
Greater Prince William TRAILS COALITION



Second Sunday Hike on August 10

We will explore the upper reaches of Broad Run Greenway from 1:00-3:00pm. **Please register**, so we can notify you in case weather forces us to postpone - again. (Broad Run was our planned hike in June.)

We got to see the not-yet-open-to-the-public Blue Trail at **Bull Run Mountains Natural Area Preserve** in July. Virginia Outdoors Foundation staff Joe Villari (above) and John Lennox shared the cultural story, and the scenery was gorgeously green.

Results PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY

Walking, hiking, and biking trails remain the MOST IMPORTANT facility to provide. Respondents indicate that several of these amenities are meeting respondents' needs at least at a 50% level.

Facility	2019	2024
Walking, hiking, and biking trails	1 (43%)	1 (41% of respondents)
Park Restrooms*		2 (26%)
Natural wildlife habitats	2 (22%)	3 (18%)
Indoor fitness and exercise facilities	3 (20%)	4 (18%)

* Park restrooms were not included as an amenity to rate in the 2019 survey.

Results of 2024 Needs Assessment

To maintain its professional accreditation, the Prince William Department of Parks and Recreation conducts a survey and determines the current recreational needs. The results of the 2024 survey will guide funding requests and project priorities.

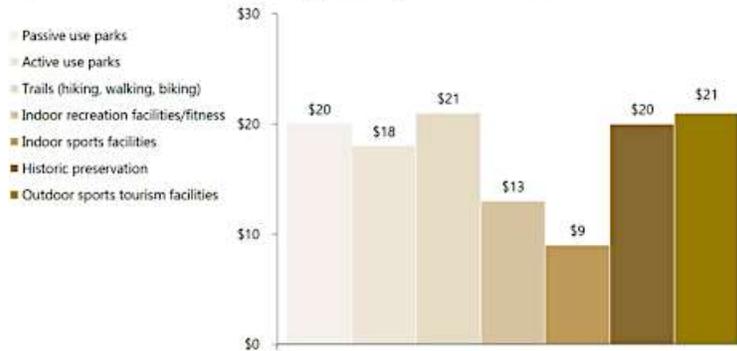
Guess what ended up being the #1 need - again - in the 2024 Recreation Needs Assessment?

When factoring in overall resident need for a particular park type, park amenity, or facility with the importance they place on said things, the expressed level of importance, the top five community priorities are **walking, hiking, and biking trails**, followed by park restrooms, botanical gardens, natural wildlife habitats, and museums.

When asked to prioritize amongst possible investment categories, "outdoor sports tourism facilities (e.g. large baseball complex)", "trails," "historic preservation," and "passive use parks" were ranked as the top four.

FIGURE 7: FUNDING AND SPENDING PREFERENCES, 2024

If you were given \$100 to spend on the Parks and Recreation System, how would you split the amount? You may split the funding any way you wish; however, the sum MUST equal \$100.
(Note: The average investment for each is shown below)





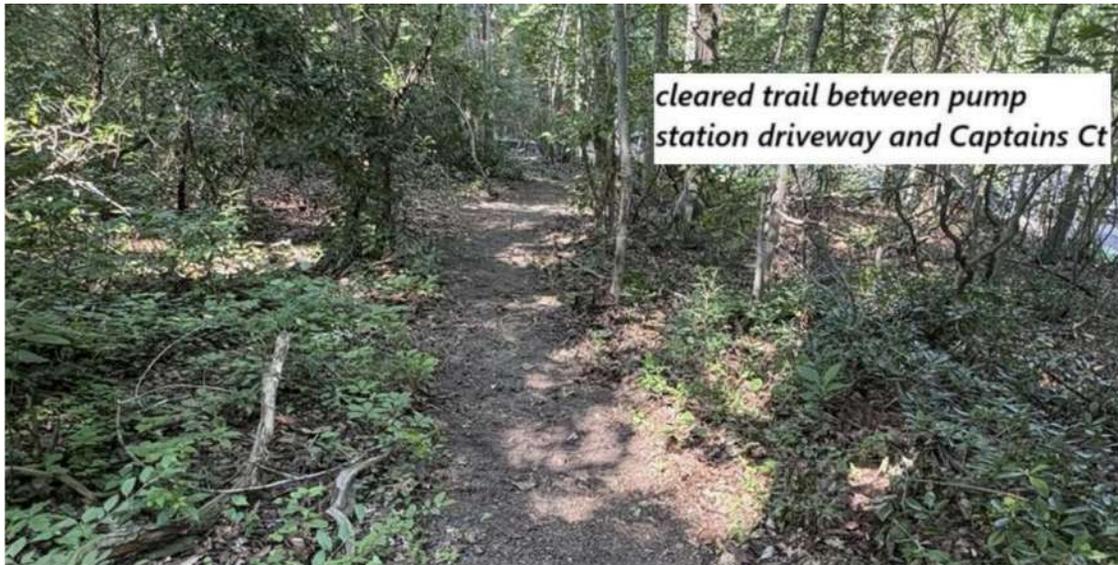
Occoquan Greenway: Trail Work and Potential Trail Closure

Expanding the trail network = expanding the maintenance workload

The Board of County Supervisors has increased funding for trails maintenance. A new mini skid steer was used to bring in dirt for realignment of the Occoquan Greenway, after a new bridge was installed on Segment 2 in July.

Anyone hiking **Segment 7** of the Occoquan Greenway will discover construction at the end of Captain's Court, where Prince William Water is replacing the sewage pump station. Thanks to cooperation between county staff and **Prince William Trails and Streams Coalition** volunteers, a bypass trail route has been identified.

Prince William Water has said "*trail access through the Spinnaker Court area will need to remain closed through summer 2026.*" However, there is the possibility that a Plan B can be developed to keep the trail open during construction.



Extending the Neabsco Boardwalk

Department of Parks and Recreation is using an accelerated contracting process to get the boardwalk extended south to Eagles Park and towards Leesylvania State Park. Length of extension through the Metz Wetland depends in part upon the final construction costs, still to be negotiated with the contractor.

----- ----- **MANASSAS TO BULL RUN** ----- -----

RAIL-WITH-TRAIL FEASIBILITY STUDY

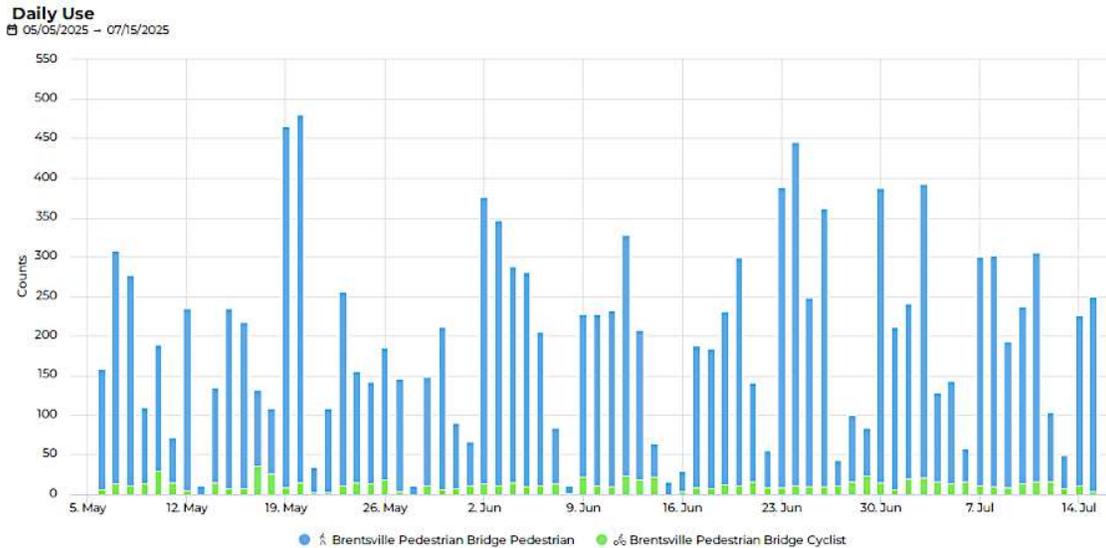
The City of Manassas, City of Manassas Park, and Prince William County have partnered together to study the feasibility of connecting downtown Manassas to Park Central and to the Bull Run Occoquan Trail via a rail-with-trail.

<p>When: Wednesday, July 30, 2025</p> <p>Time: 6:00p.m. to 8:00p.m.</p> <p>Where: Manassas Park City Hall 100 Park Central Plaza Manassas Park, VA 20111</p>	
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\$45 Million Request for Innovation Trail

On July 29 the Board of County Supervisors (BOCS) approved submitting five projects totaling \$367 million to the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA) for use of the 70% regional revenues which NVTA allocates. Included was a **request for \$45 million** (12% of the total) for the Innovation Park Trail Project.

Proposal would construct a Shared Use Path along Route 234 near Innovation Park, plus a bike/pedestrian bridge over the highway. The BOCS also formally approved \$90,000 for the Rail-with-Trail Project, in partnership with the cities of Manassas and Manassas Park, to construct three miles of trail parallel to the tracks between the Manassas railroad station and the Bull Run-Occoquan Trail in Fairfax County.



Prince William Department of Transportation reports an average of 196 users/day on the bike/pedestrian bridge at the **Brentsville Interchange** between May 5-July 15.



construction is underway to extend the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail (PHNST) from Featherstone Road to the Virginia Railway Express (VRE) station at Rippon.

In Other News

- **Where Americans walk and bike most often** (Axios, July 15) "...tourism, compact town centers, and outdoor culture can drive high walking and biking rates even in moderately dense areas."

- The Consumer Reports **[Electric Bike Buying Guide](#)** says “*Eleven percent of Americans rode an e-bike between February 2023 and February 2024... among those who had ridden an e-bike or an e-scooter in the past year, fun and leisure activities were some of the reasons 71 percent chose to do so.*”
- **[Full Moon Hike - Neabsco Boardwalk](#)** (August 9, 7:30-9:30pm) Department of Parks and Recreation will lead a gentle hike under the full Sturgeon moon.
- Potomac Appalachian Trail Club now has its own **[YouTube channel](#)**.
- **[How the Bicycle Boom of the 1970s Prepared the Way for the Bikecentennial](#)** (*UnCommonwealth* blog, Library of Virginia) “...we are again experiencing a growth in bicycling as well as looking ahead to the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence in 2026.”
- **[Prince William Eyes Trail Expansion with New Plans for Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail](#)** (*Potomac News*, July 17 - paywall) “*The next opportunity for funding arises during the county’s FY27 budget cycle, which commences with internal planning in October and public participation in January.*”
- **[Virginia Capital Trail to Expand into Williamsburg](#)** (Virginia Capital Trail Foundation, July 17) The extension includes 7.5 miles of trail.
- **[Trail Alongside Manassas VRE Line Explored Around Manassas](#)** (*Patch*, July 22) “*Following the three-mile trail, the second phase of the project is proposed to span 20 miles between Bull Run Trail in Fairfax County and Landmark in the City of Alexandria.*”
- **[Alexandria plans pedestrian safety upgrades near four schools](#)** (*ALX Now*, July 23)

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