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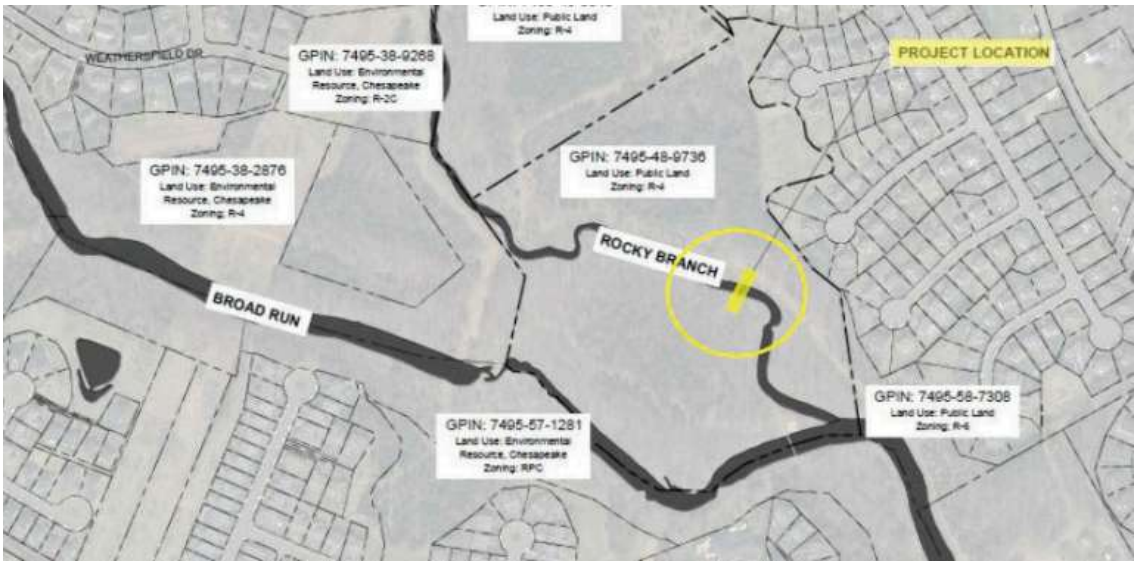
Greater Prince William TRAILS COALITION

Update: Trail Projects in Prince William County

The **May 16 quarterly report** by the Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism highlighted:

- Design drawings and permitting is complete for the Featherstone segment of the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail (*green line, above*). Transfer, Budget and Appropriation (TBA) request for gap funding ($1.3M proffers, $500K ARPA, $823K NVTA/Transit Occupancy Tax) is now scheduled to go to the Board on June 6, 2023.

- Design process for Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) parking at Neabsco Boardwalk has started.
- On **Occoquan Greenway**, Segment 3 bridge is now under construction. Segment 6 Hooes Run Crossing is at 100% design and in permitting. Segment 8 is under contract, thanks to Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside grant funding.
- Selection process for a consultant to design/build Powell's Creek Crossing continues.
- Next step to replace the bridge over Rocky Branch on Broad Run Greenway (removed after a flood several years ago) is to complete flood plain permitting. Construction is projected to begin in February 2024.



Manassas StoryWalk Trail Opens

At Metz Middle School, there are now five bilingual storyboards on a 0.3 mile stretch of trail telling the “Adventures of Bichito.”

The bilingual signs were written and illustrated by Osbourn High School senior Anna French. More details **on Facebook**.

VDOT Virginia Department of Transportation

Active Transportation in Virginia

Virginia State Trails Office

The VDOT State Trails Office (STO)'s purpose is to:

- Provide information on existing and future regional trail networks;
- Collaborate with stakeholders on opportunities to improve statewide trail connectivity and accessibility;
- Ensure equity and geographic diversity in the process of trail development and implementation.

As part of the State Trails Office's initial statewide outreach efforts, the office has created a short survey - **fill it out** and, among other things, help identify what factors should be ranked the highest when prioritizing investments in new multi-use trail projects.

*(And on May 1, Governor Youngkin issued a **proclamation** officially recognizing May 2023 as Bike Month for the Commonwealth of Virginia.)*

Second Sunday Hikes

One way to get connected with other trail managers and advocates is to hike together. Waaaay more fun than Zoom, WebEx, GooogleMeet, or communicating via messages attached to the feet of homing pigeons.
Greater Prince William Trails Coalition offers a Second Sunday hike from 1:00-3:00pm each month on - you guessed it - the Second Sunday of the month.
On June 11, we will explore the north side of Powells Creek going west (upstream) from Leesylvania State Park. **Sign up** so you get the logistics for parking - and for a notification if weather forces us to cancel.

Greater Prince William Trails Coalition
Next Quarterly Meeting on June 15, 10:00-11:00am

We will gather in-person at the **Potomac Science Center** of George Mason University, and offer a Zoom option as well for this hybrid meeting.

Please register to **attend in person** (*we gotta bring the right number of donuts…*) or to **join via Zoom**.

In other news…

- **First Ride: Northern Virginia Opens New "66-Parallel" Bike and Walking Trail** (*DCist*, May 17).
  NOTE: Despite what the article says, none of the trail is in Prince William County - because no trail parallel to I-66 had been proposed in the county's old Comprehensive Plan. The 2040 ***Mobility Chapter*** *proposes Shared Use Paths now (see above).*

- You can **submit comments** now to the Transportation Planning Board (TPB) on the update to the regional long-range transportation plan, **Visualize 2050**. If you want to see more investment in bike/pedestrian infrastructure, then ask for it.
- **Hiking Blooms Park -- the "Grand Canyon" of Manassas** (*Prince William Times*, May 11)
- **Why did Kids Stop Walking to School?** (check out the “walking school bus” near the end…)

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