Greater Prince William TRAILS COALITION

October 23: Quarterly Meeting of Greater Prince William Trails Coalition

Agenda includes:

- Manassas Park trails update
- “Walk and Talk Wellness” Campaign
- **Community Health Assessment** report and health community engagement
- latest news re: Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail
- Countywide Trails Master Plan
- East Coast Greenway route through Prince William County
- trail project priorities for FY27 Capital Improvements Program (CIP)
- reports from member organizations

Please **register**. You can join us by Zoom, or come in person to GMU’s Potomac Science Center (10:00-11:30am). We’ll have coffee and donuts, if you want to co-alish in person.

What to Do With the Sudley Road “Traffic Sewer”?

The Urban Land Institute's **Sudley Road Technical Assistance Panel (TAP) Report** has been published. Sudley Road from Godwin Drive to I-66 has been described as a "traffic sewer" by one frustrated Prince William County planning commissioner.

The study concluded (pp.21-22) that pedestrian mobility improvements should be prioritized on side and parallel streets, because "*An overhaul of Sudley Road that establishes multi-modal connections is not worthwhile until significant redevelopment occurs and places more residents and activity directly on it.*"

Proposals for transforming Ashton Avenue (p.23) included adding both a sidewalk and a bi-directional bicycle/mobility path "*because the distances along the corridor are ideal for encouraging bicycle/micro-mobility (0.5- to 2.5-mile trips).*"

Also suggested was a bike/pedestrian bridge over I-66 connecting Ashton Avenue to Manassas National Battlefield Park and Northern Virginia Community College.

Trails Master Plan Meeting - November 5

The Prince William Department of Parks and Recreation will hold a public meeting on November 5, 7:00pm at the **Pat White Community Center** to review draft material for the **Countywide Trails Master Plan**.

Meeting will be the last opportunity for the public to submit comments. The online **survey** to receive input will close after November 5.

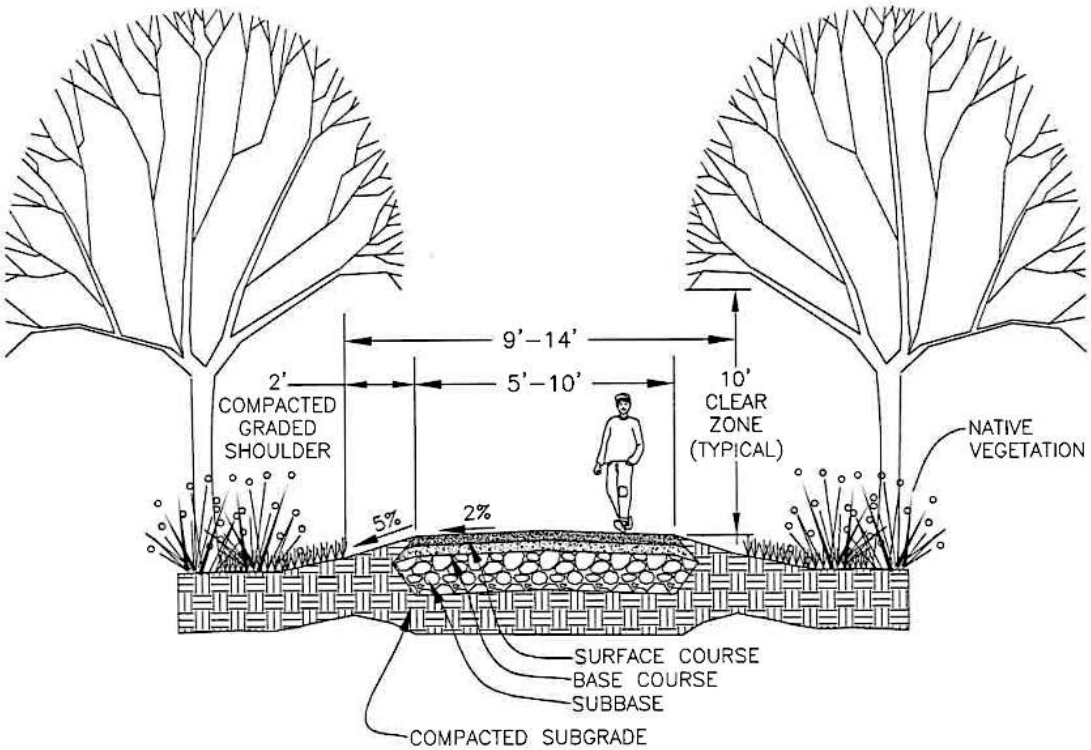
The plan will identify priorities for construction of "recreation" and "active mobility" segments. High level estimates of costs will be sufficient for projects to be included in the county's annual Capital Improvements Program (CIP) budget.

You can learn more at the **Quarterly Meeting** on October 23 of the Greater Prince William Trails Coalition.

Analyzing and Using Recreation Data

The Society of Outdoor Recreation Professionals is offering a free webinar series, **Recreation Data Tools and Approaches**:

October 22: Using Data to Improve Outdoor Access
October 29: Visitor Surveys and Management Actions
November 5: Superior Hiking Trail Visitor Count Process and Methodology
November 12: Estimating Recreational Visitation on Public Lands and Waters



Reconciling Trail Design Standards

In Prince William County, the County Executive plans to transfer responsibility for trail construction from the Department of Parks and Recreation to a revised Department of Transportation and Capital Projects.

Chapter 600 of the Design and Construction Standards (DCSM) include specifications for a bicycle trail/shared use path (650.36) that is eligible for state maintenance if built inside a Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) right-of-way. Standards are also defined for trails not eligible for VDOT maintenance, including an asphalt park trail (650.37), full bench cut trail (650.38), hiking trail (shown *above*, 650.39), and equestrian trail (650.40).

The Department of Parks and Recreation **Trail Standards** for five classifications of recreational trails are different. Surfaces of Class 1 ("Minimally Developed"), Class 2 ("Moderately Developed"), and Class 3 ("Developed") trails are typically native materials without a compacted subbase.

Class 4 ("Highly Developed") trails may be hardened, and may have a surface of native or imported materials. Class 5 ("Fully Developed) trails are hardened with asphalt or other imported materials.

The Board of County Supervisors will vote on a proposed update to Chapter 600 of the DCSM in early 2026. The Department of Parks and Recreation trail standards are not included in the latest draft.

For those interested in both “recreation” and “mobility” trails, the most relevant parts of the revised DCSM to review will be:

602.15. Sidewalks, Trails, Shared Use Paths, and Pedestrian Access Routes

602.16. Bicycle Facilities

602.18. Micromobility

602.19. Wayfinding Signage

602.20. Traffic Calming

602.22. Existing Roadways and Retrofit Standards

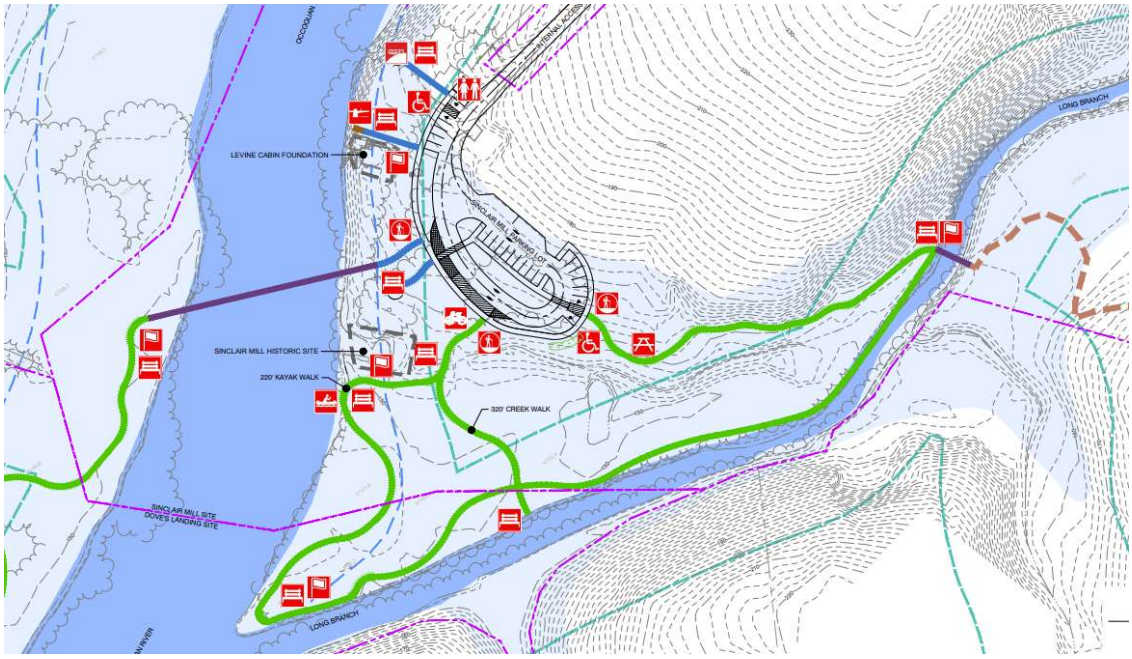
650.36 Bicycle Trail/Shared Use Path Standards for VDOT Maintenance

650.37 Asphalt Park Trail (Not Eligible for VDOT Maintenance)

650.38 Full Bench Cut Trail (Not Eligible for VDOT Maintenance)

650.39 Hiking Trail (Not Eligible for VDOT Maintenance)

650.40 Equestrian Trail (Not Eligible for VDOT Maintenance)



Dove's Landing Natural and Cultural Resources Park

Prince William County has applied for a $1.67 million Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grant to implement the **Master Plan** at Dove's Landing Natural and Cultural Resources Park. The Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) will make final grant decision after a site visit on October 29.

Site design for the park is at 35% completion stage now. Initial construction will be on the Sinclair Mill side of Lake Jackson, where a new boat ramp is planned.

And In Other News…

- The **cleanup** of the Occoquan Reservoir and two stormwater ponds on October 4 (*above*) collected 56 bags of trash, four tires - and a hot water heater.
- The Northern Virginia Regional Commission's Trail Care Academy workshop on October 17 (8:30am-12:30pm) has been moved to the Bull Run-Occoquan Trail at Clifton due to the Federal government shutdown. **Register** for this in-person maintenance training, hosted by Fina Trails LLC.
- On October 13, the Prince William Board of County Supervisors added to its legislative agenda a request for the state legislature to list the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail as a General Assembly-identified trail and to provide funding. Federal funding will also be requested.
- Construction will begin this month on Lake Ridge Park's **Cotton Mill Trail**. There are currently 51 "active" projects being tracked on the Department of Parks and Recreation Capital Improvement Program **dashboard**.
- Segment 6 of the **Occoquan Greenway** continues to progress. Staff is developing easement plats and agreements with Prince William Water for construction access to Hooes Run trail bridge project site through PWW property. Staff is also preparing construction documents for bidding.
- **We're building trails across PW County** talk, hosted by Bull Run Mountains Conservancy on October 18 at 2:00pm, will review the Greater Prince William Trails Coalition's vision to create a scenic, sustainable, and connected multi-modal trail system.
- The Prince William Department of Transportation has issued its 2025 annual report, **On the Move**. Check out pp.8-9 for bike and pedestrian projects, and p.13 for Bike Month report..
- **Crash survivor advocates for safer streets in Northern Virginia** (Greater Greater Washington, September 30) "*In Virginia, from 2017 to 2022, 15% of car crash deaths were pedestrians — that's **771 people***."

- **'Car-light' families in C'ville are trading car trips for e-bike rides** (*C'ville,* September 24) *"...the growing popularity of e-bikes has led more families to go 'car-light,' replacing one or both of their cars with a two- or three-wheeled alternative."*
- Leopold's Preserve has received a Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation $37,750 **grant** to reroute a badly eroded section of the four-mile **Leopold's Loop trail** that goes completely around the preserve.
- Latest Active Transportation in Virginia **newsletter** highlights the Virginia Statewide Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) 2025 **Fall Meeting** will be October 28, 10:00am-noon. No registration required for those attending **online**. Discussion of the **Lynchburg Multimodal Plan** for active transportation is scheduled to start at 11:10am.
- Recordings are now available for the Virginia Department of Health podcast series, **Health in the Commonwealth: Advancing Health Equity Across the Lifespan**.
- On October 25, 6:30-9:30pm, Virginia Outdoor Foundation (VOF) Preserve is offering the 3.5-mile *7th Annual Cemetery Night Hike* to explore the cemeteries at Bull Run Mountains Natural Area Preserve. (No dogs allowed.) **Register online**.
- **Fall Line celebration a milestone for Virginia's East Coast Greenway** When complete, the Fall Line will be a 43-mile north-south regional trail spine in Central Virginia connecting seven greater Richmond localities between Ashland and Petersburg.

*the recent Walk and Talk Wellness campaign stimulated 10 times more visits to the **website***

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