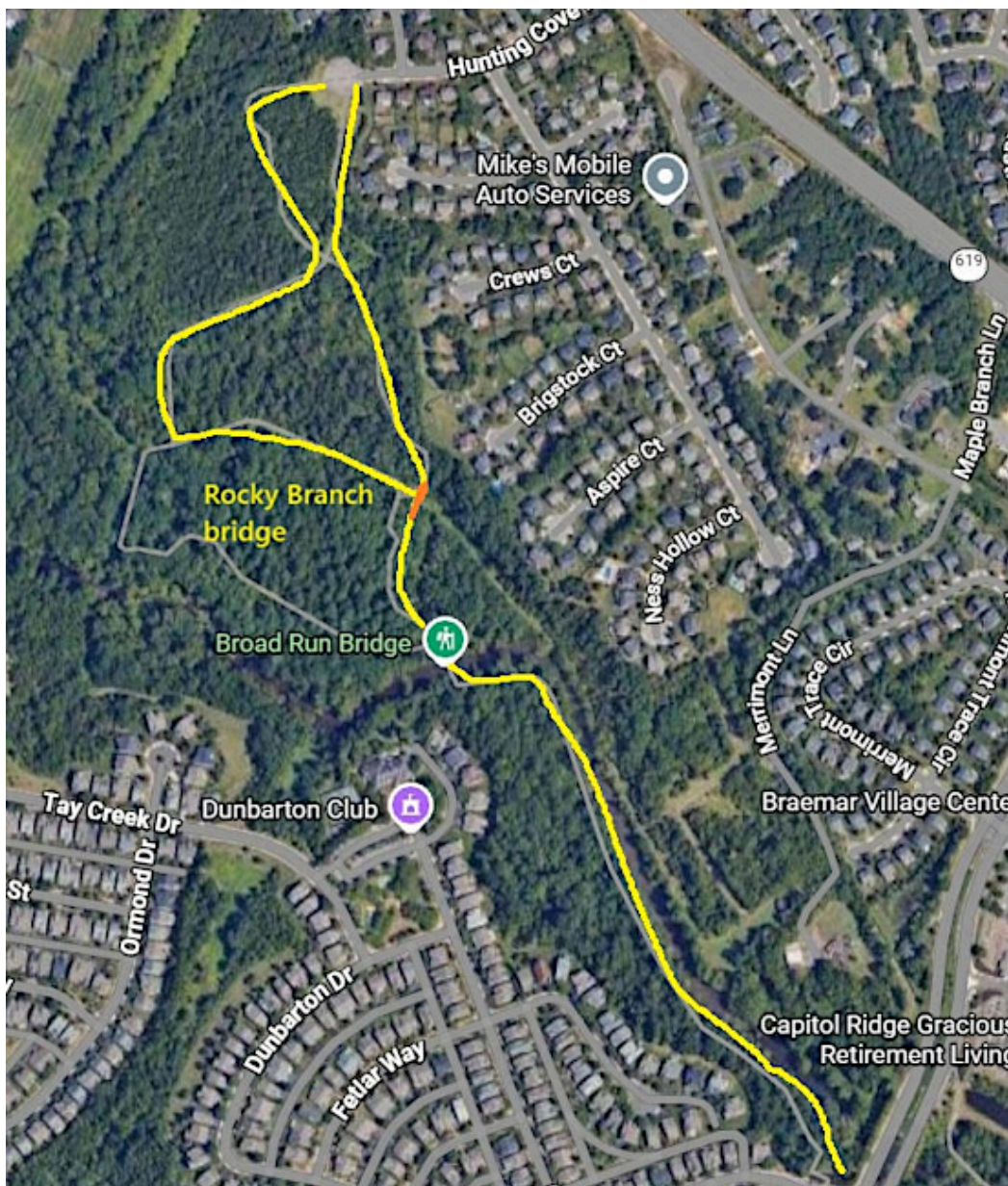


[View this email in your browser](#)

Greater Prince William **TRAILS** COALITION

July 2026 Newsletter

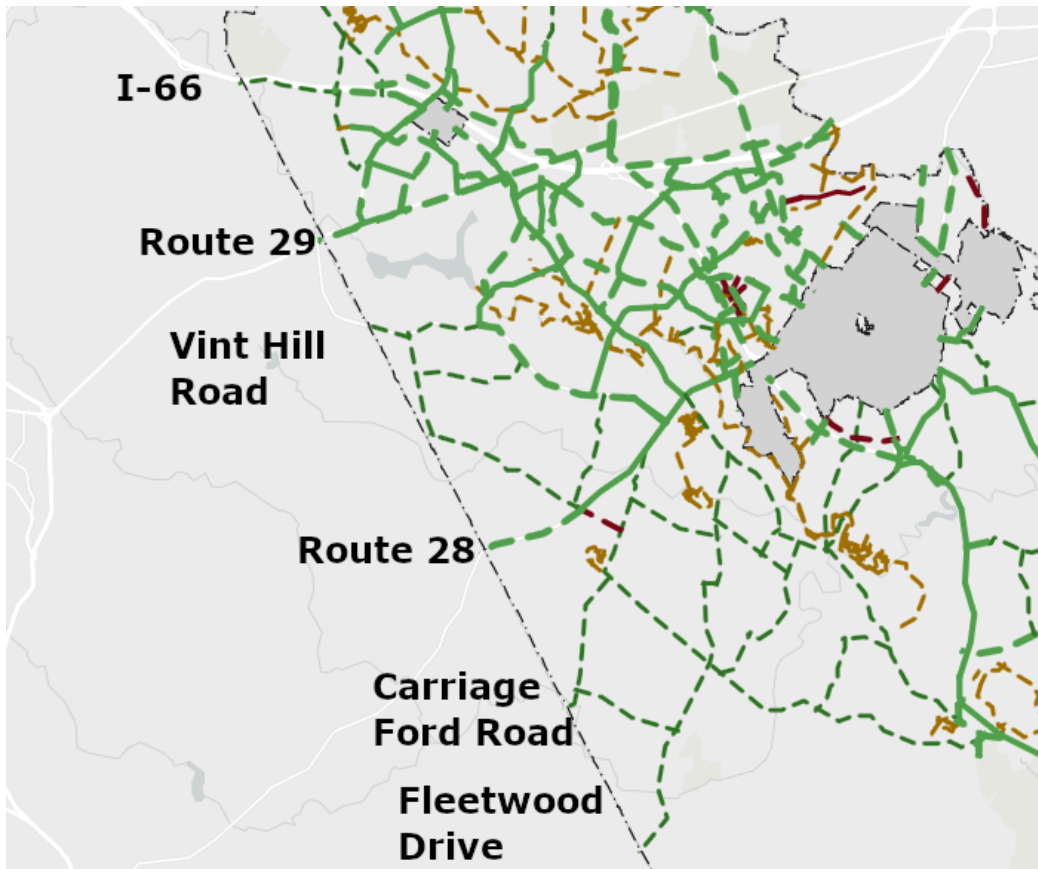
see more at our [calendar](#), [website](#) and [Facebook](#) page.



Second Sunday Hike - July 12, 1:00-3:00pm

We will explore Broad Run, crossing the newly-installed bridge over Rocky Branch.

Please **register** to get details, including the location of the starting point. Registration will allow us to notify you if the hike is postponed or cancelled because of weather conditions.



Connecting to Fauquier County

The Piedmont Environmental Council (PEC) is tracking the update of the **Active Transportation Plan** completed by the Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Commission (RRRC) in 2019.

Prince William County's **Mobility Chapter** in the 2040 Comprehensive Plan includes multiple connections to Fauquier County, including **Bike Route 1** on Fleetwood Drive.



New Sudley Manor Drive/Prince William Parkway Interchange Design

Prince William Department of Transportation **has selected** Wagman Heavy Civil, Inc. to construct the new interchange. One bridge will replace the existing at-grade intersections at Wellington Road and Sudley Manor Drive.

Wagman is the same company that completed the Brentsville interchange, revising the design eventually to include a bike/pedestrian bridge. Bike/pedestrian connections are included in the Sudley Manor Drive interchange proposal.

Because the bid price was \$65 million and the county has set aside nearly \$120 million for the project, there is an opportunity for the Board of County Supervisors to extend the trail along the Prince William Parkway corridor.

The Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA) is close to awarding \$45 million to build the Route 234 Trail at Innovation Park immediately to the south. Currently, no funding has been allocated to build that planned trail from Sudley Manor Drive to Balls Ford Road, or along Wellington Road to connect to the existing sidepath in Gainesville.

Reviving a Statewide Trails Organization - and an Annual Statewide Trails Summit

The annual Virginia Land Conservation & Greenways Conference includes a track of presentations dedicated to trails. At the **April 2026 conference**, there were discussions about

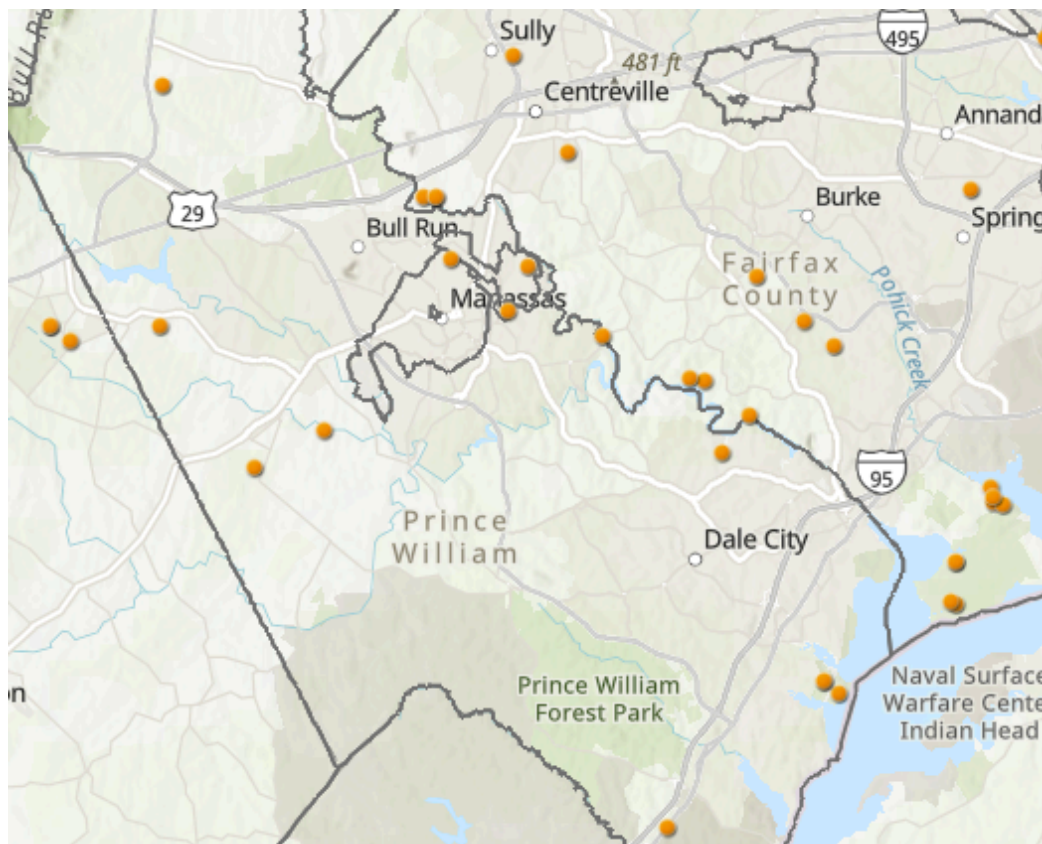
rejuvenating the **Virginia Trails Alliance** and perhaps reviving an annual conference focused on trails in Virginia.

Members of the Virginia Trails Alliance adopted bylaws and elected a new board on June 26. The chair of the Greater Prince William Trails Coalition is now one of the seven board members - see more in **Joining the Virginia Trails Alliance** blog post.

Dealing with the state requires navigating multiple agencies. The General Assembly placed the State Trails Office in the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) and provided **\$89 million for trail projects** through that agency in 2022.

The separate Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) still manages trails within state parks and the Land and Water Conservation Fund grant program, plus the **Virginia Outdoors Plan** used to set priorities for funding recreation projects.

DCR is now proposing to create an annual full-day meeting of trail group representatives from around the Commonwealth, perhaps in November 2027. A **DCR survey** requests feedback.



Land And Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Grant Opens

The Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) has announced that **\$11 million is available** for projects. Cities and counties can apply for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grants.

Blooms Park and Signal Hill Park in City of Manassas Park, and Stonewall Park in Manassas, are past recipients of LWCF grants.

The Virginia Outdoors Plan identifies **eight LWCF grants for parks in Prince William County** (see above). A ninth grant to be received in 2026 for \$1.8 million will be used to complete the Sinclair Mill portion of Dove's Landing Regional Park, including a bridge for the trail to cross Long Branch.

On June 25, Jennifer Wampler (formerly with DCR) briefed the Quarterly Meeting of the Greater Prince William Trails Coalition on a wide range of funding opportunities for recreational trails - see **slides**.



What Happened in June?

- At the June 25 meeting of the Greater Prince William Trails Coalition (GPWTC),
 - Ashleigh Conrad described the **Girls on the Run** program - see **slides**. Currently in northern Virginia there are about 4,000 girls on 89 teams, including 370 girls and 22 teams in Prince William County, for which 69% receive financial aid.
 - Philippe Simon and Bryce Barrett of the Prince William Department of Transportation discussed funding options for active mobility trails - see **slides**
 - Jennifer Wampler discussed funding opportunities for recreational segments, including the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail (PHNST) - see **slides**
 - **Walk and Talk Wellness** web activity had about 500 views, up 40% from the same period last year.
 - Joe Marshall (**Trails and Blueways Council**) and Allen Muchnick (**Active Prince William**) are on the recently formed Transportation Funding Work Group coordinating multimodal mobility funding efforts across different agencies.
- The draft FY27-32 Strategic Plan for the Prince William Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) was reviewed at both the Parks and Recreation Commission and the Trails and Blueways Council meetings. Plan was revised to include a target of having volunteers build at least a mile of trail each year that DPR will manage. At the moment, DPR approves just volunteer-built trails that the volunteers commit to maintain, such as those built by **Mid-Atlantic Off-Road Enthusiasts** (MORE) at James Long, Andrew Leitch,

and Locust Shade parks. Volunteer agreement with Friends of Horticultural Therapy will include maintaining a trail at **Shenandoah Park**.

- DPR staff is working with the Potomac Shores developer to identify how to connect the trail network to Cockpit Point Road south of the Virginia Railway Express (VRE) station.
- On Sinclair Mill portion of Doves Landing Regional Park, a **revision** of Stanley Martin proffer, to provide \$35,000 donation for some of bridge costs in lieu of proffered fair weather crossing, will go to BOCS for approval on July 7. DPR has adequate funding to complete the bridge.
- DPR has worked with Planning Office and developers so trail proffers for Vint Hill Road developments will create connected networks along Broad Run and Kettle Run.
- Belmont Bay master plan will start August/September. Plan will guide conservation easement on donated parkland, which must be completed before trail construction can begin.
- Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail (PHNST) will be routed around Marine Corps museum via Joplin Road/Route 1. Option of going through the grounds (at least during museum business hours) is still possible.
- DPR has selected the contractor to build 20' bridge and 700 feet of boardwalk through Metz Wetland.
- After almost two years, county permits still have not been issued yet for replacing Andrew Leitch Park bridges.



*This week, Prince William Trails and Streams volunteers **helped install** a new 16' crossing on the Occoquan Greenway in partnership with Prince William Department of Parks and Recreation and Lake Ridge Parks and Recreation Association (LRPRA).*

E-Bike/E-Moto Regulation in Northern Virginia

As reported by InsideNOVA, on June 23 the Haymarket Town Council banned the use of electric mobility devices from sidewalks in town. The town **ordinance** requires people 14 and under to wear a protective helmet and be under the direct supervision of someone 18 or older if using: *"motorized skateboards, motorized scooters, electric scooters, motorized bicycles, electric power-assisted bicycles, shared mobility devices, including any aforementioned devices that have non-internal combustion engines with three wheels or less, and other devices specified in Virginia Code Section **46.2-1315**"*

Riders must comply with all traffic signs, and wearing earphones in both ears was banned. A 25mph speed limit was set, along with limits on where "devices" could be parked.

In Fairfax County, FFX Now **reports** that the Town of Vienna has launched an e-bike safety **awareness campaign**. In Falls Church's Cherry Hill Park, both on trails and elsewhere, riders on electric mobility devices are *"...weaving around people. The police have not been able to catch them."*

Fairfax County supervisors **just expanded** their local requirements. Those under 14 must wear a protective helmet on any scooter, e-bike or motorized skateboard, in addition to bicycles. See more at **N. Va. officials stress safety, as e-bikes become more common, faster** (FFX Now, June 22)

The FFX Now news story included a key comment by the chair of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, Jeff McKay: *Most e-bike riders are riding in conformance with the law. "They're not doing anything wrong," said McKay, who praised their use as offering a transportation option to teens who might not have alternatives.*

In Loudoun County, as noted in **'Enough is Enough:' LCSO Starts Towing Illegal E-Bikes, Citing Riders** (LoudounNOW, June 30), *"The Loudoun County Sheriff's Office has begun towing unregistered electric bikes that meet the criteria to be considered motorcycles and issuing citations to riders."*

The Sheriff's Office said *"Despite what some folks seem to think, these aren't 'e-bikes.' They're motor vehicles that don't belong on our sidewalks."* Check out the **safety brochure** and **Bicycle, E-Bike & Scooter Safety Information**.

New Jersey has the most restrictive **e-bike regulations** in the United States.; it classifies all e-bikes as "motorized bicycles." Starting July 19, all e-bikes must be registered and riders 15 and older must get a state license.

(NOTE: AAA is **now getting into e-bikes.**)



Do You Know: Where Is This Trail?

Guess first - then **see the answer.**

Countywide Trails Master Plan (Pathways 2025) Status

Final edits of the **Countywide Trails Master Plan** (Pathways 2035) are being completed. DPR staff discussed the latest version at the Quarterly Meeting of Greater Prince William Trails Coalition on June 25.

The plan identifies approximately 121 miles of existing active mobility facilities and 291 planned miles, along with 83 miles of existing recreational trails, 65 miles planned (where right-of-way has been acquired), and 51 miles proposed (where land acquisition is required).

The plan prioritizes trail segments using a scoring system based on connectivity, safety, equity, and public feedback, with Tier 1 priorities identified for both mobility and recreational trails.

Cost estimates are planning-level numbers, ranging from \$4.5 million per mile for shared use paths to \$425,000 per mile for natural surface trails. Plan is detailed enough to identify "low hanging fruit" segments that could be constructed by volunteer organizations. Trails and Blueways Council is identifying such segments in each magisterial district.

Pathways 2035 will be presented for BOCS approval in September. No public review opportunities are scheduled before then.

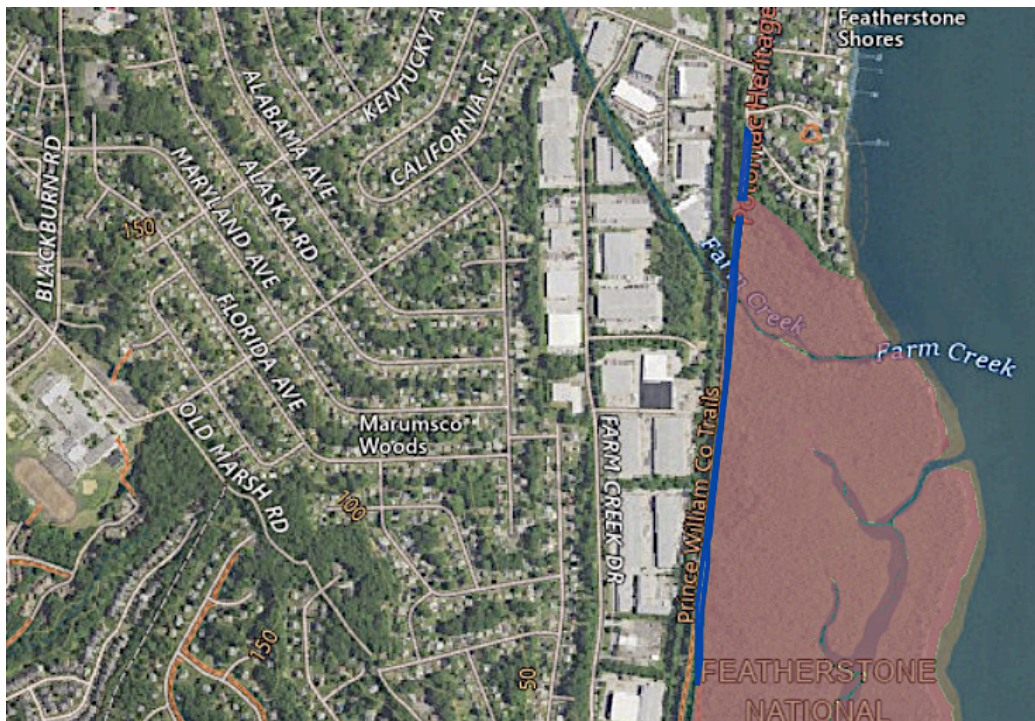


In Other News...

- **Manassas Council Approves Next Phase of Cannon Branch Apartments, Requires New Waterfront Park and Trail** (*Potomac Local News*, June 29) “The park and trail will be open to the public, providing new recreational access for Manassas residents... including pedestrian trails connecting to Cannon Branch Park.” Red line (above) shows trail in approved **proffer revision**.
- Prince William Board of County Supervisors (BOCS) is expected on July 7 to **Approve the Third Amendment to the Deed of Lease Dated March 11, 2014, with Lake Ridge Parks and Recreation Association for the Development of the Occoquan Greenway Trail**.
- Also on July 7, BOCS will consider vacating a portion of the Tree Conservation Area in the Broad Run Linear Park to **authorize** a wider right-of-way for a powerline on land donated by Stack Infrastructure in 2025.
- No surprise - “**park prescriptions**” have a positive impact on moderate-to-vigorous physical activity. **The Park RX RCT: Impact on Physical Activity Among Youth** was published by the *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*.
- Next **Walk With a Doc** will be July 17, 9:00-10:30am. Free event at Chinn Aquatics & Fitness Center.
- Our Virginia Outdoors has just published the **Virginia Outdoor Recreation Business Directory**. At the moment, three businesses in Prince William County are included. (Greater Prince William Trails Coalition is a member of **Our Virginia Outdoors**.)
- Fairfax County supervisors have **authorized** a \$180 million bond issue for parks in November. In the just-approved Prince William County **FY27 budget**, supervisors did not propose a 2026 bond for building trails and acquiring parkland.
- **Area leaders rally for pedestrian and cyclist safety at unveiling of Alexandria's Holland Lane streetscape restoration** (Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments,

May 28) *"In 2025, 292 people were killed on Washington-area roads, including 94 pedestrians and cyclists."*

- The Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOG) is sponsoring a free, in-person, full-day **workshop** covering the new NACTO and AASHTO bike design guides on July 13. The 9:30am-4:30pm program will use the conference space of the Rails to Trail Conservancy in downtown DC.
- **Manassas Police Explain Decision Not to File Additional Charges in Dean Park Child Luring Case** (*Potomac Local News*, June 22) An individual fled on an e-bike but was not charged with eluding Manassas police. *"An eluding charge was deemed inapplicable because Virginia law requires involvement of a motor vehicle, and an electric bicycle does not qualify as a motor vehicle."*
- **"From Rails to Trails" Follows the Fight to Convert Abandoned Railroads to Pathways** (*Outside*, October 29, 2025). The program can be **seen** on PBS.
- Three national trails along the Potomac cooperated on a plan that was published in 2015, the **Potomac River Segment Plan**. Prince William County is now planning on how to "activate" its waterfront.
- **Bike 76 VA** has over 30 podcast **episodes** about the 555 miles of Bike Route 76 in Virginia and lots of **blog essays**, including a recent story about the Bikecentennial across the United States in 1976.
- The Federal Government has launched a new **MAPLand Viewer** that identifies where easements have been authorized for trails, including Featherstone National Wildlife Refuge (*see below*). Construction of the remaining 300' of boardwalk for a **new segment** of the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail will restart there in August after the eaglets fledge. The 1-mile extension is expected to be completed this Fall.





Copyright (C) 2026 Greater Prince William Trails Coalition. All rights reserved.

The Greater Prince William Trails Coalition is a 501(c)(3) organization
P.O. Box 1674, Woodbridge, VA 22195
Contact us at info@gpwtrails.org



This email was sent to cgrymes@gmail.com
[why did I get this?](#) [unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)
Greater Prince William Trails Coalition · PO Box 6351 · Woodbridge, VA 22195 · USA

