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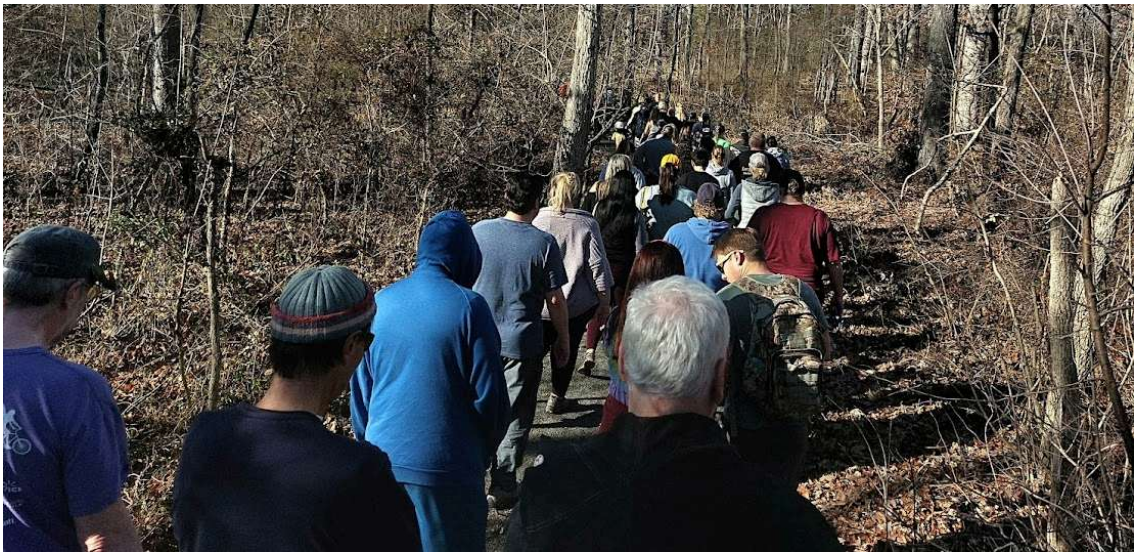
Greater Prince William TRAILS COALITION

Quarterly Meeting - This Thursday, 10:00-11:00am

January 19 meeting is hybrid. Please **register** if coming in-person to the George Mason University Potomac Science Center (*gotta bring enough donuts…*) or request the **Zoom link**.

Agenda for a fast-paced hour:

- Welcome
- New Board of Directors for Greater Prince William Trails Coalition
- potential for expanding Capital Trails Coalition
- Active Fairfax update
- Active Transportation Planning in City of Manassas Park
- Funding for trails in City of Manassas
- Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail update
- Progress in implementing Parks, Recreation and Tourism chapter (adopted 2020) of Prince William County Comprehensive Plan
    - working with volunteers
- Update on Prince William County 2040 Mobility Chapter (adopted December, 2022)
    - how the plan can affect rezoning proffers and budgets, including Capital Improvements Program (CIP)
    - special attention for e-bike planning
    - what's in (and not in) the 2040 Trails Map
- Trails Map 3.0
    - how volunteers can provide updates to build "Trails Data Warehouse" in 2023
- how to join/engage with workgroups created after October 20 Recreational Trails Summit
- advocacy opportunity: getting funding for trail projects over next 20 years
- organization updates



New Chair of Greater Prince William Trails Coalition

Alanna Mensing, vice-mayor of Manassas Park, will serve as the coalition's chair in 2023. Charlie Grymes, who served as chair for the last two years representing the Prince William Conservation Alliance, will remain on the Board of Directors and will focus on building Trails Map 3.0.

Other Directors include:

- Eileen Sheridan, Vice Chair (Prince William Trails and Blueways Council)
- Neil Nelson, Secretary (Prince William Trails and Streams Coalition)
- Johnna Ebel, Treasurer (Prince William Trails and Streams Coalition)
- Mike Freeland (City of Manassas Parks and Recreation Committee)
- Celia Miner (Virginia Volkssport Association)
- Allen Muchnick (Active Prince William)

More details about the Greater Prince William Trails Coalition at gpwtrails.org

Coalition Is Getting Incorporated, Applying for 501(c)(3) Status

Paperwork has been filed with the State Corporation Commission to formally incorporate, so we can obtain tax-exempt status from the Internal Revenue Service. That will increase the potential to be a partner in trails grant applications, as well as to generate contributions for the Coalition's low expenses (primarily for social media sites).

2022 Annual Report

The organizations which are members of the Greater Prince William Trails Coalition worked together in 2022 on multiple issues and events. Highlights of efforts where two or more Coalition members were involved include:

Advocacy:

- successfully advocated to Prince William Board of County Supervisors for adding three trails positions to Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism (DPRT) budget
- submitted multiple recommendations to improve draft Trails Plan in the Mobility Chapter of the Prince William County Comprehensive Plan, prior to final adoption on December 13
- engaged with other groups to successfully pressure Prince William Department of Transportation to add a bike/pedestrian bridge over Route 234, in design for new Brentsville Interchange, to provide greater safety
- ensured the Bull Run Trail passage underneath I-66 would remain open
- spoke to Governing Body in Manassas Park in support of developing Active Transportation plan for the city
- spoke in support of Safe Routes to Schools at meetings of Superintendent's Advisory Committee on Sustainability (Prince William County schools)
- spoke at Prince William County Sustainability Commission meetings in support of bike/pedestrian infrastructure to reduce greenhouse gas emissions; attended meetings of Sustainability Task Force (City of Manassas)
- spoke at planning meetings for Doves Landing Park in support of building trails and boat access, including a pedestrian bridge across the Occoquan River
- joined "Walk With the Mayor of Manassas" in April to support investment in bike/pedestrian infrastructure
- provided comments on the update of the 2015 Bike and Pedestrian Plan produced by the Transportation Planning Board (TPB)

Mapping

- created Aspirational Trails Map 2.0 to identify gaps and new trail segments need to complete an interconnected, interjurisdictional network of multi-use trails.
- initiated Trails Map 3.0 with Community Health Care Coalition Greater Prince William support, so volunteers can update data about existing bike/pedestrian trails and everyone could see where trails are planned in Prince William, Manassas, and Manassas Park
- partnered with Northern Virginia Regional Commission to create a regional mapping workgroup in 2023, with representatives from multiple jurisdictions and organizations

Planning:

- Identify potential for mountain bike trail network at Blooms Park and met onsite with Manassas Park officials to discuss

- provided input for development of Active Transportation plan for City of Manassas Park
- proposed trails for development of Trails Plan in Mobility Chapter of 2040 Comprehensive Plan, engaged with Fairfax County officials to propose bridges/fords across Bull Run/Occoquan River
- encouraged planning for future bike/pedestrian bridges over Occoquan River/Bull Run at Fairfax County Parks, Recreation, Open Space, and Access (PROSA) Strategy Meeting
- proposed to Prince William County American Revolution 250th Committee that completion of Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail should be a priority to spur tourism, especially for 250th anniversary of Washington-Rochambeau march to Yorktown in 2031
- started preparing for public event in Spring 2023 for opening trail underneath I-66 along Bull Run

Partnership:

- held Quarterly Meetings of entire Coalition on January 20, April 14, and June 16, with last two as hybrid (Zoom and in-person) at Belmont Bay Science Center with support from George Mason University
- initiated and co-sponsored Recreational Trails Summit on October 20 with Northern Virginia Regional Commission (NVRC), followed by creation of four regional working groups focused on trails
- co-sponsored with Community Health Care Coalition Greater Prince William a successful application for grant for Youth Apostles (Manassas group led by Father Ramon Dominguez)
- various members of Board of Directors actively participated in meetings of Prince William Trails and Blueways Council, Prince William Parks and Recreation Commission, Active Prince William, City of Manassas Parks and Recreation Commission, Community Health Care Coalition Greater Prince William, Potomac Trails and Streams Coalition, Potomac Heritage Trails Association, Virginia Trail Alliance, and 2022 Virginia Land Conservation and Greenways Conference
- encouraged the Capital Trails Coalition to expand south of Occoquan River
- supported development of an official program for volunteers to build/maintain trails in Prince William County

Outreach:

- scheduled Second Sunday hikes for every month (some cancelled due to weather), plus a few extra hikes
- distributed 16 newsletters to mailing list of over 100 people
- maintained calendar of trails-related meetings and events sponsored by Coalition members
- expanded content on website, Facebook, and Twitter

Governance

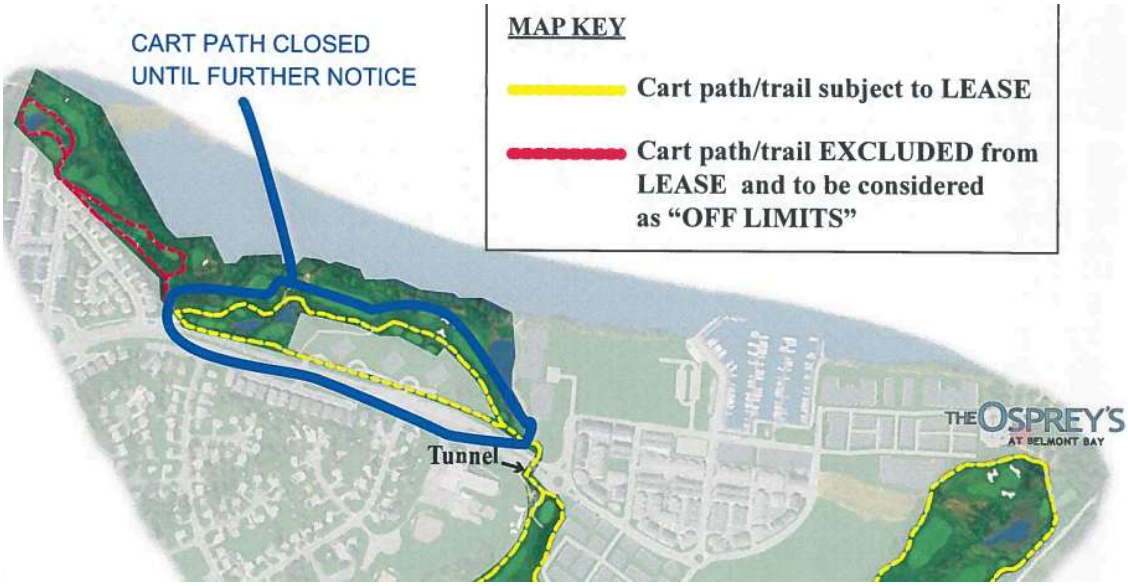
- added two new organizational members and created closer link to healthcare community
- held monthly Board of Directors meetings, recruited Treasurer and new Chair for 2023
- obtained legal assistance and prepared material necessary for Coalition to qualify for tax-exempt 501(c)(3) status in January 2023

Updated TransAction Plan - Northern Virginia Transportation Authority

- Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA) adopted an update to TransAction, the long-range regional transportation plan. Of the $75 billion in proposed spending, 2% is proposed for bicycle and pedestrian improvements.

In Other News…

- The former golf cart paths at Belmont Bay , next to the are being closed. The dispute between the Belmont Bay Home Owners Association and the Caruthers Co. continues...



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