Greater Prince William TRAILS COALITION

16th Annual Occoquan River Cleanup on September 27

On September 27, 9:00am-noon, volunteers in kayaks, canoes and jon boats will be accessing the river from **multiple sites** to retrieve trash from the shoreline. Annual cleanup is organized by the **Prince William Trails and Streams Coalition**.

Volunteers are also needed to cleanup sites on land, within the watershed. Prince William Soil & Water Conservation District will identify stormwater facilities for the land cleanup.

During the 2024 cleanup, over 80 volunteers on both water and land collected nearly 4,000 pounds of trash, putting in over 320 hours of volunteer time.

Get more details and register **online**. (Rain date is October 4.)

October 4: Potomac Shores Fall Run

This year the Po Sho Trails Committee will offer the standard 5K route. Once again there is an offer of a 10K route as well - provided there are enough interested participants. **Register online**.

Both routes will start at the Fitness Barn at the same time and will proceed on the same route; then the routes will split at a certain point and end at the Fitness Barn parking lot.

Trails and Railroads

CSX has identified its requirements for new trails alongside or across railroad tracks in its **Public Projects guidance**:
- no public trails within CSX right-of-way or on CSX access roads
- no new at-grade trail crossings outside an existing highway easement
- a general 50-foot setback for publicly accessible trails/parks from active tracks
- grade-separated crossings (over/under) are preferred and, if considered, must meet strict fencing, canopy (*see above*), clearance, and maintenance requirements borne by the local sponsor

Trails Status Report

After Prince William County cancelled the Route 28 Bypass, the City of Manassas modified its **Sudley Road Third Lane** project where it intersects Godwin Drive.

A curb bump-out to create a future bus-bay (see above) was added at the end of the planned right-hand turn lane from Sudley Road into the bypass. If a trailhead parking lot is created for a future Flat Branch Trail, the new sidewalk will need to be modified.

In Manassas Park, the trails in Blooms Park remain open as Dominion Energy upgrades a transmission line through the old golf course.

In Prince William County, the **bridge** over Rocky Run on Broad Run Greenway is expected to be installed in October/November. **Four bridges** on Neabsco Greenway near Andrew Leitch Park are still going through the county's permit review process. A contract to acquire and install those bridges will not be processed until the review is completed.

The **segment** of the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail adjacent to Featherstone National Wildlife Refuge is still under construction. Piles are being driven into the soil to support the boardwalk.

Extending the existing Neabsco Boardwalk **south into the Metz Wetland** continues to be a procurement challenge. Proposals to date have all exceeded budgeted amount. Department of Parks and Recreation is exploring advertising the project for more competitive bids.

The **Powells Creek Crossing**, which will provide a route for the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail to connect Leesylvania State Park to the north side of Potomac Shores, is moving towards 35% design stage.

Next public meeting regarding Countywide Trails Master Plan will be in October. **Public survey** is still open for comment. Plan is scheduled for adoption by Board of County Supervisors in January, at the start of the process for the FY27 budget.

For more information regarding county trails, the next Prince William Trails and Blueways Council is September 23, 6:30-8:30pm. The public can **attend online** as well as in person. For status of specific projects, check the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) **dashboard**.

Next Quarterly Meeting of Greater Prince William Trails Coalition

At the next Quarterly Meeting we'll discuss, among other topics, the end of six years of major trails planning efforts in Prince William County with completion of the **Trails Master Plan**. That plan will refine the trail routes identified in 2022 for the **2040 Mobility Chapter**.

There will also be conversation regarding various funding strategies to turn the planning from vision into reality. The cities of Manassas and Manassas Park have completed trails planning and are actively implementing their plans.

Quarterly Meeting is on October 23, 10:00-11:30am. Meeting is hybrid - you can attend in-person at GMU's Potomac Science Center (with donuts and coffee) or via Zoom.

Hiking and Cycling in National Parks

In honor of **National Public Lands Day** on September 27, Prince William Forest Park will offer free admission to everyone. There are **37 miles** of hiking trails and **20 miles** of cycling paths in the park.

Manassas Battlefield National Park offers **40 miles** of hiking trails. Got a horse? There are **21 miles** of equestrian trails. Cycling is not permitted on trails in the park.

In addition, there are segments of the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail (PHNST) which are completed and open for **hiking** and **biking**. The Second Sunday Hike on September 14 explored potential routes of the PHNST around Locust Shade Park and the National Museum of the Marine Corps.

And in Other News…

- **Fall Festival at Leopold's Preserve** is Saturday, September 20, from 10:00am-2:00pm. Check out the **trail map**.
- **New "pump" bike track coming to county park later this year** (*Prince William Times*, September 12) The **Prince William County Parks Foundation** has raised funds for the Rollins Ford Pump Track, and on September 9 Prince William County endorsed a **Memorandum of Agreement** for its construction.. Cyclists on a pump track (*see above*) generate forward motion by moving up and down, rather than pushing bike pedals in a circle.
- September 22 is Car Free Day**.** You can **take the pledge** now.

- The **Public Safety Fall Expo** is October 4, noon-5:00pm. You could win a ride on a fire truck - but another reason to attend is the **bike rodeo**.
- **Charlie Boone memorial skate park may get $300K boost from Prince William County** (*Inside NOVA*, September 3) "*Along with the design, the project is estimated to cost $1.5 million, which includes constructing a parking lot, bathrooms, the skate park and a bike course.*"
- On September 9, the Prince William Board of County Supervisors approved **final applications** for the FY2027-2028 Transportation Alternatives program. Five projects are:
  - Route 29 (Tysons Oak) Sidewalk Project
  - Elm Farm Road (Lacebark Elm Court to Mobile Home Community) Sidewalk Project
  - Old Bridge Road (Antietam Road to approximately 500' east of Antietam Road) Sidewalk Project
  - Old Carolina Road/Jefferson Street (existing termini north of Sommerset Crossing
  - Fayette Street) Sidewalk Project
  - North Woodbridge Pedestrian Bridge
- **Grant Avenue upgrades take shape, get mixed reviews in Manassas** (*Prince William Times*, September 4) "*The idea for the Grant Avenue streetscape dates back to 2008*."
- Potomac Appalachian Trail Club (PATC) VolunteerFest is open to all PATC members. Must **register** by September 27, event is a Caroline Furnace in Fort Valley on October 11.
- **Bipartisan legislation aims to protect and expand U.S. national trails system** (WFXR, September 4). The Appalachian Trail Centennial Act is supported by the **Appalachian Trail Conservancy** (ATC). Sponsors in the US Congress include Senators Tim Kaine (D-VA) and Thom Tillis (R-NC) and Representatives Mike Lawler (R-NY) and Don Beyer (D-VA).
- **Near Miss dashboard collects data from drivers and cyclists, provides an avenue to safer roads** (*Virginia Mercury*, September 15) "…*for transportation planning, what we're really looking at is those events that are unreported to the police*."

Walk & Talk Wellness

In honor of **Suicide Prevention Month** and **National Public Lands Day** you are invited to join us for a fall **Walk & Talk Wellness** at one of the participating trail locations in the Greater Prince William area. We hope you will take this opportunity to participate and learn about local resources and tools that can help support you on your journey to wellness .

Join us on **September 26th, 2025 at 2pm at the Neabsco Boardwalk**. Can't make it then, that's okay! You can head to one of the participating trails at anytime between **Saturday, September 13th, 2025 and Sunday, October 12th, 2025** to participate. Scan the QR Codes at each trailhead to learn how to participate in additional activities for a chance to earn wellness prizes!

Participating Trails:

- Blooms Park (Manassas Park)
- Winter's Branch (Manassas)
- Silver Lake (Haymarket)
- Andrew Leitch (Dale City)
- Neabsco Boardwalk (Woodbridge)

Visit www.PreventionCoalitionofGPW.org/Wellness to learn more!

Prevention Coalition Of Greater Prince William

Greater Prince William TRAILS COALITION

A Community of Healthy People and a Healthy Environment — Prince William Health District

BE HEALTHY BE HAPPY — Community Healthcare Coalition Greater Prince William

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