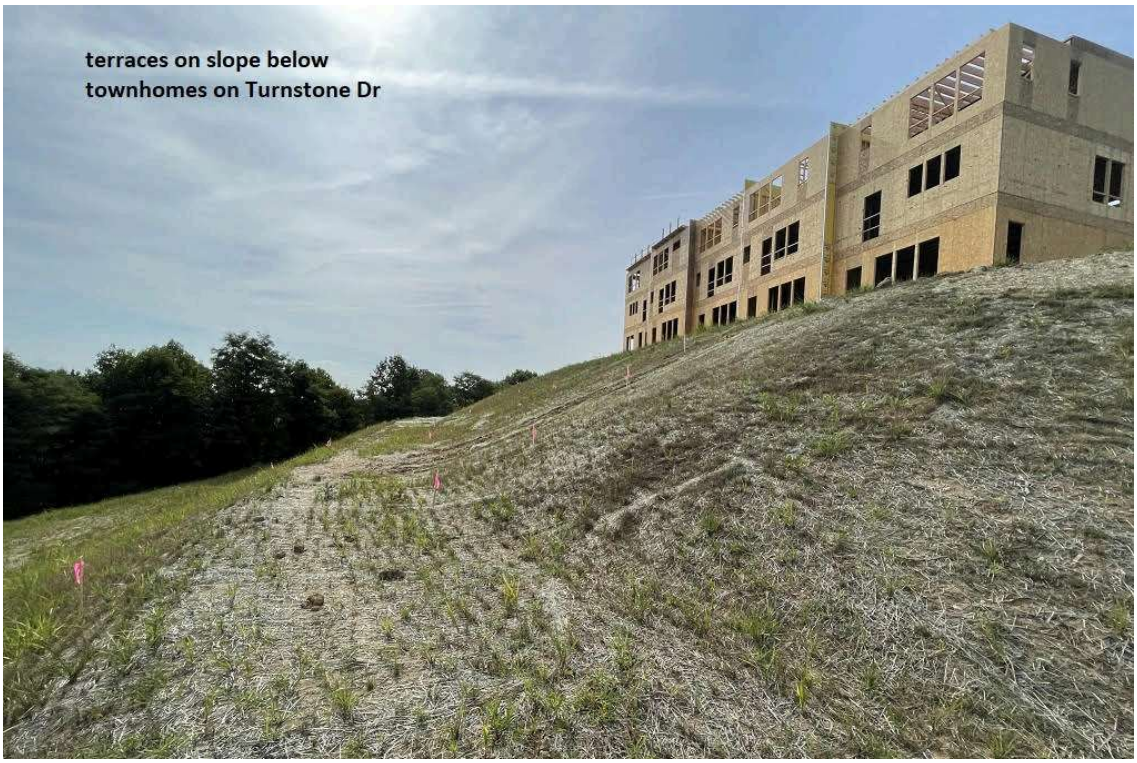

Progress re: Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail

Although the exact location of the **Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail** (PHNST) crossing of Powell's Creek is yet to be determined, the trail will be routed from the vicinity of Powell's Creek to the planned town center in **Potomac Shores**. There will be connections with the community's overall **trail system**.

One potential route of the trail is now evident in grading at the site. The PHNST will be located on the top (yes, you read that right - *on top*) of the new Virginia Railway Express (VRE) garage.

As described by the developer:
"*The surface of the garage will feature a public boardwalk area along the east side with expansive views of the Potomac River. Landscaping with a gazebo and viewing benches will help to make this a focal point of the community and attract visitors to the future retail and restaurant operators located within the Potomac Shores Town Center.*"

By the time you read this, the bike/pedestrian bridge may have been installed at the Brentsville interchange. ***Active Prince William*** *and the* ***Trails and Blueways Council*** *were instrumental in getting the road design revised to provide a safer way for bikers and pedestrians to navigate through the new interchange.*

Potomac Heritage Trail Association Update

The **Potomac Heritage Trail Association** (PHTA) meets monthly in Vienna. Each meeting includes a review of the status of the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail (PHNST) from Loudoun County through Stafford County. PHTA volunteers do a great deal of trail maintenance in Northern Virginia, and may partner up even closer with the **Potomac Appalachian Trail Club**.

At the August meeting, there were updates regarding potential PHNST routes in Loudoun County that could utilize unpaved roads, options for getting along/through Fort Belvoir, and the dream of completing Powells Creek/Quantico Creek crossings and passage through Dumfries and Prince William Forest Park in time for commemorating the **semiquencentennial of the American Revolution**.

There was also discussion about creating loop trails along Bull Run in Fairfax with access across that stream to Prince William County, and the challenge of planning/building trails along stream vallys that pass underneath highways maintained by the Virginia Department of Transportation. (*That could be a topic addressed statewide by the new* ***Virginia State Trails Office****.*)

In Other News…

- **Rails-to-Trails Conservancy** is conducting a survey to prioritize the use of recent Federal infrastructure funding for trails: "*This 15-minute survey will help us develop resources, technical assistance and future programming to help trail professionals across the country access the funding they need to create and maintain safe, connected trail and active transportation networks*." You can help out and **take the survey**…
- **E-bike manufacturers are fighting right-to-repair. That's a problem** (*Canary Media*, August 14)
- **29 Herndon-Reston Employers Honored For Bike To Work Day Challenge** (no comparable program has been created for Prince William/Manassas/Manassas Park… yet)
- "**Graham Park Road to lose 2 lanes**" (*Potomac Local*, August 14). Dumfries Town Council has decided that Graham Park Road will go on a road diet, shrinking from 4 to 2 lanes, to make space for OmniRide bus pulloffs and to improve bike/pedestrian safety.
- Second Summer Series webinar for Virginia Department of Transportation Safe Routes to Schools program is scheduled for August 23, 1:00-2:00pm. Topic: "Walkabouts" and identifying solutions for improving walking and biking safety. **Register online**.

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