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Greater Prince William TRAILS COALITION

Quarterly Meeting is October 24, 10:00am - Y'all Come!

Join us in person at GMU's Potomac Science Center at 10:00-11:00am, or by Zoom. **Please register**.

Weather permitting, we'll explore the southern end of the Neabsco Boardwalk on a short hike after the meeting. On October 8 the Prince William Board of County Supervisors approved funding to match a $750,000 Federal grant so the raised boardwalk can be extended south towards the parking lot at Eagles Park and irto the Metz Wetlands.

Key agenda items include:
- Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail (PHNST) successes, updates and discussion, including the "gap analysis" and update from Prince William Forest Park

- Aspirational Trails Map update and kickoff
- Member updates, including one from the Virginia Trails Alliance

Get Outdoors - It's Good For Your Health

Our Second Sunday hike on October 13 was through Merrimac Farm Wildlife Management Area. It is the site of the annual **Bluebell Festival** organized by the Prince William Conservation Alliance each April - and looks quite different in October. (*Picture above is from Doves Landing in August…*)

Prince William County is offering a Full Moon Hike on October 19, 6:30-8:30pm, at Neabsco Creek Boardwalk. Get a yummy s'more afterwards! **Register online**.

In November, Our "Second Sunday" hike will take advantage of the Fee Free Day on Veterans Day at Prince William Forest Park. We will hike on ***Monday***, November 11. **Register online**.

PARKS & RECREATION: SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH

PARKS & RECREATION: SERVICE OVERVIEW

PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY

Recreation Programming	Park Operations	Natural and Cultural Resource Management	Planning and Development
Children's programs (summer camps, before and afterschool, licensed pre-school, therapeutic and adaptive classes)	Management of regional parks, recreation centers, and enterprise facilities (waterparks and golf)	Maintain 5,000 acres of parkland, 57 parks/facilities a nd 60 miles of trail	Comprehensive Plan and Systemwide Master Plan development
Adult and senior programs	Visitor safety via non-sworn ranger force	Historic preservation (15 historic sites)	Capital project delivery
Family programs		Land acquisition and preservation	Re-zoning review/entitlements
Community aquatics		Environmental clean-ups/volunteer stewardship	Design standardization
Sports services		Stream and wetland mitigation	
Adaptive programs			
Arts			

Prince William Board of County Supervisors **received an update** on Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) at the October 15 work session. Seth Hendler-Voss, DPR director, described the county agency as a “green engine of social transformation.”

The update on the Capital Improvements Program (CIP) identified a stream restoration project at Mayhew Park. It may affect structures built by what is now Prince William Water (see above). They currently protect a sewage pipe underneath the trail along Bull Run, and hikers are forced to detour upstream in order to cross those tributaries.

The First Powells Creek Crossing… Way Back in 2013

Trails planning and development is a marathon, not a sprint. See the video of the previous Woodbridge District supervisor discussing **a footbridge across Powells Creek** 11 years ago, along Route 1.

In 2019, voters approved $9 million in a bond issue to build a Powells Creek Crossing further downstream to connect Leesylvania State Park and Potomac Shores. In 2023, the Department of Parks and Recreation selected INFORM Studios to design the crossing. Possible location and sketches are now being discussed with the **Trails and Blueways Council**, which will meet again on October 22.

Where there is a connected bike/pedestrian network, there is an alternative to getting in the car and adding to traffic congestion for a short 1-3 mile trip…

In Other News…

- Potomac Appalachian Trail Club (PATC) TrailFest will be November 8-11, but **registration** closes October 17. Among the 70 events are opportunities to increase knowledge of trail maintenance and tools, navigation, and trail mapping.
- **Sidewalks to Safety: Ensuring Secure Routes for Students** webinar is October 17, 10:30am.
- Northern Virginia Regional Commission webinar on "Results of Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail (PHNST) Wayfinding and Amenities Study" is October 21, 11:00-noon. **Register online**.
- **Do Bike Lanes Reduce Congestion" Is the Wrong Question** (*Strong Towns*, October 3) *"The core purpose of transportation infrastructure is to provide access: to work, education, healthcare, groceries, recreation, and all other daily needs. We should be prioritizing*

investments based on how well they connect people to jobs and services, not how much more quickly cars will be able to travel on a certain segment of highway."

- The Washington and Old Dominion (W&OD) Trail celebrates its **50th anniversary** this year

*Walkability in the Lower Potomac Region is "vey poor," based on the **EcoHealth report card**,*

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The Greater Price William Trails Coalition is a 501(c)(3) organization (EIN: 92-3087298).
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