

COMMON INTERPRETIVE STRATEGY

Religious Freedom National Scenic Byway
Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail
Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail
Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail

CHARLES AND ST. MARY'S COUNTIES, MARYLAND

October 2014



RELIGIOUS FREEDOM
NATIONAL SCENIC
BYWAY



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for the

Religious Freedom National Scenic Byway

Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail

**Captain John Smith Chesapeake National
Historic Trail**

and

Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail

CHARLES AND ST. MARY'S COUNTIES, MARYLAND

October 2014

PREPARED BY

HERITAGE *strategies*


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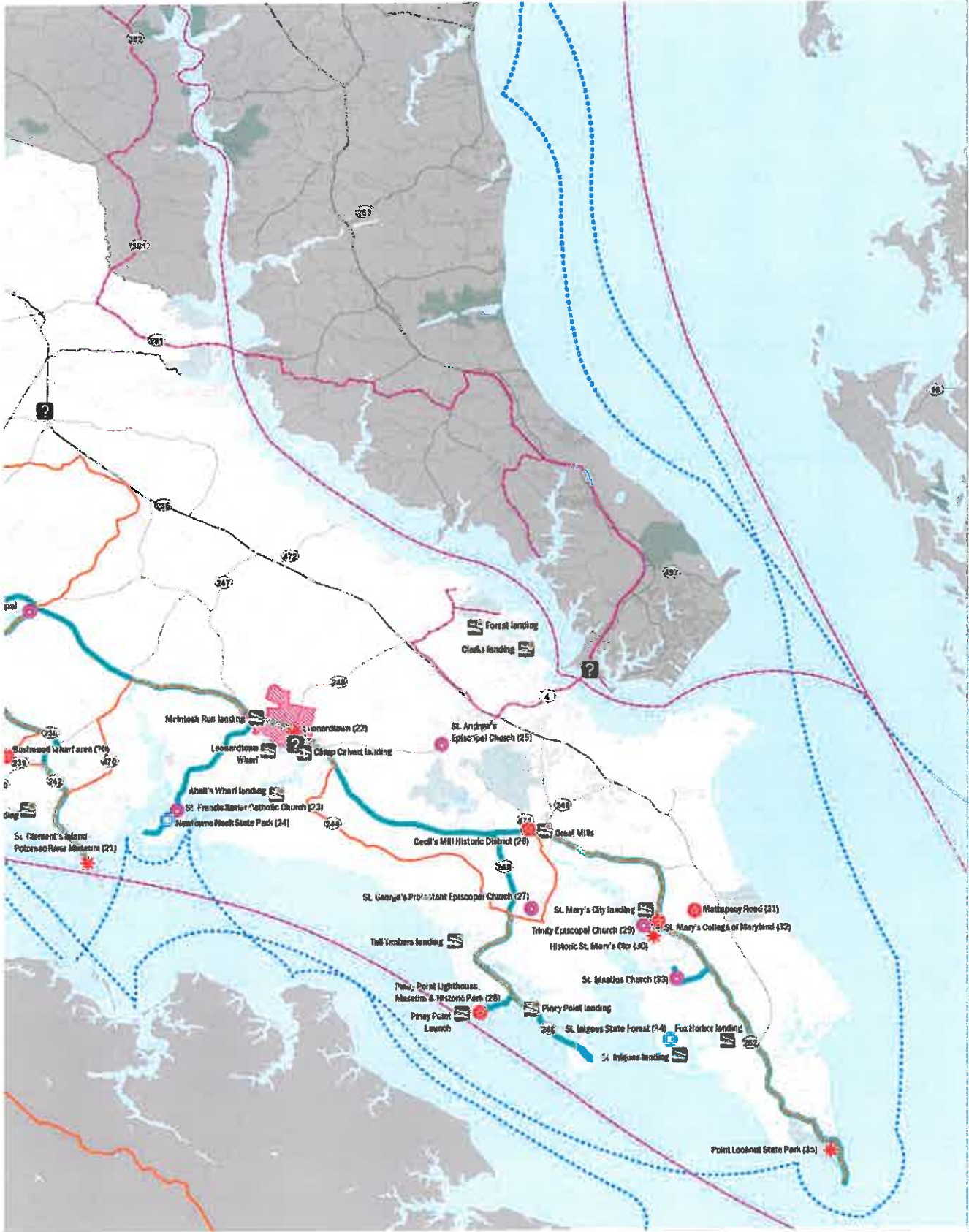
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|-----------------------------------|---------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| Route | Site* | Municipality | Secondary Route |
| Religious Freedom NSB | Anchor site | Public Land - DNR | State Route |
| Potomac Heritage NST | Church | Welcome/Visitor Center | US Route |
| Captain John Smith Chesapeake NHT | Historic site | Landing or water access | |
| Star-Spangled Banner NHT and NSB | Park/WMA/NRMA | | |

*Numbers in site labels refer to discussion in the Common Interpretive Strategy developed for the four routes (Oct. 2014).
 GIS Data Sources: MPA4Map, MD DNR, MD Department of Planning, MD SHA, I&PS, Charles County, St. Mary's County

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Farmland along the Religious Freedom National Scenic Byway, MD Route 234, St. Mary's County

Introduction

The purpose of this Common Interpretive Strategy is to provide a foundation for collaborative interpretive efforts by the Southern Maryland Heritage Area Consortium, National Park Service, participating sites, and other stakeholders as they seek to interpret four intertwined routes in Charles and St. Mary's Counties. These are the Religious Freedom National Scenic Byway, contained solely within those counties, and three much-longer components of the National Trail System: the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail (POHE); the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail (CAJO); and the Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail (STSP). The latter three collectively are referred to here as the "Trails" or "Trail programs." Work on this plan has been led by the Southern Maryland Heritage Area Consortium (administrative home of the Religious Freedom National Scenic Byway, RFNSB) with support from the National Park Service.

The Byway and Trails serve as gateways to exploring the cultural and environmental landscapes of St. Mary's and Charles Counties. While visitors' experience of following these routes – via driving, biking, hiking, or boating – is to be desired, it is more significant that these routes link many historic and natural sites. These sites provide opportunities for interpreting the landscape, allowing direct

experience of places where rich stories are found. Many also offer launching areas and trailheads for recreational and educational access to rivers and natural lands.

This Common Interpretive Strategy is designed to advance strategic opportunities for overlap and reinforcement among all programs in a simple way that will also help to recruit partners from across the two counties served by the RFNSB and Trails. The objective is to enhance partners' understanding of the possibilities for participation in all four programs. Only with the help of partners, from within the region and beyond – especially the National Park Service as the administrator of the three Trails – will it be possible to fully realize this plan.

Interpretive Concept Summary

The two counties served by the RFNSB and the Trails can be regarded as lying at the heart of the larger regions served by CAJO and STSP, and as the critical southernmost end point of the POHE in Maryland. All four programs share a common resource, the historic cultural landscape, shaped by the major landscape boundary of the Potomac River. More important, stories embedded in this landscape support interpretive themes embraced by all four programs.



Chiles Homesite Trail, Douglas Point, Nanjemoy Peninsula, Charles County

Of all Colonial-era landscapes on the Atlantic Seaboard, St. Mary's and Charles Counties in Maryland, especially on their Potomac River shores, are among the least obscured by later layers of urbanization and modernization. 2034 will be the 400th anniversary of Maryland's founding in St. Mary's County. While much change has occurred in this landscape over 38-plus decades, it is still possible to see and experience vestiges of its 17th century organization – which arose from and was influenced by the indigenous cultural landscape, also possible to discern.

The Common Interpretive Strategy's basic interpretive concept is to develop opportunities across all four programs for both residents and visitors to explore the rich historical resources of the region via touring and recreation. Each program's interpretation can support interpretation needed by the others. The four programs share a common cultural landscape that allows exploration of the roots and traditions of America's religious tolerance; of a place experienced by Captain John Smith; and of a portion of the Chesapeake theater in the War of 1812 – all of these being stories united by one of the nation's great rivers, the Potomac.

Analysis of the individual themes identified by each of the four programs, described in sections below

and further detailed in Appendix A, suggests four topics in common. Formal theme statements must be developed for each of these as the actions suggested in the last section are undertaken:

1. Maryland's Beginnings, 1608-1820

Themes and storylines identified by all four programs relate to this theme, once the timeframe is extended from the early 17th century (RFNSB, CAJO) to the early 19th century (STSP).

Embracing chronology is an easy thematic approach in any case, but

for our purposes here, it incorporates two of the seminal events of Maryland's history, its founding in 1634 and its survival – with the nation as a whole – of the extreme test of the War of 1812. Captain John Smith's exploration of the Potomac in 1608 prefigures Maryland's story, and is therefore important in the "founding" storyline. The consequence was a dawning awareness of the river's geographic, cultural, and therefore strategic importance as a route west – a story also told by POHE. "Maryland's beginnings" also embraces the story of social change, as first the English and then also African Americans built a new society and economy in a new land (new to those peoples). This theme strongly overlaps with the next.

A particular challenge will be to insure that the African American story is well told in this region, for it is critical to a complete telling of Maryland's beginnings. During planning for this common framework, one commentator asked, "How does the African American story tie into these trails and the RFNSB? Is it its own separate theme, or if not is it a thread in any storylines, or do they not all have this in common?" The fact is, this and two other common themes suggested here most emphatically include the African American story – natural heritage being a possible exception, although even there it is possible, with research, to explain how the African heritage of working the land exerted influence on cultivation of tobacco and other crops, and local foodways. Interpretive planners should

always include “African American heritage” as a vital storyline in considering all four themes, but the choice here is not to call out this topic separately as a theme, for the sake of simplicity and for supporting the other themes with this significant, integral dimension.

Suggested theme statement: *Captain John Smith’s exploration of the Potomac in 1608 led to the founding of the colony of Maryland with its radical break from traditional governance, the separation of church and state. Through more than two centuries, Maryland’s experiment endured and influenced the emerging nation of the United States of America, as settlement expanded and other new ways of life arose.*

2. Native American Heritage

Three of the four programs embrace this theme; STSP does not, for by the time of the War of 1812, the influence of the tribal chiefdoms had waned. Those native societies, however, deeply influenced the society, economy, and landscape that existed by the close of the 18th century. This is also a theme that addresses the idea of “deep time,” in social terms – humans have occupied this landscape for at least ten thousand years. Storylines include the changing ways they lived, the technologies they employed, and the ties they developed among tribes beyond the region, plus among others. The differing world views of Native Americans and Europeans in how they settled, used, and occupied the land, including their religious views stemming from connection to the Potomac landscape and the ways in which the English and African American colonists related to indigenous Americans, especially in the first hundred years or so after Maryland’s founding, are also critical storylines. This theme strongly overlaps with the next.

Suggested Theme Statement: *Native societies have occupied this landscape for at least ten thousand years. They deeply influenced the European society, economy, and landscape that evolved in their footsteps, and have retained a measure of cultural independence to the present day.*

3. The Natural World

Again, three of the four programs easily embrace this theme, although it can be said that STSP focuses



Piney Point, St. George’s Island, St. Mary’s County

on the political and military consequences of a society built on the natural world, the Chesapeake. The Chesapeake and Potomac landscape as we know it did not exist ten thousand years ago. The ways in which that landscape emerged as the last ice age subsided, the natural resources exploited by humans, plus geology and biology are all rich sources of storylines. Important storylines suggested by the focus of particular programs include scientific exploration, from John Smith onward (CAJO, POHE), and the adaptation of English husbandry and the new cultivation of tobacco to the particular natural resources of this physiographic region (RFNSB, POHE).

Suggested Theme Statement: *The Chesapeake and Potomac landscape as we know it did not exist ten thousand years ago; it emerged as the last ice age subsided. The natural world we experience today is a response to the ways that humans have exploited its resources over time, with changes still-evolving.*

4. Change and Resilience

Embedded in the preceding three themes is the idea of change – from geological to social, from deep human-scale time to the present. CAJO commemorates a break in time, “contact,” when much social change occurred, ultimately from the mixing of three populations from three different continents. At an equally early date in history here, the RFNSB represents a re-imagining of the way in which Europeans organized their governments and accommodated differing religious beliefs in a wholly new way – causing a cascade of social changes.



Port Tobacco Historic Village, Charles County

Tobacco led to a wholly new economic system, yet now it has virtually disappeared in Southern Maryland; imperialism, another driving force behind Maryland's settlement by Europeans, waxed and waned as well. STSP examines one of the consequences of that imperialism, commemorating a major aftershock in the re-ordering of that society around another profound social concept, democracy. Capitalism, the industrial revolution, the scientific revolution, and many other economic, technical, and social changes rippled through the landscape and society here. The stories of how people adapted in this region remain relevant to our lives today. At the other end of the time scale, POHE interprets "Restoration, Recreation, and Sustainability" as a primary theme, aimed at modern audiences and relevant to modern lives. As our society continues to cope with the ecological changes that continue to manifest themselves in the Chesapeake, in urbanism, and in technological and economic changes, stories of change, adaptation, and resilience offer intriguing ways to illuminate the preceding three themes.

Suggested Theme Statement: *Change is ever-present in this landscape and in the human societies that have occupied it. Stories of change, adaptation, and resilience abound in response to the cascade of*

social, economic, political, and technological changes that have occurred here since Maryland was first settled.

Table 1 presents these four unified interpretive topics and summarizes how they relate to the individual themes identified by the four programs, as described in the following sections.

How can these be used? Overtly or implied, at least one of these themes should be included whenever an interpretive program or product is developed based on the interpretive themes and planning already completed for the four programs. In other words, these themes set the stage for telling the stories identified by the four programs and simplify the visitor experience. They can aid the visitor in sorting out the wide variety of visitor experiences available.

Interpretive Themes of the Four Programs

As explained in the National Park Service's 1998 handbook *Planning for: Interpretation and Visitor Experience*, "Themes are often described as the key stories or concepts that visitors should understand after visiting a park. Themes provide the foundation for all interpretive programs and media developed in

| Table 1 - Intersection of Interpretive Topics among RFNSB, POHE, CAJO, and STSP | | | | | |
|---|---|---|--------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| | | Common Interpretive Topics | | | |
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Key | Individual Program Themes | Maryland's Beginnings 1620-1820 | Native American Heritage | The Natural World | Change and Resilience |
| | | RFNSB (heading only – see text for full statement) | | | |
| R | Primary Interpretive Theme: America's First Freedom: The Quest for Religious Tolerance – the Founding of MD and its Influence on the Emerging Nation | ✓ | | | ✓ |
| 1 | Sub-Theme 1: Drawn by the Water and the Land | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 2 | Sub-Theme 2: Struggling to Establish a Colony | ✓ | | | ✓ |
| 3 | Sub-Theme 3: Tobacco – The Economic Foundation of a Colony | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 4 | Sub-Theme 4: Colonial Maryland Comes of Age | ✓ | | | ✓ |
| | POHE (heading only – see text for full statement) | | | | |
| A | Primary theme: Restoration, Recreation, and Sustainability | | | ✓ | ✓ |
| 1 | Supporting Topic 1: Natural History and Diversity | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 2 | Supporting Topic 2: Boundary, Corridor and Crossroads | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 3 | Supporting Topic 3, Nation-Building/Nurturing A Nation | ✓ | | | ✓ |
| | CAJO (slightly edited for length – see text for full statement) | | | | |
| 1 | Theme 1: Captain John Smith's voyages profoundly impacted world politics and the evolution of our nation by spurring European settlement of the Bay region and the eastern seaboard, influencing colonial affairs for more than a century, disrupting the native peoples' lifeways, and increasing human influences on the Bay environment | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| 2 | Theme 2: Substantial and sophisticated societies of native peoples existed centuries before Smith arrived and although their communities were disrupted and some were ultimately displaced, many descendant tribes sustained their identities and cultural values in the region today. | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 3 | Theme 3: During the 17 th century, Captain Smith encountered a varied ecosystem in the Chesapeake Bay region; though much has changed, there are still places where beauty and diversity endure, and efforts are underway to conserve and restore aspects of the Bay's integrity. | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| | STSP (slightly edited for length – see text for full statement) | | | | |
| 1 | Theme 1: Americans resisted a land and water invasion by Great Britain | ✓ | | | ✓ |
| 2 | Theme 2: The Chesapeake region served as a hub for trade, industry and government | ✓ | | | ✓ |
| 3 | Theme 3: Individuals in the Chesapeake region endured great political, economic, and emotional upheaval and faced personal choices | ✓ | | | ✓ |
| 4 | Theme 4: The United States flag and "The Star-Spangled Banner" anthem inspired a renewed sense of nationalism in U.S. citizens after the War of 1812 | ✓ | | | ✓ |



Christ Episcopal Church, Chaptico, St. Mary's County



Smallwood's Retreat House, Smallwood State Park, Charles County

the park. They tell interpreters and designers what are the most important ideas or stories. They do not include everything we may wish to interpret, but they do cover those ideas that are critical to visitors' understanding of a park's significance." (www.nps.gov/hfc/pdf/ip/interp-visitor-exper.pdf, p.13) This section insures that the reader understands each of the four programs in these terms ("park" being read as "trail" or "corridor" or "place," of course). Appendix A provides a more extensive comparison among the four programs, comparing purpose, significance statements, sub-themes, and intended audiences.

Religious Freedom National Scenic Byway

The RFNSB is a 155-mile driving route that links significant historic buildings, landscapes, and waterways in Charles and St. Mary's Counties. It presents the story of the first government in Colonial America to introduce the concepts of religious tolerance and separation of church and state. These concepts later became enshrined in the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution guaranteeing all Americans the right to believe as they wish.

The Byway gained national recognition in 2009 and has since successfully established a first-phase round of interpretive steps. These include a website, an interpretive brochure (map and guide), a two-day itinerary, relations with interpretive partners, and a promotional poster featuring historic churches of Southern Maryland. The State of Maryland is in the process of installing upgraded waymarking signage.

The Byway is organized around a central spine linking Maryland's initial settlement and first state capital, Historic St. Mary's City, known as the birthplace of religious freedom, in St. Mary's County, with St. Ignatius Catholic Church and St. Thomas Manor House at Chapel Point in Charles County. St. Ignatius is the nation's oldest active parish with a continual pastorate founded in 1641 by Andrew White, S.J. who accompanied Catholic settlers to Maryland in 1634.

Moving north to south, the Byway actually begins in Charles County further north of St. Ignatius Catholic Church at the intersection of MD Route 224 and MD Route 225, southeast of the town of Indian Head, and ends well past St. Mary's City at the southern tip of St. Mary's County on Route 5 at Point Lookout State Park. It includes many more important interpretive sites in addition to the two initial colonial locations of St. Mary's City and St. Ignatius Church. It follows multiple routes, looping through the Nanjemoy Peninsula of Charles County along Routes 224 and 6, and offering side trips down small peninsulas that end at the Potomac River in both counties. Along the way, for example, visitors can stop and explore roots of America's religious tolerance at many of the nation's oldest churches, such as Christ Episcopal Church in Chaptico (established in 1692 with a church built in 1736) or the Mt. Carmel Monastery, the first religious community for women in America (1790).

The story is not a simple narrative arc – colonists encountered many struggles, among them the

politics of king and country and economic and social stress. Even the process of wringing a living from an entirely new, North American landscape -- moreover, one already occupied by indigenous people with a history of thousands of years on this land and very different concepts of how to live there -- was fraught with challenges. That the colony survived, and ultimately thrived, and the radical new concept of the separation of church and state survived as well, is one of the most important tales of America's beginnings. As the RFNSB's current brochure states, "something amazing happened here."

Interpretive themes are organized as follows (*RFNSB Corridor Management Plan*, 2008, pp. 47-48):

Primary Interpretive Theme: America's First Freedom: The Quest for Religious Tolerance -- the Founding of Maryland and its Influence on the Emerging Nation

The establishment of a colonial settlement on the shores of the Potomac River was a bold endeavor fraught with difficulties. Among the four earliest English settlements along the east coast of North America, the colony introduced a vision of religious tolerance and the separation of church and state to North America. Though overwhelmed at the time by religious rivalry and conflict, these concepts later became founding principles of the United States Constitution, documented in the First Amendment.

Sub-Theme 1: Drawn by the Water and the Land

The characteristics of the landscape created opportunities for human occupation and cultural development. The ways that Native Americans used, managed, and conceived of the landscape were vastly different from those of the English colonists.



Island Creek, St. George's Island, St. Mary's County

Sub-Theme 2: Struggling to Establish a Colony

The colony in Maryland was unique in the American experience in its conception, in the peoples attracted to it, and in the manner in which it developed. Maryland's early settlement period, from 1634 to 1689, was fraught with challenges.

Sub-Theme 3: Tobacco -- The Economic Foundation of a Colony

The colony in Maryland was dependent upon the cultivation and export of tobacco. Growth and prosperity ebbed and flowed with the strength and weakness of the markets for tobacco in Europe. Tobacco cultivation shaped the land use, social structure, and culture in the developing colony. Plantation culture and dependence upon an enslaved workforce tied Southern Maryland to the South.

Sub-Theme 4: Colonial Maryland Comes of Age

By the early eighteenth century, many of the challenges of the early settlement period had been resolved. Second generation colonists were acclimated to lowland diseases, stable family groups were formed, and a social hierarchy was established. Agriculture diversified and more permanent plantation centers and landscapes were developed. Maryland participated in an evolving national consciousness.



Piney Point Lighthouse, Museum and Historic Park, St. Mary's County

Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail

The concept for POHE combines outdoor recreation with educational opportunities in a “braided” network of locally managed trails for hiking and other non-motorized forms of travel within a corridor between the mouth of the Potomac River and the Allegheny Highlands of western Pennsylvania. Thus, like RFNSB, POHE is land-based, whereas CAJO and STSP are water-based. Many of POHE’s affiliated trails and their trailheads are complemented by educational facilities, including visitor centers, museums, nature centers, youth facilities, art galleries, and historic sites. The intent of the trail is to “connect people with places, providing opportunities for people to explore connections and contrasts among landscapes, and the history and communities in five physiographic provinces.” The program provides a platform for coordination among many different entities and enables federal financial and technical support to local and state players. (*POHE Interpretive Concept Plan*, p. 5)

Interpretive themes are organized as follows (*POHE Interpretive Concept Plan*, p. 7):

Primary Topic: Restoration, Recreation, and Sustainability

Primary Interpretive Theme: The Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail is a partnership to develop and sustain a system of trails for recreation, transportation, health, and education between the mouth of the Potomac River and the Allegheny

Highlands. The Trail is a national meeting ground of ideas and practices, reflecting a desire for the conservation of lands and waters, for educational opportunities combined with outdoor recreation, and for a celebration of regional diversity and distinctiveness.

Supporting Topic: Natural History and Diversity

Supporting Interpretive Theme: Between the Chesapeake Bay and the Allegheny Highlands, the Trail corridor includes portions of five distinct physiographic regions. Each region, in different ways, has inspired and shaped hundreds of human generations with beauty, abundance, and utility.

Supporting Topic: Boundary, Corridor and Crossroads

Supporting Interpretive Theme: As a boundary between north and south and an east to west route into the North American interior, the Potomac River has been a crossroads of opportunity, diversity, and conflict.

Supporting Topic: Nation-Building / Nurturing a Nation

Supporting Interpretive Theme: Routes connecting the Potomac River with the Forks of the Ohio provided an essential context for the development of the United States Republic.

Segments of the POHE within the tidal portion of the Potomac River corridor connect with sites along the CAJO.

Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail

The website for the trail describes it in this way (<http://www.smithtrail.net/the-chesapeake/>):

History and nature intersect in the Chesapeake Bay to create a place with endless potential for discovery. Its wonders unfold along its many winding rivers, in deep forest, in lush marshland, along scenic shorelines, and on open water. The Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail provides opportunities to explore and learn about the extraordinary Chesapeake.

The trail also provides a lens through which to view changes in the Chesapeake Bay that have occurred since Smith's explorations of 1607-1609. The more we know about the Bay then and the Bay now, the better we will understand what part each of us has in determining the future of this national treasure.

Like the POHE, then, the purpose of this program is to provide outdoor, non-motorized recreational access, in CAJO's case primarily by water, plus environmental education, along with historical interpretation designed to highlight history's relevance to today's experience and conservation on the Chesapeake. As the draft interpretive plan states, "Complementing the Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Watertrails Network, the Trail will provide new opportunities for education, recreation, eco-tourism, and heritage tourism in the Chesapeake Bay region." (*CAJO Draft Interpretive Plan*, May 2006, p. 6/pdf 8, found at http://www.smithtrail.net/files/CAJO_Interpretive_draft.pdf)

Also similar to POHE, CAJO will be developed over time as the result of many partners' local work: "A work in progress, the trail comes as a result of the diligent efforts of many public and private partners." (<http://www.nps.gov/cajo/parkmgmt/index.htm>)

The main interpretive themes for the Trail are (*CAJO Draft Interpretive Plan*, pp. 20-23):

Theme 1:

Captain John Smith's voyages on the Chesapeake, and his subsequent maps and writings, profoundly impacted world politics and the evolution of our nation by spurring European settlement of the Bay region and the eastern seaboard, influencing colonial affairs for more than a century, disrupting the native peoples' lifeways in the mid-Atlantic, and increasing human influences on the Bay environment.

Theme 2:

Substantial and sophisticated societies of native peoples existed in the Chesapeake region centuries before Smith arrived and although their communities were disrupted and some were ultimately displaced by European colonization, many descendant tribes



St. Ignatius Catholic Church, Chapel Point, Charles County

sustained their identities and cultural values in the region today.

Theme 3:

During the 17th century, Captain Smith encountered a verdant and varied ecosystem in the Chesapeake Bay region and though much has changed during the intervening centuries, there are still places where such beauty and diversity endure, and efforts are underway to conserve and restore aspects of the Bay's integrity.

Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail

"For three years the young United States was embroiled in the War of 1812 and the Chesapeake Bay region felt the brunt of it, choked by shipping blockades and ravaged by enemy raids. Through sites and landscapes in Virginia, the District of Columbia, and throughout Maryland, [STSP] tells the stories of the events, people, and places that led to the birth of our National Anthem." (www.nps.gov/stsp)

The STSP's Interpretive Plan identifies four core interpretive themes (<http://starspangledtrail.net/pdfs/Trail%20Planning%20Interpretive%20Plan.pdf>, p. 4):

Theme 1:

Almost thirty years after gaining independence, Americans resisted a land and water invasion by Great Britain, and military events in the Chesapeake region became central to the outcomes of a broader



Cobb Island, Charles County

three-year struggle that established a foundation for the United States' economic independence and military strength.

Theme 2:

In the early 1800s, the Chesapeake region – due to its central location on the eastern seaboard, network of navigable waterways, robust natural resources and fertile agricultural lands – served as a hub for trade, industry and government, making it a prime target for the British.

Theme 3:

During the War of 1812, individuals in the Chesapeake region endured great political, economic, and emotional upheaval and faced personal choices that profoundly impacted domestic life, influenced the evolution of U.S. government and commerce, and had ramifications far beyond the battlefield.

Theme 4:

The United States flag and “The Star- Spangled Banner” anthem – symbolizing the resiliency of the new nation and the American character – inspired a renewed sense of nationalism in U.S. citizens after the War of 1812, and endure today as potent international icons of the United States of America.

Audiences

The four programs share strong similarities in their aims to reach audiences; see comparisons in the last section of Appendix A. The RFNSB and STSP both specifically identify cultural heritage tourists as key audiences – the primary audience in the case of RFNSB. POHE describes its key audiences as “users seeking authenticity, a sense of place and an understanding of the geography of the trail corridor and the history and culture of the United States” and “travelers seeking authentic experiences” – both virtually the

definition of cultural heritage tourists. CAJO defines key audiences to include “outdoor recreationists” and “art & culture enthusiasts” – also part of the larger category of cultural heritage tourists, especially the latter. Indeed, as “cultural heritage tourists” is a category that incorporates many of the audiences mentioned by STSP, CAJO, and POHE, all four programs can be said to share this primary audience.

The three Trail programs also categorize their potential audiences in terms of a variety of segments and characteristics. CAJO’s target audiences are local citizens, educators and students, and virtual users – a well-defined set of “markets” allowing well-defined structuring of program outreach. CAJO’s “other audience considerations” include urban and suburban audiences, universal accessibility, multi-cultural audiences, and generational variations. CAJO concludes that “many visitors (if not most) will experience it entirely from land. Visitors will employ multiple modes of travel and access and will approach the Trail with multiple interests and expectations. Most visitors fall within several broad groups, including families; area residents; Indian tribes; regional, national and international tourists; educators and students; volunteers; donors; and virtual visitors.”

Similarly, STSP identifies key audiences as recreational users, educational visitors, area residents (and their guests), accidental tourists (who

may already be nearby visiting Washington, DC and/or Baltimore), and virtual visitors (online). POHE's analysis is similar (see the last section of Appendix A).

Limited information is available about the current sizes of these audiences. This is unfortunately especially true of their impacts on the local economy, a long-term measure important to local government supporters. Information fine-grained enough to measure these four programs' economic impacts does not exist at this time, despite existing information gathered by Maryland's tourism and state parks programs; NPS collects information about economic impact of visitors, but only for the 401 units of the National Park System, which do not include national trails.

The four programs are currently focused more on development of programs in relation to their many partners, but to be successful, they will need to work over the long term to attract the audiences (users) whose attendance and other demonstrations of enthusiasm will provide indicators of performance. Fortunately, Maryland as a state is a strong supporter of scenic byways and heritage programs of all types in terms of its tourism marketing and its support of local cooperative tourism programs. Thus, both state and local tourism programs will be important partners in helping the Byway and Trails to attract the audiences they desire and around which they are designing their programs.

As interpretive programs are developed and audiences are attracted, it will be critical to develop feedback and evaluation mechanisms so that programs and events can be tailored to the interests of the specific audiences that are drawn to the Trails and Byway. The four programs would clearly benefit from a joint effort to study audiences and impacts



Port of Leonardtown, St. Mary's County

and adjust accordingly – both in terms of simple efficiency (sharing of resources and costs), but also in making sure that the inevitable overlaps among audiences and users (and economic impacts) are understood and communicated well in reporting progress.

Other Interpretive Initiatives Relating to Southern Maryland and the Potomac River

A few miles northwest of the corridor served by the Religious Freedom National Scenic Byway lies the region of southern Prince George's County served by the Potomac River Heritage Tourism Alliance. A relatively recent organization, the alliance completed a strategic plan in early 2014, just as a new visitor center opened near the National Harbor development on the Potomac River at the I-495 bridge crossing (part of the metropolitan region's Beltway). The program offers an additional destination just outside the Beltway for visitors to Washington, DC, Alexandria, VA, and Mount Vernon.

The alliance unites approximately 50 local, state, and national public and private historic sites and local conservation organizations, recreation groups, and county agencies. Fort Washington Park, a War of 1812 site operated by the National Park Service, is



Historic St. Mary's City, St. Mary's County

among these. At least two early churches (one Catholic, one Protestant) are also active participants. The region's landscape, although much more heavily developed than further south along the Potomac, still exhibits rich traces of the same colonial heritage as found further south in Charles and St. Mary's Counties. Its southern end is anchored by the Accokeek Foundation's National Colonial Farm at Piscataway Park, another unit of the National Park System, which protects the view from Mount Vernon and a significant length of Potomac River shoreline – which includes a highly significant site of American Indian settlement that existed prior to European colonization. Before the alliance was formally organized, POHE supported creation of an on-road bicycle route following colonial-era routes in the area and leading to the Marshall Hall boat landing, operated in Piscataway Park by Charles County just south of the county line.

The RFNSB and the Nanjemoy Peninsula are but a short distance down the Potomac River from Marshall Hall, approximately 15 miles. The intervening shoreline includes the town of Indian Head, the popular Indian Head Rail Trail, Chapman State Park with its extensive protected Potomac

River shoreline, and the ecologically significant Mattawoman State Natural Environmental Area.

Together, the Potomac River Heritage Tourism Alliance's region and the resources of Charles County north of the RFNSB offer a pathway rich in natural, recreational, and historic resources

comprising a major gateway from the Washington, DC, area to the region considered in this plan.

In addition, planning will soon begin for a new heritage trail interpreting Southern Maryland's indigenous cultural landscapes, American Indian sites, and Native American living traditions. The route has yet to be drawn, but is expected to encompass the Patuxent watershed as well as the RFNSB corridor. Among the sites to be featured is the recently discovered archeological site of Zekiah Fort, a 17th century fortified Piscataway settlement, acquired by Charles County in 2011. According to the Chesapeake Conservancy, "At the time of John Smith's arrival to the region in 1607, the Piscataway was one of the most populous and powerful Native polities of the Chesapeake Bay region, with a territory on the north side of the Potomac River. The Zekiah Fort settlement began in 1680 when Lord Baltimore directed the Piscataway from their ancestral lands near Piscataway Creek to Zekiah Manor in southern Maryland. Baltimore's purpose was ostensibly to protect the Piscataway from raids by Susquehannock and Seneca Indians, but the move also allowed English colonists to move onto the Indians' lands." (<http://www.chesapeakeconservancy.org/Zekiah-Fort>) The heritage trail will amplify interpretation begun in

part through CAJO's influence, and it clearly reinforces both POHE and parts of the RFNSB story.

The Role of the National Park Service

The STSP website briefly lays out the role of the National Park Service (NPS; <http://www.nps.gov/stsp/parkmgmt/index.htm>); this description pertains to all three Trails:

[The NPS] is responsible for planning, developing and maintaining the Trail in partnership with other Federal, state and local governments, landowners, volunteer groups, and residents. According to the National Trails System Act, the NPS is responsible for:

1. Encouraging communities, land owners, and volunteers to participate in planning, development and maintenance of the Trail;
2. Consulting with landowners and federal, state and local agencies in administration of the Trail;
3. Subject to funding, providing interpretive programs and service and technical assistance to carry out preservation and development of the Trail and to provide education relating to the War of 1812 [or themes of CAJO and POHE].

The NPS receives funding from Congress to staff the Trail, develop and implement the management plan, and work with partners to manage the Trail. Partners provide matching funding to carry out plan priorities and develop interpretive programs, conserve land, and encourage and undertake research and other priorities.

The National Park Service has no direct role in the general administration of the nation's National Scenic Byways (although in a few cases National Scenic Byways are administered by National Park System units). The RFNSB, however, is a partner and stakeholder in the three Trail programs, and has received NPS funding to support this plan. With formal and sustained cooperation among staff of the



St. Clement's Island Museum, St. Mary's County

National Park Service and the Southern Maryland Heritage Area Consortium, the four programs are well-placed to provide interpretive guidance and implementation in a significant portion of Charles and St. Mary's Counties.

The Role of the Southern Maryland Heritage Area Consortium

The Southern Maryland Heritage Area, a Maryland Certified Heritage Area, is a region "rich in historical and cultural resources and scenic beauty" encompassing eleven cells or clusters in three counties that define "key historic places and/or key communities." The heritage area is managed by the non-profit Southern Maryland Heritage Area Consortium (SMHAC), housed in Hughesville, MD, at the Tri-County Council of Southern Maryland, the regional planning agency for Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary's Counties. The RFNSB links many of the heritage area's clusters: Port Tobacco in Charles County and Leonardtown, St. Clement's Island, Piney Point, and Point Lookout in St. Mary's County. (*SMHA Tourism Management Plan*, April 2003, Section 4, p. 48, found at <http://www.destinationsouthernmaryland.com/c/250/southern-maryland-heritage-plan>)

Because the RFNSB is a critical linkage among so many of its clusters in two of the heritage area's three counties and relates strongly to interpretive themes identified by its management plan, the SMHAC houses the RFNSB's staff and manages its financing and operations.

All of the heritage area’s themes overlap with those treated in this common framework. (*SMHA Tourism Management Plan*, Section 5) They are:

- Colonial settlement: Maryland’s beginnings
- Native American heritage
- Agriculture/tobacco culture
- War and conflict
- Maritime culture
- Religion
- Nature and eco-tourism
- African American heritage

The heritage area’s management plan describes the role of the SMHAC (*SMHA Tourism Management Plan*, Section 11, p. 177-79, future tense altered to present):

Creation of a Southern Maryland Heritage Area Consortium....brings together existing heritage program supporters and providers to enhance opportunities to leverage greater benefits from their initiatives and activities through mutually supportive activities undertaken by heritage area partners. With non-profit corporation status through the involvement of the Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland [SMHAC can] seek funding for projects from both government and non-profit organizations alike....Such a consortium of existing organizations serves to:

- Bring together the many heritage area partners which are currently engaged in a number of heritage area initiatives;
- Provide a forum for assuring their “collective” efforts can yield greater benefits to the region; and
- Provide an organizational form that will permit it to seek grants from both the public sector and from private foundations to augment the range and types of projects that can be undertaken to promote heritage tourism within the region.

As the non-profit organization implements the Management Plan, it is simultaneously

advancing multiple strategies, including (but not limited to) the following:

- Assisting its partners in the development of a tourism infrastructure, such as visitor services and facilities and enhanced heritage tourism and recreation offerings.
- Creating a regional identity and participating with others in regional marketing/promotional strategies to increase tourism.
- Partnering with local communities and organizations as well as state and local agencies or foundations to achieve community revitalization and economic development objectives.
- Developing visitor orientation and interpretive facilities to enhance the visitor experience and lengthen their stay and increase visitor spending in the region.

Toward a Landscape-Scale Interpretive Plan

Sites identified for this Common Interpretive Strategy were identified in stages. The process began by relating the basic interpretive planning provided for sites identified in the RFNSB’s corridor management plan to the three Trail programs. Sites from the three Trail programs not identified by RFNSB were added, along with additional landscape resources to be developed to supplement interpretation at existing sites.

Some of the newly identified landscape resources are part of existing sites (or surround them). In other cases, these are independent sites requiring added resources and creativity to bring them to the point of presentation. They were developed with initial assistance from exploration of St. Mary’s County with local historian Pete Himmelheber (an officer of the St. Mary’s County Historical Society, although not representing the Society in providing a tour to a member of the planning team); and of Charles County with archeologist Dr. Julia King of St. Mary’s College of Maryland, who provided a tour to a member of the planning team and Jennifer Pitts, Byway Coordinator.



Thomas Stone National Historic Site, home of a signer of the Declaration of Independence, Charles County

This Common Interpretive Strategy addresses 35 possible interpretive sites or areas. This includes six “Anchor Sites” discussed in the following section:

- Leonardtown – Tudor Hall; Old Jail; St. Mary’s Courthouse; Leonardtown Wharf (22)
- Historic St. Mary’s City (30)
- Point Lookout State Park (35)
- Port Tobacco Historic Village (1)
- St. Clement’s Island – Potomac River Museum (21)
- Thomas Stone National Historic Site (2)

A further section on “Interpretive Sites” includes 29 sites. It includes ten churches and a monastery:

- Christ Episcopal Church (Chaptico) (19)
- Christ Episcopal Church (Wayside) (16)
- Christ Episcopal Church, Old Durham Parish (Nanjemoy) (11)

- Mount Carmel Monastery (LaPlata area) (3)
- St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church (Leonardtown area/California) (27)
- St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church (Newtowne Neck Road, Leonardtown) (23)
- St. George’s Protestant Episcopal Church (Poplar Hill Lane, Valley Lee) (27)
- St. Ignatius Catholic Church (Chapel Point) (14)
- St. Ignatius Church (Villa Road, Webster Field) (33)
- St. Mary’s Roman Catholic Church (Newport) (18)
- Trinity Episcopal Church (Historic St. Mary’s City) (29)



St. George's Protestant Episcopal Church, Valley Lee, St. Mary's County

The section on "Interpretive Sites" also includes many state and local public lands, St. Mary's College of Maryland, and one area of federal land:

- Cedar Point Wildlife Management Area (12) (Charles County)
- Chapel Point State Park (13) (Charles County)
- Chicamuxen Wildlife Management Area (6) (Charles County)
- Douglas Point, Chiles Homesite (8) (BLM land, Charles County)
- Friendship Farm Park (10) (Charles Co. park)
- Mallows Bay Park (7) (Charles Co. park)
- Myrtle Grove Wildlife Management Area (4) (Charles County)
- Newtowne Neck State Park (24) (St. Mary's County)
- Piney Point Lighthouse, Museum and Historic Park (28) (St. Mary's Co. site)
- Purse State Park (9) (Charles County)
- Smallwood Retreat House (5) (Smallwood State Park, Charles County)

- St. Inigoes State Forest (34) (St. Mary's County)
- St. Mary's College of Maryland (32) (St. Mary's County)

Finally, preliminary identification of landscapes for interpretation turned up five possibilities listed in the "Interpretive Sites" section below and in Table 2 (denoted there as "AREA"); others are probable with further investigation, especially of landings in St. Mary's and Charles Counties and other early land routes still visible in the landscape (already identified in St. Mary's County); note that these do not

necessarily imply interpretation at the exact site used to identify the landscape:

- Allen's Fresh area (17) (Charles County)
- Bushwood Landing area (20) (St. Mary's County)
- Cecil's Mill Historic District (26) (St. Mary's County)
- Mattapany Road (31) (St. Mary's County)
- Moore's Lodge Courthouse area (15) (Charles County)

Anchor Sites

Anchor Sites are intended to act as gateway interpretive sites for all four programs, for they are well-placed in this two-county region to provide orientation and substantial interpretation touching on all four common interpretive themes. The division of "Anchor Sites" and "Interpretive Sites" originates from the RFNSB plan; the term "Anchor Site" is also used in the pending Tidal Potomac Segment Plan.

Anchor Sites existing visitor attractions open to the public six or seven days a week during the visitor season (May through October), have on-site visitor services, and have access to a marketing budget and expertise that enable outreach to audiences.

Just three already well-developed Anchor Sites were identified in the RFNSB corridor management plan:

Historic St. Mary's City, St. Clement's Island–Potomac River Museum, and Thomas Stone National Historic Site. This strategy identifies three additional sites for development: Port Tobacco Historic Village (in development), Leonardtown, and Point Lookout State Park. Grouping multiple sites and programs in Leonardtown enables it largely to qualify as an Anchor Site – while there are no full-time professional interpretive staff, there are certainly tourism staff available in season and a well-developed historical society. Point Lookout State Park was not identified in the RFNSB plan because its historical focus is outside the early-Maryland and separation-of-church-and-state themes emphasized by the RFNSB. It is, however, identified in the Tidal Potomac Segment Plan for development as an Anchor Site, and it undoubtedly can offer programs touching on all four common interpretive themes identified in this strategy. Additional sites may be added in the future as existing sites meet the criteria.

Interpretive Sites

Interpretive Sites are key interpretive locations that are publicly accessible and which can present exhibits and programs related to themes in this Common Interpretive Strategy. Most Interpretive Sites will be self-guided, though some sites have limited hours of operation and are available for visits by appointment. While some sites have existing exhibits presenting the history of their locations, others currently have no interpretation or interpretation focusing on natural resources without reference to related historical themes. Partnering relationships with the owners and managing entities of all the sites must be developed (and in many cases have been) to support the existing goals and missions of the sites and their organizations. Each of the Interpretive Sites has the potential to be enhanced through the use of interpretive media including interpretive waysides, customized exhibits, or audio-tour to help present stories related to



Mount Carmel Monastery, La Plata area, Charles County

themes articulated in this plan. Interpretive programs to be implemented at each site should be linked to interpretation at other sites as group efforts are undertaken, with assistance through dialogue and presentation among the Interpretation Working Group described in the Action Plan below.

Implementation

Implementation is expected to occur on two levels: continued region-wide interpretive programming by all four programs; and specific, locally led programs at individual sites, wherever appropriate and possible with assistance from all four programs.

Region-wide and individual interpretive programs should include multiple media, as detailed below in the Action Plan. It is entirely possible for each site to address more than one program, and often all four, depending on the wishes of each site as it considers all story possibilities and how they relate to the four common interpretive themes delineated above – and how they relate to the stories told at nearby sites (regardless of which program might be the dominant sponsor). Each of these programs might be considered a chapter in the larger “book” of the entire landscape. The various media should introduce the whole story and guide visitors to the various chapters of interest.

A major recommendation for this Common Interpretive Strategy – as called for in the original

**RELIGIOUS FREEDOM
NATIONAL SCENIC
BYWAY**



interpretive planning laid out in the RFNSB's corridor management plan – is to develop a system of simple kiosks that provide orientation/wayfinding information, introductory/thematic information, interpretation about nearby sites (enough to encourage visitors to move north or south to enjoy other areas), and information about the actual site. These kiosks would be distributed throughout the region and would address all four programs. See the Action Plan below for specific recommendations.

The recommended region-wide system of kiosks and outdoor interpretive wayside signs offers an example of the highly specific planning required during implementation. It will be necessary to identify locations, choice of sign type by location, and choice of story (or stories) by location, working to accomplish a regional, comprehensive approach. All would be determined by available funding and such other factors as site access. Such planning should also account for and combine with a first round of locally led interpretive signs to be developed by those sites that choose such a medium for relating the stories they choose to tell.

As for individual sites, Table 2 (together with full descriptions found in Appendices B and C) offers an analysis of potential interpretive locations and a beginning template for the more detailed planning among sites and stakeholders participating in the development of this Common Interpretive Strategy. Their collaboration and individual site planning should help to fill out this table, essentially a checklist. Many entries in the descriptions in the appendices indicate the same good ideas: interpret the surrounding landscape, and for churches, uncover the rich stories associated with individual members of congregations, whether buried in the churchyard or not. Associated water trails and

landings, bicycle trails, and historic rural roads (identified by the St. Mary's County Historical Commission) are also excellent opportunities for interpreting many themes and stories. It should be noted that there may be many more interpretive sites and opportunities than those noted in Table 2. Local parks, water trails, environmental education programs, and traditional Maryland Roadside Historical Markers each offers other ways to enrich the interpretive experience of the landscape in this region.

A companion product to be delivered with the final plan is a workbook that will guide local sites in developing their individual, customized interpretive programs within the larger framework of this Common Interpretive Strategy.

Anchor Sites are obvious candidates to receive kiosks in the first phase of implementation. Examining the distribution of Anchor Sites and sites where one or more of the Trail programs have provided orientation information, it appears that the Maryland Welcome Center at the Nice Bridge and two regional visitor centers at Charlotte Hall and Solomons should also receive kiosks.

At least two phases of implementation are foreseen for the individual sites – first, Anchor and Interpretive Sites that are willing and able to move forward soon (defined as the next three years), and second, those that wish to wait for the next (or even later) phase. To the extent that any sites are able to move independently to join this “movement” for interpretation in their own timeframe, this Common Interpretive Strategy supports their separate site planning. Ideally, however, funding and commitments will be assembled in batches, to allow the sites joining the process at that time the ability to link interpretive media and stories as much as

possible, creating additional synergies and community-wide support and action.

Identity and Branding

Blending the identities of the four programs and many individual sites in a way that allows each its own opportunity to shine yet conveys a shared approach is not a simple task. But it can be done – to resort to a platitude, where there’s a will, there’s a way. If the four programs and participating sites are indeed interested in creating a unified visitor experience that enables visitors to enjoy the “chapters” all are working to share, this is a test they must undergo, willingly.

Examination of the four programs’ logos (opposite page) shows that common colors are blues, reds, white, and black/grays. The three NPS programs’ logos share a shape common to National Trails (and fonts and other elements, e.g., a central image), and the national logo used for the RFNSB (which has elected not to develop its own logo) can be made to square up well enough with the other three, as shown on the reverse of the cover of this report. It should be possible to develop a common color scheme and font and other formatting that would be recognizable without overwhelming the needs of individual sites to convey a unified identity, and which allows new items sponsored through this Common Interpretive Strategy to blend with existing ones.

The four logos can be grouped in a single location on interpretive media, from signs to website, and other potential sponsors’ logos can be similarly grouped as needed by the individual project. These include logos of state agencies, the two counties, the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority, and Southern Maryland Heritage Area Consortium.

Should a particular site or project require identification of a particular individual program’s sponsorship over and above the unified identity, accommodation should be possible by enlargement or otherwise setting forth the particular logo in question, together with special wording (e.g., “this project was sponsored chiefly by...”).



Maryland Welcome Center, Crain Memorial Highway at the Potomac River crossing, Charles County

A good designer can lead the process of creating a final design template (with “users’ manual”) establishing ways to handle the usual needs in developing a common identity – website, signs, kiosks, printed materials, etc. This should be done at the same time that the website, the wayfinding plan, and the family of outdoor interpretive signs are developed, as described below in the Action Plan.

Branding, as many participants in this Common Interpretive Strategy well know, is a much broader activity than simply having a logo or general visual identity. It consists of many things that the four programs and the many sites do to convey their missions and serve their patrons (collectively or individually). The National Park Service’s brand is an example of a trusted brand built consistently through the actions of many individuals and programs over nearly a hundred years. The NPS is represented by a logo, true, but its brand is much larger.

When visitors think of the experience they have had in Charles and St. Mary’s Counties, enjoying the four programs and many sites’ stories and recreational opportunities, they should have an overall sense of a single place – a remarkable place where a rich history, embedded in a unique natural world, is celebrated and made accessible with great care and enthusiasm. Developing this “brand” will take many years and much cooperation.

Action Plan

Official Cooperation – First Three to Five Years

1. Obtain official endorsement of this Common Interpretive Strategy by POHE, CAJO, STSP, and RFNSB (and the Southern Maryland Heritage Area Consortium, as RFNSB administrative agency).
2. Establish a cooperative agreement (formal or informal, as appropriate) among the three Trails and RFNSB that could also be signed or referred to in resolutions or letters of support by local governments and state agencies. As appropriate to their sense of process, Anchor Sites and Interpretive Sites could also join in this agreement.
3. Publicize local governments' and interpretive sites' endorsement of the Common Interpretive Strategy and hold a final ceremony when the last action is taken. Invite representatives of all involved and nearby National Park Service programs and sites (including Piscataway Park and Fort Washington, and the National Capital-East office that administers both); seek participation or formal representation of the Director of the National Park Service and the U.S. Secretary of the Interior.
4. Develop mechanisms for joint progress reporting; especially, formalize a procedure for annual reporting to local governments.
5. Incorporate information about the four programs into the two counties' official Geographic Information Systems.
6. Establish a Four-Program Committee of representatives from RFNSB, POHE, CAJO, and STSP to maintain communications and planning among the four programs, based on this Common Interpretive Strategy and the segment plan undertaken for the region by POHE, CAJO, and STSP (not yet complete). Meet and correspond routinely; organize training and other information-sharing and support services for individual sites, enlisting other local agencies as appropriate (especially the Thomas Stone National Historic Site, state

parks and forests, and county parks and museums).

7. Establish an Interpretation Working Group to include representatives of all sites and agencies actively presenting or working on developing interpretive programs that support the four programs' visitor experience (or at least one). The Four-Program Committee should convene the group annually for mutual progress reporting and planning, and maintain email notification of individual sites' interpretive planning activities, upcoming grant and training opportunities, and other useful information as appropriate.

Official Cooperation – Later Phases

8. Study economic and community impacts of visitation and interpretive programs.

Branding - Immediate

9. Create a design template (with "users' manual") to establish a common identity. This should be done at the same time that the website, the wayfinding plan, and the family of outdoor interpretive signs are developed, as described elsewhere in this Action Plan.

Visitor Circulation: Gateways, Linkages and Wayfinding – Immediate

10. Create a joint wayfinding sign plan among all four programs; address coordination with the (newly installed) directional signs associated with the RFNSB, on-road bicycle route markers for POHE, and the need to direct users to land and water trail access points for all programs.

Visitor Circulation: Gateways, Linkages and Wayfinding – First Three to Five Years

11. Create orientation information for regional visitor centers (Solomons, Nice Bridge, Charlotte Hall).
12. Work with Charles County, the state of Maryland, the Town of Indian Head, the Potomac River Heritage Tourism Alliance (serving southern Prince George's County), and POHE to enhance land routes north of the RFNSB as a gateway corridor. Market to users accordingly, and employ wayfinding

strategically to reinforce users' ability to find their way to the region served by all four programs.

13. Work with the proposed Indian Heritage Trail of Southern Maryland to amplify CAJO interpretation and reinforce both POHE and parts of the RFNSB's interpretation.
14. Work with SHA to insure that qualifying Interpretive Sites that do not already have a Maryland's TAC signs are able to obtain one. (TAC signs are tourism directional signs – see <http://www.roads.maryland.gov/index.aspx?PageId=4>.)



Point Lookout State Park, St. Mary's County

Visitor Circulation: Gateways, Linkages and Wayfinding – Later Phases

15. As the (newly installed) wayfinding signs for the RFNSB require replacement, replace them with signs designed for common use among all four programs.

Audience Development – Immediate

16. Develop a common introduction for installation on each program's website home page, including links to the other programs' websites.
17. Create a joint annual work plan for audience outreach. Include websites, calendars of events, and such public relations steps as outreach to Maryland Public Television and postings on YouTube. Consider a jointly maintained calendar of events for use as a "plug-in" on each program's website, in cooperation with St. Mary's County and Charles County tourism programs and the Southern Maryland Heritage Area Consortium.

Audience Development – First Three to Five Years

18. Share email outreach and other audience outreach.

Audience Development – Later Phases

19. Develop joint feedback and evaluation mechanisms so that interpretive programs and events can be tailored to the interests of the specific audiences that are drawn collectively to the Trails and Byway. Study audiences (how they learn about the sites they visit, behavior onsite, geographic origination, preferences, etc.); work collectively to adjust outreach and interpretive programs according to what is learned during these studies.

Interpretation – Immediate

20. Develop a common interactive map to be made available through each website.
21. Create a family of kiosks and outdoor interpretive exhibit panels based on a simple common identity (employing the four programs' logos; use this process to begin strategizing as well on a simple replacement design for RFNSB wayfinding signs).
22. Complete an inventory of existing interpretive media; identify location, type (sign, app, website, etc.), and how each inventoried item or program supports the four common interpretive themes.
23. Invite willing Interpretive Sites to work with interpretive planners and peers to (1) assess the best interpretive approach for each participating

COMMON INTERPRETIVE STRATEGY – RFNSB, POHE, CAJO, STSP

site and (2) develop a simple Site Interpretive Work Plan delineating projects each site is anticipating over the next five to ten years.

24. Maintain updated versions of Table 2 and Appendices B and C of this Common Interpretive Strategy in a web program accessible to all sites to assist in communicating individual sites' intent and progress.
25. Identify the first group of sites where orientation kiosks (at Anchor Sites and visitor centers) and outdoor interpretive signs (at Interpretive Sites) are to be installed, and begin seeking grant funding and local support for the project.



Friendship Park, Nanjemoy Peninsula, Charles County

Interpretation – First Three to Five Years

26. Develop a familiarization training game, web program, whistle stop tour, expo, or workshop for docents and rangers to become familiar with all sites in the corridor.
27. Develop a simple common brochure employing basic information developed for the interactive map.
28. Develop a social media application (“app”) making use of the common interactive map and basic information developed for the brochure.
29. Install orientation kiosks at all Anchor Sites (existing and potential: Port Tobacco Historic Village; Thomas Stone National Historic Site; St. Clement’s Island–Potomac River Museum; Leonardtown; Historic St. Mary’s City; Point Lookout State Park). The orientation information for regional visitor centers (Solomons, Nice Bridge, Charlotte Hall) called for in the section above on visitor circulation actions is expected to include orientation kiosks; thus at least nine are expected in the first round.
30. Invite willing Interpretive Sites to develop content for outdoor interpretive exhibit panels following the common design, for installation as a group employing multiple funding strategies as appropriate.
31. Create a program of technical and peer assistance and small grants to support Anchor Sites and Interpretive Sites in implementing

elements of their Site Interpretive Work Plans (ongoing).

Interpretation – Later Phases

32. Invite willing Interpretive Sites to develop content for a second phase of installation of outdoor interpretive exhibit panels following the common design, for installation as a group employing multiple funding strategies as appropriate.
33. Install additional outdoor interpretive exhibit panels dependent on funding and timeframes generated by Interpretive Sites.
34. Continue working to develop Anchor Sites and Interpretive Sites according to their Site Interpretive Work Plans (update these as appropriate).
35. Upgrade existing products (app, brochure, website, calendar of events).
36. Develop a region-wide “open doors” event or other common regional interpretive event or program.
37. Lead an effort to develop greater interpretation of African American heritage in this region. Consider new programs and stories at existing sites (much as was done for the Chiles Homesite at Douglas Point), new sites and programs, and a two-county interpretive itinerary.

Table 2 - Analysis of Potential Interpretation Locations

| Site # | Site | Common Themes | RFNSB Themes ¹ | POHE | CAJO | STSP | TO BE IDENTIFIED ² | Interpretive planning | Interpretive kiosk | Docent training | Outdoor exhibit(s) | Other | Responsible Parties/Notes |
|--------|---|---------------|---------------------------|---------|------|------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|-----------------|--------------------|-------|--|
| | Charles County - NORTH | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1 | Port Tobacco Historic Village (Port Tobacco; http://www.charlescountymd.gov/sites/default/files/pgm/planning/port_tobacco_villageplan.pdf) | 1, 2, 3, 4 | 1, 3, 4 | 1, 2 | 2 | 2, 3 | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | Charles County |
| 2 | Thomas Stone National Historic Site (Port Tobacco area; http://www.nps.gov/thst/index.htm) | 1,2, 3,4 | 1, 2, 3, 4 | 1, 3 | 2, 3 | 1, 2, 3, 4 | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | National Park Service |
| 3 | Mount Carmel Monastery (La Plata area; http://www.carmelofporttobacco.com/) | 1,4 | R, 1, 2, 3, 4 | 3 | | 2 | ✓ | | | | | | [TBD] |
| 4 | Myrtle Grove Wildlife Management Area (La Plata area; http://www.dnr.state.md.us/wildlife/publiclands/southern/myrtlegrove.asp) | 2,3 | 1 | 1, 2 | 2 | 2, 3 | ✓ | | | | | | [TBD] |
| 5 | Smallwood Retreat House (Smallwood State Park, Marbury; http://dnr2.maryland.gov/publiclands/Pages/southern/smallwood.aspx) | 1,4 | 1, 2, 3, 4 | A, 1, 3 | 2, 3 | 1, 2, 3, 4 | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | | | Maryland Parks; Friends of Smallwood State Park |
| 6 | Chicamuxen Wildlife Management Area (La Plata area; http://dnr.maryland.gov/wildlife/publiclands/southern/chicamuxen.asp) | 2,3 | 1 | 1, 2 | 2 | 2, 3 | ✓ | | | | | | [TBD] |
| 7 | Mallows Bay Park (Nanjemoy; http://www.charlescountyparks.com/parks/mallows-bay-park and http://www.dnr.state.md.us/ccs/mallows_bay.asp) | 3, 4 | 1 | A, 1 | 1, 3 | | ✓ | | | | | | Charles County/a potential National Marine Sanctuary |

¹ NOTE: See the key to themes at the bottom of the following page. Bear in mind that the concept is that a particular site will tell stories of the surrounding area (e.g., Allen's Fresh concerns the Wicomico River down to the Potomac, etc.).

² NOTE: Re interpretive planning and media to be employed at individual sites: final identification of a particular approach must be done in consultation with each site; the recommendation is that many sites undertake brief individual Site Interpretive Work Plans. An audio tour, upgraded website, and other region-wide interpretive programs to be undertaken by the four programs are also part of this Common Interpretive Strategy – see the Action Plan section.

Table 2 – Analysis of Potential Interpretation Locations, cont'd

| Site # | Site | Common Themes ² | RFNSB Themes | POHE | CAJO | STSP | TO BE IDENTIFIED | Interpretive planning | Interpretive kiosk | Docent training | Outdoor exhibit(s) | Other | Responsible Parties/Notes |
|--------|---|----------------------------|---------------|---------|---------|---------|------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|-----------------|--------------------|-------|---|
| 8 | Douglas Point, Chiles Homesite (Nanjemoy; http://www.blm.gov/es/st/en/fo/lpfo.html/douglas_point_history.print.html and http://www.wm.edu/sites/wmcar/research/chiles/index.php) | 1, 2, 3, 4 | 1, 2, 3, 4 | A, 1 | 3 | 2 | ✓ | | ✓ | | | | BLM, POHE/critical existing site providing African American heritage interpretation |
| 9 | Purse State Park (Nanjemoy; http://dnr2.maryland.gov/publiclands/Pages/southern/purse.aspx) | 2, 3 | 1 | A, 1 | 3 | 2 | | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | | Maryland Parks |
| 10 | Friendship Farm Park (Nanjemoy; http://www.charlescountyparks.com/parks/friendship-farm-park-0) | 1, 2, 3, 4 | 1, 2, 3, 4 | A, 1, 2 | 1, 2, 3 | 1, 2, 2 | ✓ | | ✓ | | | | Charles County |
| 11 | CHURCH - Christ Episcopal Church, Old Durham Parish (Nanjemoy, http://www.christchurcholddurhamparish.com) | 1, 4 | R, 1, 2, 3, 4 | 1, 2, 3 | 2, 3 | 1, 3 | ✓ | | | | | | Congregation |

3

| # Key – Common Interpretive Themes | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 Maryland’s Beginnings, 1608-1820 | 3 The Natural World |
| 2 Native American Heritage | 4 Change and Resilience |

| # Key – RFNSB | # Key – POHE | # Key – CAJO | # Key – STSP |
|--|--|---|---|
| R Primary Interpretive Theme: America’s First Freedom: The Quest for Religious Tolerance – the Founding of MD and its Influence on the Emerging Nation | A Primary theme: Restoration, Recreation, and Sustainability | 1 Captain John Smith’s exploratory voyages on the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries in 1607-1609 | 1 Theme 1: Americans resisted a land and water invasion by Great Britain |
| 1 Sub-Theme 1: Drawn by the Water and the Land | 1 Supporting Topic 1: Natural History and Diversity | 2 American Indian societies and cultures of the seventeenth century | 2 Theme 2: The Chesapeake region served as a hub for trade, industry and government |
| 2 Sub-Theme 2: Struggling to Establish a Colony | 2 Supporting Topic 2: Boundary, Corridor and Crossroads | 3 The natural history of the Bay (both historic and contemporary) | 3 Theme 3: Individuals in the Chesapeake region endured great political, economic, and emotional upheaval and faced personal choices |
| 3 Sub-Theme 3: Tobacco – The Economic Foundation of a Colony | 3 Supporting Topic 3, Nation-Building/ Nurturing A Nation | | 4 Theme 4: The United States flag and “The Star- Spangled Banner” anthem inspired a renewed sense of nationalism in U.S. citizens after the War of 1812 |
| 4 Sub-Theme 4: Colonial Maryland Comes of Age | | | |

Table 2 – Analysis of Potential Interpretation Locations, cont'd

| Site # | Site | Common Themes ³ | RFNSB Themes | POHE | CAJO | STSP | TO BE IDENTIFIED | Interpretive planning | Interpretive kiosk | Docent training | Outdoor exhibit(s) | Other | Responsible Parties/Notes |
|---|---|----------------------------|---------------|------------|---------|---------|------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|-----------------|--------------------|-------|---------------------------|
| 12 | Cedar Point Wildlife Management Area (mouth of Port Tobacco River, opposite Chapel Point State Park; http://dnr.maryland.gov/land/stewardship/province/CedarPoint.asp) | 2,3 | 1 | 1, 2 | 2 | 2, 3 | ✓ | | | | | | [TBD] |
| 13 | Chapel Point State Park (Port Tobacco area; http://dnr2.maryland.gov/publiclands/Pages/southern/chapelpoint.aspx) | 2, 3 | 1, 3, 4 | 1, 2 | 2 | 2, 3 | ✓ | | | | | | [TBD] |
| 14 | CHURCH - St. Ignatius Catholic Church, Chapel Point (St. Thomas Manor; Chapel Point Road, Port Tobacco area; http://www.chapelpoint.org/) | 1, 4 | R, 1, 2, 3, 4 | 1, 2, 3 | 2, 3 | 1, 3 | ✓ | | | | | | Congregation |
| Charles County – SOUTH | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 15 | AREA – Moore's Lodge Courthouse area (LaPlata area) | 1, 4 | 1, 2, 4 | 2, 3 | 2 | 2, 3 | ✓ | | | | | | [TBD] |
| 16 | CHURCH - Christ Episcopal Church, Wayside (13050 Rock Point Road, Wayside 20664; http://christchurchwayside.edow.org/history.htm) | 1, 4 | R, 1, 2, 3, 4 | 1, 2, 3 | 2, 3 | 1, 3 | ✓ | | | | | | Congregation |
| 17 | AREA – Allen's Fresh area (http://www.dnr.state.md.us/wildlife/Publiclands/Natural_Areas/AllensFresh.asp) | 1, 2, 3, 4 | 1, 2 | A, 1, 2, 3 | 1, 2, 3 | 1, 2, 3 | ✓ | | | | | | [MD DNR?] |
| 18 | CHURCH – St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church, Newport (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/St._Mary's_Roman_Catholic_Church_(Newport,_Maryland)); and http://www.parishes.org/marynewport.html) | 1, 4 | 1, 2 | 1, 2, 3 | 2, 3 | 1, 3 | ✓ | | | | | | Congregation |
| St. Mary's County – LEONARDTOWN AND NORTH | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 19 | CHURCH - Christ Episcopal Church (Chaptico; http://www.christepiscopalchaptico.org/) | 1, 4 | R, 1, 2, 3, 4 | 1, 2, 3 | 2, 3 | 1, 3 | ✓ | | | | | | Congregation |
| 20 | AREA – Bushwood Landing area (https://www.visitstmarysmd.com/activities-attractions/detail/bushwood-wharf) | 1, 2, 3, 4 | 1, 2 | A, 1, 2, 3 | 1, 2, 3 | 1, 2, 3 | ✓ | | | | | | [TBD] |

Table 2 – Analysis of Potential Interpretation Locations, cont'd

| Site # | Site | Common Themes ¹⁾ | RFNSB Themes | POHE | CAJO | STSP | TO BE IDENTIFIED | Interpretive planning | Interpretive kiosk | Docent training | Outdoor exhibit(s) | Other | Responsible Parties/Notes |
|--------|--|-----------------------------|---------------|------------|---------|---------|------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|-----------------|--------------------|-------|--|
| 21 | St. Clement's Island – Potomac River Museum (Coltons Point; http://www.stmarysmd.com/recreate/museums) | 1, 2, 3, 4 | R, 1, 2, 3, 4 | A, 2, 3 | 1, 2, 3 | 2, 3 | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | | | St. Mary's County |
| 22 | Leonardtwn – Tudor Hall; Old Jail; St. Mary's Courthouse; Leonardtown Wharf (and more; http://leonardtwn.somd.com/visit/index.htm , http://www.stmaryshistory.org/ , and http://leonardtwn.somd.com/visit/index.htm) | 1, 3, 4 | 1, 2, 3, 4 | A, 1, 2, 3 | 1, 2, 3 | 1, 2, 3 | ✓ | | ✓ | | | | Town of Leonardtown; St. Mary's County; St. Mary's County Historical Society |
| | St. Mary's County – SOUTH OF LEONARDTOWN | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 23 | CHURCH – St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church (Newtowne Neck Road, Leonardtown; http://somdthisisliving.somd.com/archive/vol9num4/st-francis-xavier-church.html and http://www.parishes.org/st.francisxavier.html) | 1, 4 | R, 1, 2, 3, 4 | 1, 2, 3 | 2, 3 | 1, 3 | ✓ | | | | | | Congregation |
| 24 | Newtowne Neck State Park (Newtowne Neck Road, Leonardtown area; http://dnr2.maryland.gov/publiclands/Pages/southern/newtowne.aspx) | 1, 2, 3, 4 | R, 1, 2, 3, 4 | A, 1, 2, 3 | 2, 3 | 1, 3 | ✓ | | ✓ | | | | Maryland Parks |
| 25 | CHURCH – St. Andrew's Episcopal Church (Leonardtwn area/California; http://standrewsleonardtwn.org) | 1, 4 | R, 1, 2, 3, 4 | 1, 2, 3 | 2, 3 | 1, 3 | ✓ | | | | | | Congregation |
| 26 | Cecil's Mill Historic District (Great Mills; http://www.co.saint-marys.md.us/voluntr/historicpreservcom/Historic%20Property%20sm382.asp and http://msa.maryland.gov/megafile/msa/stagsere/se1/se5/026000/026600/026634/pdf/msa_se5_26634.pdf) | 1, 2, 3, 4 | 1, 2, 4 | A, 1 | 2, 3 | 2, 3 | ✓ | | ✓ | | | | [St. Mary's County?] |
| 27 | CHURCH – St. George's Protestant Episcopal Church (Poplar Hill Lane, Valley Lee; http://www.stgeorgesvalleylee.org/our-history) | 1, 4 | R, 1, 2, 3, 4 | 1, 2, 3 | 2, 3 | 1, 3 | ✓ | | | | | | Congregation |

Table 2 – Analysis of Potential Interpretation Locations, cont'd

| Site # | Site | Common Themes ⁵ | RFNSB Themes | POHE | CAJO | STSP | TO BE IDENTIFIED | Interpretive planning | Interpretive kiosk | Docent training | Outdoor exhibit(s) | Other | Responsible Parties/Notes |
|--------|--|----------------------------|---------------|------------|---------|------------|------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|-----------------|--------------------|-------|--------------------------------|
| 28 | Piney Point Lighthouse Museum and Historic Park (Piney Point; http://www.stmarysmd.com/recreate/museums) | 1, 2, 3, 4 | 1, 2, 4 | A, 1 | 2, 3 | 2, 3 | ✓ | | ✓ | | | | St. Mary's County |
| 29 | CHURCH - Trinity Episcopal Church (Historic St. Mary's City; http://www.trinitysmcmd.com/content.cfm?id=317) | 1, 4 | TBD | 1, 2, 3 | 2, 3 | 1, 3 | ✓ | | | | | | Congregation |
| 30 | Historic St. Mary's City (St. Mary's City; www.stmaryscity.org) | 1, 2, 3, 4 | R, 1, 2, 3, 4 | A, 1, 2, 3 | 1, 2, 3 | 1, 2, 3 | ✓ | | ✓ | | | | Historic St. Mary's City |
| 31 | AREA – Mattapany Road (http://www.stmarysmd.com/docs/Historic%20Preservation%20Rural%20Roads.pdf) | 1, 4 | 1, 2 | 2, 3 | 1, 2, 3 | 2 | ✓ | | | | | | [Historic St. Mary's City?] |
| 32 | St. Mary's College of Maryland (Historic St. Mary's City; http://www.smcm.edu/about/history.html) | 1, 4 | 2, 3, 4 | A, 3 | 3 | 2, 3 | ✓ | | ✓ | | | | St. Mary's College of Maryland |
| 33 | CHURCH - St. Ignatius Church (Villa Road, Webster Field; http://msa.maryland.gov/megafile/msa/s tagsere/se1/se5/026000/026200/026262/pdf/msa_se5_26262.pdf ; also of interest: http://www.nps.gov/pohe/planyourvisit/somd-hike-1.htm) | 1, 4 | TBD | 1, 2, 3 | 2, 3 | 1, 3 | ✓ | | ✓ | | | | [TBD] |
| 34 | St. Inigoes State Forest (next to Webster Field; http://www.dnr.state.md.us/land/stewardship/province/StInigoes.asp) | 2, 3, 4 | 1 | 1, 2 | 2 | 2, 3 | ✓ | | | | | | [TBD] |
| 35 | Point Lookout State Park (Point Lookout; http://dnr2.maryland.gov/publiclands/Pages/southern/pointlookout.aspx) | 1, 2, 3, 4 | R, 1, 2, 3, 4 | A, 1, 2, 3 | 1, 2, 3 | 1, 2, 3, 4 | ✓ | | ✓ | | | | Maryland Parks |

Appendix A - Interpretive Planning Documents Comparison

Purpose

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| <p>Religious Freedom National Scenic Byway</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The purpose of the Religious Freedom National Scenic Byway is to commemorate and educate visitors and residents alike of the role Maryland played in the founding of religious freedom and the separation of church and state in the United States by encouraging the exploration of the Byway’s natural, historical, and cultural landscapes. | <p>Star-Spangled National Scenic Trail</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect the sites, landscapes and routes significant to understanding the people, events and ideals associated with the War of 1812 in the Chesapeake and “The Star-Spangled Banner” Provide educational and interpretive opportunities related to the War of 1812 and its relevance to modern society Foster improved land- and water-based recreational, public access and heritage tourism opportunities |
| <p>Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide coordination among citizen groups; local, regional and state agencies; and federal land managers in the development and management of a braided network of trails for hiking and other non-motorized forms of travel within a corridor between the mouth of the Potomac River and the Allegheny Highlands of western Pennsylvania. Connect people with places, providing opportunities for people to explore connections and contrasts among landscapes, and the history and communities in five physiographic provinces; and provide technical and financial support to citizens groups; local, regional and state agencies; and federal land managers in support of the above | <p>Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The purpose of the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail is to commemorate the exploratory voyages of Captain Smith on the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries in 1607-1609; to share knowledge about the American Indian societies and cultures of the seventeenth century; and to interpret the natural history of the Bay (both historic and contemporary). Complementing the Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Watertrails Network, the Trail will provide new opportunities for education, recreation, eco-tourism, and heritage tourism in the Chesapeake Bay region. |

Significance Statements

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| <p>Religious Freedom National Scenic Byway</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presents the story of America’s First Right and the quest for religious tolerance in Colonial America. Among the four earliest English settlements along the east coast of North America, the original vision for the colony introduced the concepts of religious tolerance and the separation of church and state to North America. Though overwhelmed at the time by religious rivalry and conflict, these concepts later became founding principles of the United States Constitution, documented in the First Amendment. Have nationally significant historic qualities in that it presents the story of America’s founding as it unfolded on the shores of the Potomac River in Southern Maryland, on of the nation’s earliest colonial settlements. Southern Maryland’s unique colonial story began with the possibility that life in the New World | <p>Star-Spangled National Scenic Trail</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> “The proposed Star-Spangled Banner NHT had an historic use and is significant as a result of that use. The 1814 route segments survive and are widely known and documented as the route of the Chesapeake Campaign. The impacts of this invasion were long lasting and the effects on American culture are still evident and meaningful.” “The Chesapeake Campaign of 1814 is significant in and of itself and represents key turning points in American social and political history. The events of the invasion contributed to the preservation of a young nation and its Constitution.” <p>MILITARY: The Trail’s land and water routes are nationally significant as the routes taken by British and American troops during the Chesapeake Campaign of the War of 1812. Events of the campaign, especially the</p> |
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Significance Statements

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|---|--|
| <p>Religious Freedom National Scenic Byway, cont'd</p> <p>presented significant opportunities for freedom and prosperity. In taking their chances on that possibility, thousands of individuals come to Maryland's shores under varying circumstances. The realities they faced, the struggles they endured, and the lives they shaped are stories of our nation's fragile and tenuous beginnings and help us understand who we are today.</p> <p>Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local, regional, and state government agencies, along with citizen groups and federal agencies are reclaiming access to rivers, historic sites, and natural areas to develop a network of routes in the Trail corridor for non-motorized travel on land and water. This evolving network of trails, interpretive facilities, and other sites associated with the Trail corridor designation provide, collectively, opportunities to experience the character of places and communities molded by five physiographic provinces in a corridor of only 425 miles. The corridor designated for the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail expresses George Washington's vision of a "great avenue into the Western Country." The first President's association with the Potomac River strengthened his life-long goal of "the practicability of an easy and short communication between the Waters of the Ohio and Potomac." Increased environmental awareness in the second half of the 20th century has led to cleaner rivers and streams in the Trail corridor, with the Potomac River recognized nationally as a model of restoration and continuing challenge. The great national conflict of the Civil War is reflected in microcosm through portions of this war fought along the Potomac River. | <p>Star-Spangled National Scenic Trail, cont'd</p> <p>Battles of Bladensburg and Baltimore, the burning of Washington, D.C., the shelling of Fort McHenry, and the British withdrawal constitute decisive military actions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> POLITICAL: The Trail highlights the Chesapeake Bay during the War of 1812 as the entryway to one of the political hubs of the United States (including the nation's capital, Washington, D.C.) and marks the only time the capital was invaded by a foreign power. GEOGRAPHIC: The Trail has national significance because it highlights the role of the Chesapeake Bay region's unique geography, robust agricultural assets and diverse water resources in the settlement, prosperity and defense of the United States. COMMERCIAL: The Trail reflects the national commercial significance of the Chesapeake Bay which was strategically important to the Americans and the British in the War of 1812 because of its rich natural resources and its use as a trade route. The major shipping and commercial center of Baltimore was strategically significant for the Americans. CULTURAL: The Trail reflects nationally significant effects on the social history of the United States, whose citizens – bitterly divided over the War – reunited to a large degree because of American success in the Chesapeake Campaign and the celebration of nationhood as exemplified by the American flag and the anthem popularized during and after the war. <p>Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The National Historic Trail is considered to be nationally significant for the Chesapeake Bay and river voyages of Captain John Smith it commemorates. These voyages first revealed to Europeans the complexity and richness of the Chesapeake Bay region. Smith's maps and writings spurred the development of Great Britain's Mid-Atlantic colonies, and influenced colonial affairs for more than a century. The voyages impacted native inhabitants by accelerating the processes that destroyed the Powhatan polity and disrupting the native peoples' lifeways throughout the Mid-Atlantic region, establishing the primacy of English culture in the region and beyond. English settlement in the region marked the beginning of significant human influence on the transformation of the Bay's environment. |
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Main Interpretive Subthemes

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| <p>Religious Freedom National Scenic Byway</p> <p>Main Theme #1 SUBTHEMES:</p> <p>Drawn by the Water and the Land</p> <p>The characteristics of the landscape created opportunities for human occupation and cultural development. The ways that Native Americans used, managed, and conceived of the landscape were vastly different from those of the English colonists.</p> <p>Interpretive Subjects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ecology of the Lower Potomac River: natural history of the Potomac and Chesapeake • Before the Fall: land use and ecology of the Piscataway and related tribes before 1634 • Europeans Divide the Land: land use and ecology of colonial settlement, 1634-1783 <p>Struggling to Establish a Colony</p> <p>The colony of Maryland was unique in the American experience in its conception, in the peoples attracted to it, and in the manner in which it developed. Maryland's early settlement period, from 1633 to 1689, was fraught with challenges.</p> <p>Interpretive Subjects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Vision of Lord Baltimore: a place of stability and prosperity • English and Catholic: a practical program of survival in avoiding religious conflict • Separation of Church and State: a new idea is introduced • The Manor System: a feudal system to promote stability • The Challenge of Recruitment: who came and why • Challenges at Court: fending off repeated political challenges in England • Absentee Management: the colonial government develops a mind of its own • Realities on the Land: things were vastly different and more difficult than expected • Conversion and Decimation: the Piscataway disappear • Religious and Political Conflict: competition, uprising and rebellion • Foundations of Catholicism: the Catholic experience in the New World • Co-opting the Colony: the Protestant Revolution of 1689 ends it | <p>Star-Spangled National Scenic Trail</p> <p>Main Theme #1 SUBTHEMES:</p> <p>The War of 1812 tested the military & political strength of the new United States as Americans resisted British attempts to weaken their fragile new union, democracy and economy.</p> <p>During the War of 1812, Great Britain challenged American authority and self-determination in navigation, commerce, trade, borders and westward expansion.</p> <p>The withdrawal of the British from the Chesapeake & the signing of the Treaty of Ghent established the U.S. as a respected participant in international trade and enabled the new nation to move forward on its westward expansion across North America.</p> <p>Defense efforts in the Chesapeake united residents in unprecedented ways that inspired a sense of national cohesiveness that had not existed before the war</p> <p>The Americans' lack of preparedness during the Chesapeake Campaign vividly dramatized the need for a strong, well equipped U.S. Army and U.S. Navy to defend the nation's economically vital waterways and coastline</p> <p>Land & water routes used by the British and American military in the War of 1812 can still be traced throughout the Chesapeake Bay region today, providing opportunities for visitors to imagine the challenges troops & civilians faced during the war.</p> <p>The intense political & economic debates & pressures surrounding the United States' justifications, preparedness, level of consensus & performance in the War of 1812 provide thought-provoking historical lens for viewing subsequent & contemporary U.S. military engagements, political allegiances & national defense policy.</p> <p>Main Theme #2 SUBTHEMES:</p> <p>Residents of the Chesapeake Bay region fought in defense of their homes, families & nation during the War of 1812, demonstrating bravery, resourcefulness & resilience that enabled the country to endure & survive its first test of democracy since the American Revolution.</p> <p>Free, escaped & enslaved Americans of African descent played active roles in the Chesapeake Campaign, demonstrating the complexities of slavery & compensated service during this pre-Civil War period in the young United States.</p> <p>Residents throughout the Chesapeake Bay region experienced terror & chaos during the war as the British commandeered livestock, inhabited private residences &</p> |
|--|---|

Main Interpretive Subthemes**Religious Freedom National Scenic Byway, cont'd****Tobacco - The Economic Foundation of a Colony**

The colony in Maryland was dependent upon the cultivation and export of tobacco. Growth and prosperity ebbed and flowed with the strength and weakness of the markets for tobacco in Europe. Tobacco cultivation shaped the land use, social structure, and culture in the developing colony.

Plantation culture and dependence upon an enslaved workforce tied Southern Maryland to the South.

Interpretive Subjects:

- **Creating a Prosperous Economy:** tobacco was the foundation of the colonial economy
- **International Export:** the direct ties from river wharfs to European markets
- **Cultivating Tobacco:** how tobacco is grown
- **The Plantation Landscape:** a dispersed, disheveled, and ephemeral landscape character
- **Indentured Servants to Slavery:** dependence upon enslaved workforce
- **Port Towns:** towns were slow to develop
- **Ties to the South:** the profound impacts of a tobacco plantation culture

Colonial Maryland Comes of Age

By the early eighteenth century, many of the challenges of the early settlement period had been resolved. Second generation colonists were acclimated to lowland diseases, stable family groups were formed, and a social hierarchy was established. Agriculture diversified and more permanent plantation centers and landscapes were developed. Maryland participated in an evolving national consciousness.

Interpretive Subjects:

- **Colonial Stability:** time led to a more stable social and economic system
- **Leading Families:** a hierarchy of leading families develops
- **The Episcopal Triumph:** a state-sponsored church is established
- **A Mature Plantation Landscape:** architecture, agriculture, and land use
- **A Revolutionary Generation:** participating in creating a nation

Star-Spangled National Scenic Trail, cont'd**Main Theme #2 SUBTHEMES, cont'd:**

public buildings, destroyed property, & interrupted transportation, communications & trade.

Main Theme #3 SUBTHEMES:

Because of the strategic importance of the Chesapeake Bay, naval power & control of its coastline & waterways was critical in the War of 1812 (more than in the Revolutionary War or the Civil War) with naval strategies, ship designs, navigation & coastal blockades playing major roles.

The unique settlement characteristics of the Chesapeake Bay region including abundant agricultural production, wealthy plantations based on slave labor, & early industries such as ironworks & milling benefited both U.S. & troops throughout the war.

The vast natural features of the Chesapeake Bay including its saltwater & freshwater wetlands, old-growth forests, abundant wildlife, massive oyster reefs, rich fishing grounds, & shallow yet navigable waters influenced the strategies, events, & outcomes of the War of the 1812 in myriad ways.

Many of today's scenic views, landscapes & waterways still evoke the Chesapeake Bay region in the early 1800s, offering visitors a visual & physical connection with the War of 1812, as well as outstanding recreational amenities that provide opportunities for exploration, reflection & inspiration.

Main Theme #4 SUBTHEMES:

The large, 15-star, 15-stripe U.S. flag made by Mary Pickersgill for Fort McHenry emerged from the War of 1812 as a symbol of inspiration, unity, preparedness & courage demonstrated by Americans in defense of their young democracy.

The story of First Lady Dolley Madison & other Americans rescuing critical U.S. documents before the burning of the White House & the U.S. Capitol stands as a compelling example of American ideals & values.

Francis Scott Key's lyrics, originally titled "The Defense of Fort McHenry" which celebrated the successful defense of the fort in the War of 1812, became a memorable tribute to American values and spirit when set to music as "The Star-Spangled Banner."

The eventual naming of "The Star-Spangled Banner" as the national anthem in 1931 is part of a continuum of citizen efforts to memorialize & preserve events, people, battlefields, buildings and other icons related to the War of 1812.

Main Interpretive Subthemes

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| <p>Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail</p> <p>Main Theme #1 SUBTHEMES:</p> <p>Natural History and Diversity</p> <p>Between the Chesapeake Bay and the Allegheny Highlands, the Trail corridor includes portions of five distinct physiographic regions. Each region, in different ways, has inspired and shaped hundreds of human generations with beauty, abundance, and utility.</p> <p>Boundary, Corridor and Crossroads</p> <p>As a boundary between north and south and an east to west route into the North American interior, the Potomac River has been a crossroads of opportunity, diversity, and conflict.</p> <p>Nation-Building / Nurturing A Nation</p> <p>Routes connecting the Potomac River with the Forks of the Ohio provided an essential context for the development of the United States Republic.</p> | <p>Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail</p> <p>Main Theme #1 SUBTHEMES:</p> <p>Smith’s time on the Chesapeake is a story of adventure and survival, as the Captain, his crew, and the colonists dealt with great hardships.</p> <p>The environment presented challenges – some that proved deadly – to the colonists who were unfamiliar with the region’s climate, landscapes, and food sources.</p> <p>Smith’s unusual background, as a mercenary soldier and slave, armed him with the unique leadership skills necessary for helping the Jamestown Colony and his crew to survive. His drive, ingenuity, and courage were noteworthy. Smith’s efforts to understand native societies and languages, and his ability to forge relationships with some of the Chesapeake Bay tribes were vital to the colonists’ survival.</p> <p>Smith’s journeys on the Bay and its tributaries were conducted in a small open boat (shallop) that was primitive, even by period standards. He and his crew traveled great distances under sail and by rowing. They overcame harsh weather, illnesses, language barriers, and conflicts with some Chesapeake Bay tribes.</p> <p>Smith’s explorations on behalf of England and the Virginia Company were profit driven in nature.</p> <p>The original purposes of Smith’s explorations – locating a Northwest Passage to China and uncovering precious metals – were never realized, but he did find abundant natural resources and fertile lands.</p> <p>Smith’s failure to find a Northwest Passage turned the explorers’ attention back to the Bay and its resources. The Bay region became the English center of economic interest due to its great natural bounty.</p> <p>Captain Smith’s writings and maps established his significance and spread the news of North America’s abundant resources. The documents accurately represented the landscape, waterways and native settlements, and effectively enabled European colonization.</p> <p>Although surveying in the 17th century was primitive by modern standards, the maps Smith produced were highly accurate and facilitated European colonization for decades.</p> <p>Smith’s spirited accounts and robust descriptions of an edenic landscape with abundant resources inspired European migration.</p> <p>Smith’s maps and writings helped lay the groundwork for the plantation economy that emerged in the Chesapeake region and eventually spread throughout the American south.</p> |
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Main Interpretive Subthemes, cont'd**Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail, cont'd****Main Theme #2 SUBTHEMES:**

Before colonization, Chesapeake Bay Indians developed sophisticated societies with governmental systems, political and military alliances, elaborate trade routes, arts and architecture, and deeply held spiritual beliefs.

The life-giving abundance of the Chesapeake attracted people to the region thousands of years ago.

Chesapeake Bay Indians likely shared the widespread Native American view that human beings are required by their Creator to live with, rather than dominate, the world around them. This belief would have brought their surroundings – waters, land, plants, and animals – to life to a degree that cannot be overestimated. Each tribe had/has its own distinct and complex value system, distinct language, stories, and oral traditions, which were/are heavily influenced by the environment.

Several polities throughout the region organized the peoples, including a large polity (with perhaps as many as 32 tribes) under the leadership of paramount chief Powhatan. A vast network of waterways and footpaths enabled Chesapeake Indians to form political, economic, and cultural linkages with other societies in present-day Ohio, the Great Lakes, Canada, and beyond.

Chesapeake tribes substantially influenced the fate of European explorers and the ensuing colonization of the region.

Some native communities and leaders provided knowledge and support that helped sustain Smith, his crew, and the Jamestown colonists. Several tribes interacted with the Europeans for the purposes of trade.

Smith's time in the region included both conflict and cooperation between the English and the Chesapeake Bay Indians. Some of Smith's exploits – such as violating agreements and giving false impressions of rival tribes' native peoples. Although Smith's relationships with the tribes were important and real, much about them has been romanticized into modern myths.

Chesapeake Bay tribes have often struggled to survive, yet have endeavored to retain and protect their identities.

European colonization in the Chesapeake region created conflict that led to the severe disruption of native lifeways, and culminated in displacement and removal of native peoples from their homelands.

Chesapeake Bay Indians continue to live in the region, employing diverse strategies for retaining their cultural identities and traditions in an ever changing natural and social landscape. They are strongly interested in conserving and restoring sites that are historically important to them.

Main Theme #3 SUBTHEMES:

The Chesapeake Bay of the 1600's was intensely robust and fertile; a "veritable Garden of Eden."

Chesapeake Indians embraced the region's abundance by harvesting the rich land, marshes and waterways for plants, wood, clay, fish, shellfish, fowl and mammals to use for food, clothing, building materials and other essentials. English explorers described the Bay region as a "fruitful and delightful land" with "fair meadows and goodly tall trees" that left observers "ravished at the first sight thereof."

Nearly 95 percent of the Chesapeake drainage was blanketed in a deep, sometimes ancient forest with chestnuts, oaks, hickories, poplars, bald cypress, and other tree species that grew to immense size. Forest-dwelling animals abounded, including deer, elk, raccoons, squirrels, bears, wolves, bobcats, beavers, otters and more; even bison (grass-eaters) were present, though meadows were not plentiful.

The marshes and vast meadows of underwater grasses attracted wintering migratory waterfowl – ducks, geese, and swans – in flocks massive enough to "darken the skies." Populations of fish and shellfish were so robust, oyster reefs posed hazards to navigation, and Atlantic sturgeon were numerous enough to be corralled and wrestled to shore by the native peoples.

Main Interpretive Subthemes, cont'd

Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail, cont'd

Main Theme #3 SUBTHEMES (cont'd):

Today, the Chesapeake Bay is a nationally-significant natural and economic resource.

The Bay is the continent's largest estuary. The varied habitats in the Bay's watershed – open water, rivers and streams, wetlands and forests – support a diverse array of plants and wildlife.

The Bay's waters serve as a key source of crabs, oysters, clams and other seafoods for much of the Atlantic seaboard. The Bay serves as an important hub for trade and commerce.

Since the 17th century, the health and natural diversity of the Chesapeake Bay have suffered from the cumulative effects of natural and human impacts.

The water's ability to sustain life has diminished primarily due to human causes, resulting in visible and measurable changes. Key species have declined, disrupting the balance in the sensitive estuarine ecosystem, and greatly harming seafood industries and traditional lifestyles and communities dependent upon abundant harvests.

Nearly 75 percent of the watershed was deforested by the late 1800s to produce timber and fuel and to make way for agricultural fields. While natural reforestation occurred during the next century, today's deforestation due to urban/suburban development represents a more permanent change.

Although the natural diversity of the Bay has declined, existing natural areas may be preserved and some resources can be restored and protected. The Trail can serve as an important vehicle in this conservation effort.

The essence of the 17th century Bay is reflected in some stretches of rivers, hidden coves, and protected marshlands and woodlands throughout the region.

Agencies, organizations and individuals are working to protect fragile resources, restore vital habitats, and revive declining plant and animal populations. A crucial impetus for Bay restoration is the direct correlation between the health of the Bay and human health and welfare within the Bay region.

Watershed residents and visitors are encouraged to become citizen stewards, and to help restore and protect the Bay through both individual and community-wide efforts including private landowner conservation and access oriented easements; and community advocacy for federal, state and local conservation programs.

The Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail can serve as a vehicle to inspire people to experience, appreciate, conserve and restore the Chesapeake through exploration, recreation, education, and stewardship.

Audience

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|---|---|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|---|--------------------|----------|-----------|---------|--|-----------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|---|--------------------|---------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------|------------------|-----------|-------------|--|---|---------------|-------------------|---------|---------|---|--|----------------|------------------------|---------------|------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|--|
| <p>Religious Freedom National Scenic Byway 2009 Corridor Management Plan identifies cultural heritage tourists as the primary audience. They take frequent trips, with 25% taking three to more trips a year. Travelers to historic and cultural sites are also, in general, slightly older than other travelers and more likely to have a college degree. Four in ten are from baby boomer households. They make 241 million household trips each year, and 14% pay \$1,000+ for a vacation. Like all cultural heritage travelers, boomers are more likely to stay in a hotel or motel.</p> | <p>Star-Spangled National Scenic Trail Cultural and heritage tourists (a growing audience especially among seniors) Recreational users Educational visitors Area residents (and their guests) Accidental tourists (who may already be nearby visiting D.C. and/or Baltimore) Virtual visitors (online)</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <p>Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail Identified as stakeholders in section titled "The Trail Network Addresses Multiple Goals and Serves Many Audiences:</p> <p>Increase Outdoor Recreation Opportunities</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Hiking, walking & running clubs</td> <td>Historic preservation groups</td> <td>Bicycling organizations</td> </tr> <tr> <td>State & county parks & recreation departments</td> <td>Water trail groups</td> <td>Kayakers</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Canoeists</td> <td>Sailors</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Encourage Conservation</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Environmental organizations</td> <td>Natural resource advocates</td> <td>Watershed organizations</td> </tr> <tr> <td>State and county environmental agencies</td> <td>Wildlife advocates</td> <td>National land managing agencies</td> </tr> </table> <p>Contribute to a Transportation Network All Trail segment users</p> <p>Interpret the Significance of the Trail Corridor Users seeking authenticity, a sense of place and an understanding of the geography of the Trail corridor and the history and culture of the United States.</p> <p>Encourage Historic Preservation</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Travelers seeking authentic experiences</td> <td>Historic preservation organizations</td> <td>Historic site-specific organizations</td> </tr> <tr> <td>State and county tourism agencies</td> <td>Historical societies</td> <td>Civil War groups</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Educators</td> <td>Researchers</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> | Hiking, walking & running clubs | Historic preservation groups | Bicycling organizations | State & county parks & recreation departments | Water trail groups | Kayakers | Canoeists | Sailors | | Environmental organizations | Natural resource advocates | Watershed organizations | State and county environmental agencies | Wildlife advocates | National land managing agencies | Travelers seeking authentic experiences | Historic preservation organizations | Historic site-specific organizations | State and county tourism agencies | Historical societies | Civil War groups | Educators | Researchers | | <p>Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail Potential Trail Users: Outdoor recreation enthusiasts, anglers, eco-tourists, heritage tourists, photographers, artists, adventure seekers, educational groups, and international travelers with a majority of visitors experiencing the trail by visiting individual locations or by exploring Trail segments. Many visitors (if not most) will experience it entirely from land. Visitors will employ multiple modes of travel and access and will approach the Trail with multiple interests and expectations. Most visitors fall within several broad groups, including families; area residents; Indian tribes; regional, national and international tourists; educators and students; volunteers; donors; and virtual visitors. Many users will fit into one or more of the following specific categories:</p> <p>Outdoor Recreationists: Land-based: motorists (cars, buses and motorcycles); hikers; joggers; bicyclists; equestrians, etc. Water-based: paddlers (kayak/canoe); sail boaters (cruising, day, weekend); power boaters (cruising, day, weekend); jet skiers; anglers; etc. Nature-based: birders and wildlife enthusiasts; hunters; gardeners; eco-tourists; naturalists; geocachers; etc.</p> <p>Art & Culture Enthusiasts:</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Photographers</td> <td>heritage tourists</td> <td>authors</td> </tr> <tr> <td>artists</td> <td>regional/cultural theme (e.g. lighthouses, native cultures)</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Target Audiences:</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Local Citizens</td> <td>Educators and Students</td> <td>Virtual Users</td> </tr> </table> <p>Other Audience Considerations:</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Land-based Users</td> <td>Urban and Suburban Audiences</td> <td>Universal Accessibility</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Multi-cultural Audiences</td> <td>Generational Variations</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> | Photographers | heritage tourists | authors | artists | regional/cultural theme (e.g. lighthouses, native cultures) | | Local Citizens | Educators and Students | Virtual Users | Land-based Users | Urban and Suburban Audiences | Universal Accessibility | Multi-cultural Audiences | Generational Variations | |
| Hiking, walking & running clubs | Historic preservation groups | Bicycling organizations | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| State & county parks & recreation departments | Water trail groups | Kayakers | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Canoeists | Sailors | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Environmental organizations | Natural resource advocates | Watershed organizations | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| State and county environmental agencies | Wildlife advocates | National land managing agencies | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Travelers seeking authentic experiences | Historic preservation organizations | Historic site-specific organizations | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| State and county tourism agencies | Historical societies | Civil War groups | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Educators | Researchers | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Photographers | heritage tourists | authors | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| artists | regional/cultural theme (e.g. lighthouses, native cultures) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Local Citizens | Educators and Students | Virtual Users | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Land-based Users | Urban and Suburban Audiences | Universal Accessibility | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Multi-cultural Audiences | Generational Variations | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Appendix B - Anchor Sites (Current and Potential)

| Charles County - NORTH |
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| <p>(1)¹ Port Tobacco Historic Village http://www.charlescountymd.gov/sites/default/files/pgm/planning/port_tobacco_villageplan.pdf; in development and will someday qualify under RFNSB criteria for Anchor Site)</p> <p>Port Tobacco’s interpretive opportunities include archeological investigations and research as well as presenting the historic district’s 300 years of history. Charles County recently initiated steps to develop Port Tobacco Village as a visitor destination. While it does not yet meet all criteria for an Anchor Interpretive Site, planning for phase two of this Common Interpretive Framework’s development should assume that the village will soon meet many if not all criteria.</p> <p>The story – Native American settlement; original county seat (second courthouse after Moore’s Lodge); Civil War history. Reconstructed courthouse offers museum exhibits; surrounding village buildings viewed from exterior; interpretive wayside signs tell Civil War story.</p> |
| <p>(2) Thomas Stone National Historic Site (Port Tobacco area; http://www.nps.gov/thst/index.htm; identified as Anchor Site in RFNSB CMP)</p> <p>The Thomas Stone National Historic Site is important not only because of its stories and themes, but because of the quality of the interpretive experience presented here. Work with the National Park Service to strengthen the relationship between interpretation at the site and themes in this Common Interpretive Strategy. An interpretive kiosk should be installed outside of the visitor center providing information about the Byway and outlining the site’s Byway-related themes. Park Service employees should be ambassadors for the four programs.</p> <p>The story – The National Park Service interprets the site as the home of Thomas Stone, a prominent resident of Maryland during the mid- to late-eighteenth century, one of four Maryland signers of the Declaration of Independence, and a member of the Continental Congress. For the purposes of the four programs, of primary interest are the relationship of Thomas Stone and his family in the social, political, and economic development of the region from early settlement through the Revolution. Thomas Stone was a third generation colonist, and his grandfather was colonial governor in St. Mary’s City during the turbulent period of the 1650s. The evolution of the Thomas Stone property from early settlement through the period of the Revolution is of interpretive interest to the four programs.</p> |
| St. Mary’s County – LEONARDTOWN AND NORTH |
| <p>(21) St. Clement’s Island – Potomac River Museum (Coltons Point; http://www.stmarysmd.com/recreate/museums; ; identified as Anchor Site in RFNSB CMP)</p> <p>St. Clement’s Museum is a Chesapeake Bay Gateway Site and offers a visitor experience important to the four programs. The four programs should assist the museum with its interpretive mission and presentation and link interpretation at the museum with interpretation at other sites. An interpretive kiosk should be installed outside the museum providing information about the four programs and outlining the site’s Byway-related themes. Museum employees should be ambassadors for the four programs.</p> <p>The story – Founding of Maryland, early settlement, river heritage, religious freedom and toleration. The museum focuses squarely upon RFNSB themes and is a key interpretive site capable of interpreting the themes of all four programs.</p> |

¹ Numbers in parentheses indicate geographic order, running north to south and shown on the map on page [2]. They are keyed to information provided in Table 1.

St. Mary's County – LEONARDTOWN AND NORTH. cont'd

(22) Leonardtown – Tudor Hall; Old Jail; St. Mary's Courthouse; Leonardtown Wharf (and more; <http://leonardtown.somd.com/visit/index.htm> and <http://www.stmaryshistory.org>; identified as Anchor Site in NPS Tidal Potomac Segment Plan)

Leonardtown is the only incorporated town that is part of the Byway (and all three Trails where they coincide with the Byway). It is important not only for its interpretive potential but also for its visitor services, especially restaurants. Enhanced interpretation of the town could be undertaken by the St. Mary's County Historical Society (based in Tudor Hall) and partners. The four programs should support their initiatives and incorporate them into their interpretive programs.

The story – Tidewater plantation; county seat after St. Mary's – Maryland's first incorporated town and the county seat of St. Mary's County in 1710; Civil War connections. Town with specific visitor sites as well as a general walking tour of significant historic buildings located throughout town. Self-guided tour through town includes 21 properties, a film at the historical society as well as a guided tour of Tudor Hall (which also has an outdoor wayside exhibit). The Old Jail visitor information center has limited hours/days of operation.

St. Mary's County – SOUTH OF LEONARDTOWN

(30) Historic St. Mary's City (St. Mary's City; www.stmaryscity.org; identified as Anchor Site in RFNSB CMP)

From the RFNSB's interpretive and visitor experience perspectives, the Byway leads visitors from the population center of the DC metropolitan area to Historic St. Mary's City, and thus the corridor management plan expects that many interpretive experiences along the Byway should prepare visitors for the culminating interpretive experience presented there. The four programs should support the mission and interpretive presentation at Historic St. Mary's City and help coordinate its presentation with common interpretive themes. An interpretive kiosk should be installed outside of the visitor center providing information about the four programs and outlining the site's related themes. Museum employees should be ambassadors for the four programs.

The story – Historic St. Mary's City is an interpretive touchstone in particular for the Byway. It was the initial settlement, the first capital of Maryland, the fourth permanent settlement in North America, and the focal point for the early settlement of Maryland. It is related to all RFNSB interpretive themes in particular but can be related readily to all four programs.

(35) Point Lookout State Park (Point Lookout; <http://dnr2.maryland.gov/publiclands/Pages/southern/pointlookout.aspx>; identified as Anchor Site in NPS Tidal Potomac Segment Plan)

Point Lookout is a state park with extensive visitor amenities, many related to recreational uses. The site is significant for a variety of reasons and is perhaps best known for its Civil War prison camp. Point Lookout is important as the most southwestern destination at which to interpret all themes (and enjoy a spectacular view at the mouth of the Potomac). It is a site on the Chesapeake Bay Gateways Network. An interpretive kiosk and exhibit should be installed at an appropriate location. Point Lookout State Park has the potential to become an Anchor Site for the four programs. Additional planning should be undertaken for the phased development of its interpretive visitor experience.

The story – Location of a prison camp where more than 50,000 Confederate soldiers were imprisoned during the Civil War.

Appendix C - Interpretive Sites (Current and Potential)²

| Charles County - NORTH |
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| <p>(3)³ Mount Carmel Monastery (La Plata area; http://www.carmelofportobacco.com/)</p> <p>Assist the Monastery in its interpretive presentation and the stewardship of its historic building. Install self-guided exhibits. Relate the story of the Monastery to the interpretive themes of the Byway through the religious themes associated with early settlement and the plantation culture of the eighteenth century, particularly the <i>Foundation of Catholicism</i>. The early settlement history of the land on which the monastery stands, predating 1790, should also be investigated for possible interpretation.</p> <p>The story – First religious community for women in America (1790).</p> |
| <p>(4) Myrtle Grove Wildlife Management Area (La Plata area; http://www.dnr.state.md.us/wildlife/publiclands/southern/myrtlegrove.asp)</p> <p>This 1,723-acre tract is located in the forested bottomlands of Mattawoman Creek and was once home to the Piscataway Indians. It contains many trails through hardwood forests, wildlife plantings, natural and man-made wetlands and early succession habitats. Permanent and season reservoirs and numerous streams offer year-round fishing and easy access. Hunting is also permitted and an eight-station firearm shooting range, trap range, and three-station archery range are open for public use by permit.</p> <p>The story – identified by the STSP CMP for recreational opportunities; the mature riparian forest along the Mattawoman is home to the barred owl, a species particularly fond of this type of habitat.</p> |
| <p>(5) Smallwood Retreat House (Smallwood State Park, Marbury; http://dnr2.maryland.gov/publiclands/Pages/southern/smallwood.aspx)</p> <p>Support the interpretive presentation at the site related to General Smallwood and the tobacco plantation. Install a Byway kiosk and self-guided interpretive exhibits that help coordinate interpretation with the themes of the Byway. Begin with the establishment of a manor on the site during early settlement and the historical development of the property into Smallwood’s plantation. For the purposes of the Byway, focus upon the organization and workings of the plantation. Install wayfinding signage from the park entrance to the parking area near the tobacco barn and plantation house.</p> <p>The story – Home of General William Smallwood, a major general in the American Revolution; governor of Maryland; tobacco plantation. Manor site during early settlement.</p> |
| <p>(6) Chicamuxen Wildlife Management Area (La Plata area; http://dnr.maryland.gov/wildlife/publiclands/southern/chicamuxen.asp)</p> <p>This 381-acre site situated along the Chicamuxen Creek, a Potomac River tributary, in western Charles County consists of prime marshlands as well as uplands, rolling forested habitats, and agricultural fields. Includes trails and blinds along Chicamuxen Creek.</p> <p>The story – identified by the STSP CMP for recreational opportunities; Chicamuxen marshes abound with a wide variety of waterfowl and adult and immature bald eagles can be seen almost daily hunting the marshes and upland areas. A wide variety of forest interior dwelling birds can be observed during the nesting season. Upland areas featuring wildflowers and native grasses, early successional fields and annual wildlife plantings attract a myriad of species to the upland openings.</p> |

² NOTE: Contents of Table 4 were adapted in part from the RFNSB corridor management plan’s interpretive planning and other sources. Each entry can be further refined following the advice of the site’s managing organization and other stakeholders; or sites may elect to create simple Interpretive Site Master Plans for later cross-reference. Amplification of direction for interpretive programming can be incorporated into an interactive web-based version of the checklist/analysis provided in Table 2.

³ Numbers in parentheses indicate geographic order, running north to south and shown on the map before page 1. They are keyed to information provided in Table 2.

| Charles County – NORTH, cont'd |
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| <p>(7) Mallows Bay Park (Nanjemoy; http://www.charlescountyparks.com/parks/mallows-bay-park and http://www.dnr.state.md.us/ccs/mallowsbay.asp)</p> <p>Mallows Bay Park protects the watery remains of the World War I “Ghost Fleet” (sunk decades ago in non-navigable shallow waters to dispose of them) and is part of Charles County’s water trail system; it also allows water access to Purse State Park’s shoreline (access within the state park is at the base of a steep hill).</p> <p>The story – Although the historic resources of the site are outside the official time range of “Maryland’s Beginnings,” this is an unforgettable natural example of the theme of “change and resilience” and offers a vivid story for POHE themes.</p> |
| <p>(8) Douglas Point, Chiles Homesite (Nanjemoy; http://www.blm.gov/es/st/cn/fo/lpfo_html/douglas_point_history.print.html and http://www.wm.edu/sites/wmcar/research/chiles/index.php)⁹</p> <p>Develop additional interpretive waysides to elaborate on the early settlement history of the site, including the Zekiah Manor and the ownership and use of the site in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. Existing interpretive waysides are well-done and support Byway themes. BLM project to create access is considered part of the POHE program. NOTE: See note in Purse State Park re Nanjemoy NRMA.</p> <p>The story – Patent for an early plantation dating to 1653; part of the Zekiah Manor; property owned by John Hoskin Stone, brother of Thomas Stone, in late eighteenth century; home built in 1790 by Capt. Francis Shepard, friend of John Stone; later owned by Reverend William Chiles.</p> |
| <p>(9) Purse State Park (Nanjemoy; http://dnr2.maryland.gov/publiclands/Pages/southern/purse.aspx)⁴</p> <p>Work with the state to develop self-guided interpretation along the trails being constructed in the park. Relate interpretation of the ecology of the region to historical themes. Specific themes and stories need to be developed based upon the resources on the site. Native American occupation could be an appropriate subject. NOTE: Purse State Park and Douglas Point are part of the multi-unit, multi-jurisdictional Nanjemoy Natural Resource Management Area (NRMA); see http://dnr.maryland.gov/land/stewardship/nanjemoy.asp, especially page 8 of http://dnr.maryland.gov/land/stewardship/pdfs/nan_imp_plan.pdf for a map.</p> <p>The story – Ecology of the Potomac River watershed and the interface between land and water. A popular site for fossil-hunting.</p> |
| <p>(10) Friendship Farm Park (Nanjemoy; http://www.charlescountyparks.com/parks/friendship-farm-park-0)</p> <p>Friendship Farm Park is the site of an early plantation and wharf that has been the subject of historical research. Additional research and a long-term program of archeological investigations are recommended. The site has strong potential for interpretation of the early settlement period and changes through to the period of the revolution. An existing cellar hole was the site of an eighteenth century hall and parlor dwelling that was relocated to the College of Southern Maryland and restored. New wayside exhibits and interpretive brochures are recommended.</p> <p>The story – Plantation; Native American occupation; ecology.</p> |

⁴ NOTE: Purse State Park is managed as part of the Nanjemoy NRMA (Natural Resource Management Area), which was formed in 2005 through agreement between the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM), which owns Douglas Point (see entry 6); subsequently, Maryland acquired additional acreage in southwestern Charles County. The area represents “some of the last remaining undeveloped lands in the fast-growing Southern Maryland area. The BLM and DNR partnership serves to protect the study area’s varied natural and cultural (i.e. historical, prehistorical, and archeological) resources, and open them up for public use. Both DNR and BLM agreed to develop and implement a management plan that called for a single, seamlessly operated public land unit.” (<http://dnr.maryland.gov/land/stewardship/nanjemoy.asp>)

| Charles County – NORTH, cont'd |
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| <p>(11) CHURCH - Christ Episcopal Church, Old Durham Parish (Nanjemoy, http://www.christchurcholddurhamparish.com) Old Durham Church has the potential to tell the story of the establishment of the Episcopal Church as the state sponsored church of the colony following the Revolution of 1689 and the overthrow of Lord Baltimore's proprietorship. In addition, the site can use the stories of individuals buried in its cemetery to relate stories of the colonial culture and history. The development history of the vicinity around the church should also be related. Wayside and other possible exhibits are recommended.</p> <p>The story – One of the original 30 churches chartered in the Province of Maryland by the Colonial Assembly in 1692; cemetery with many individuals of interest; location to relate settlement story of its vicinity.</p> |
| <p>(12) Cedar Point Wildlife Management Area (mouth of Port Tobacco River, opposite Chapel Point State Park; http://dnr.maryland.gov/land/stewardship/province/CedarPoint.asp) Located within a high priority conservation area, Cedar Point's 1,737 acres of woodlands, wetlands and agricultural fields protect 4.2 miles of shoreline along Port Tobacco Creek and the Potomac River. The property's features would make it a suitable future wildlife management area. Preservation of Cedar Point also helps to prevent development encroachment upon the U.S. Army's Blossom Point Proving Grounds.</p> <p>The story – CAJO has identified potential water access at this point; Captain John Smith explored Nanjemoy Creek on June 19, 1608 and noted the Indian village of Nushemouck on Cedar Point.</p> |
| <p>(13) Chapel Point State Park (Port Tobacco area; http://dnr2.maryland.gov/publiclands/Pages/southern/chapelpoint.aspx) Chapel Point State Park, an 828-acre site located on the beautiful Port Tobacco River, tributary of the Potomac River, is an undeveloped multi-use park. Its waterfront offers excellent fishing and a small sand launch area that is suitable for the launch of small john-boats, canoes and kayaks, and personal watercraft. A paddle-in primitive campsite accessible only by water is available by permit Hunting is permitted, and four permanent waterfowl blinds are available on the Port Tobacco River for observation.</p> <p>The story – near St. Ignatius Catholic Church and identified by the STSP CMP for recreational opportunities; offers a rich diversity of forest, field, and tidal wetland habitats. Part of the Port Tobacco River Water Trail, the distance from Port Tobacco to the Chapel Point launch is approximately 2.5 miles; from Chapel Point to the mouth of Goose Creek is also approximately 2.5 miles.</p> |
| <p>(14) CHURCH - St. Ignatius Catholic Church, Chapel Point (St. Thomas Manor; Chapel Point Road, Port Tobacco area; http://www.chapelpoint.org/)</p> <p>In addition to its dramatic view and historic buildings, Chapel Point has an extremely interesting and significant story as an early Jesuit manor that developed over the entire colonial period. Chapel Point State Park surrounds the site. An interpretive work plan for the property should be developed that combines exhibits at the church with walking trails that offer exhibits interpreting the manor and its workings. This site is important to the RFNSB and should receive special attention.</p> <p>The story – Nation's oldest active parish; founded in 1641; Jesuit residence since 1741; site of historic St. Thomas Manor.</p> |
| Charles County - SOUTH |
| <p>(15) AREA – Moore's Lodge Courthouse area (LaPlata area; http://www.ancestrysleuths.com/findingthecourthouse.html)</p> <p>A relatively new historical marker on U.S. 301 indicates the story; actual location, on private land, is northeast on a side road.</p> <p>The story – site of first formal courthouse built in Charles County, 1667. Though the actual site was long lost to memory, it was found on private property through diligent sleuthing in local records and confirmed through archeology in June 2008 in time for the county's celebration of its 350th anniversary. The site includes the dwelling of Thomas Hussey, who operated an "ordinary" (inn) for courthouse patrons out of his dwelling. Hussey's residence is probably one of the "Ould houses" shown on a 1697 plat of the courthouse lands that provided clues to researchers searching for the courthouse's location.</p> |

| Charles County - SOUTH |
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| <p>(16) CHURCH - Christ Episcopal Church, Wayside (13050 Rock Point Road, Wayside 20664; http://christchurchwayside.edow.org/history.htm)</p> <p>A church existed at this location before the 1692 Establishment Act creating thirty Anglican parishes, of which William and Mary Parish was one. A 1694 report to the Assembly stated that a church was already in existence, known originally as the Piccowaxen Church. Its boundaries are given in the ancient land records of Charles County and it is thought to have been built in 1690 – the oldest public building in Charles County. In 1750, the Maryland Assembly voted funds to enlarge and repair the church under the direction of its rector, The Rev. Samuel Clagett. Forty years later this name was to make ecclesiastical history when his son, Thomas John Clagett became the first bishop of Maryland. (Text taken from the church's website.)</p> <p>The story – one of the original 30 churches chartered in the Province of Maryland by the Colonial Assembly in 1692; location to relate settlement story of its vicinity; Clagett family story represents increasing consolidation of social, political, and economic power by Maryland families in the 18th century.</p> |
| <p>(17) AREA – Allen's Fresh area (http://www.dnr.state.md.us/wildlife/Publiclands/Natural_Areas/AllensFresh.asp)</p> <p>State-owned wetland, unimproved for public access but protects significant landscape accessible by water, possibly by land. The small village of Newport is nearby.</p> <p>The story – see entry below re Bushwood – same watershed.</p> |
| <p>(18) CHURCH – St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church, Newport (11555 St. Mary's Church Road Charlotte Hall, MD 20622; http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/St._Mary's_Roman_Catholic_Church_(Newport,_Maryland) and http://www.parishes.org/marynewport.html)</p> <p>The story – Eleanor and Charles Butler (re enslavement, white wife, black husband); they met at Notley Hall before 1679, owned by Thomas Notley, who left his estate to Charles Calvert; they were sold, probably at this time, to William Boarman (were in his estate in 1708), who lived up near Newport. They were married in 1681, important, well-documented story of their marriage, which enslaved her because of her marriage to a black man prior to a law passed to prevent this. It was a widely attended wedding. Dr. Julia King tells the story this way: "The Butler story is also compelling on a personal and emotional level because of the way in which Eleanor Butler responded when no less than Charles Calvert, the Third Lord Baltimore and Maryland proprietor – the most powerful man in the colony, tried – on her wedding day in 1681 – to talk her out of marrying Charles. 'Upon my Lord being informed that she wanted to marry Charles,' one man recalled in 1767, some 80 years after Charles and Eleanor were wed, 'my Lord sent for her, and chided her, and told her that if she married Charles she would by that means enslave herself, and her posterity, upon which the woman told him that she would rather marry Charles under them circumstances, than to marry his Lordship with all his Country.'" (speech transcript from Dr. King, <ButlersGunstonHall.docx>)</p> |
| St. Mary's County – LEONARDTOWN AND NORTH |
| <p>(19) CHURCH - Christ Episcopal Church (Chaptico; http://www.christepiscopalchaptico.org/)</p> <p>Christ Episcopal Church is located at an important point along the RFNSB, halfway between Chapel Point and Leonardtown. Because of the length of this stretch of roadway, it is important to develop meaningful interpretation at this site to make the trip worthwhile. Interpretation should focus not only on the church, but on the development history of this stretch of land in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries during which period Chaptico was an important port of entry on Chaptico Bay. Manors, plantations, and wharf sites should be identified and their stories told. Individuals buried in the cemetery should be used to tell the eighteenth century story. Themes, stories, and interpretive media need to be identified.</p> <p>The story – Parish established in 1692; church built in 1736; STSP: involved in War of 1812; members of Francis Scott Key family buried in Key family vault.</p> |

St. Mary's County – LEONARDTOWN AND NORTH, cont'd**(20) AREA – Bushwood Wharf area** (<https://www.visitstmarysmd.com/activities-attractions/detail/bushwood-wharf>)

A Maryland public landing at Bushwood, also known locally as Wicomico Wharf, includes a general store where visitors can buy picnic fare. Next door is the early 19th century structure Ocean Hall, privately owned, built by Thomas Gerard's grandson. The road leading to the wharf area has been identified as a historic rural road by St. Mary's County (<http://www.stmarysmd.com/docs/Historic%20Preservation%20Rural%20Roads.pdf>)

The story – this neighborhood was occupied by a number of mostly Protestant settlers contending for power with Lord Baltimore (the reason that Calvert settled Charles Notley nearby at Notley Hall). They included Thomas Gerard (a Catholic who married Susannah, a Protestant, and built a special church for her on St. Clement's Manor). Others were Protestant men who had married Catholic daughters. According to Julia King, "the narrative about Maryland isn't about religious struggle, it's about political struggle" and the story should include the idea that many of the religious struggles centered on the political authority of Lord Baltimore, who gave his family and friends lucrative positions and kept his enemies out of government (one of the ways to wealth in the colony was through patronage positions).

St. Mary's County – SOUTH OF LEONARDTOWN**(23) CHURCH - St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church** (Newtowne Neck Road, Leonardtown; <http://somedthisisliving.somd.com/archive/vol9num4/st-francis-xavier-church.html> and <http://www.parishes.org/st.francixavier.html>)

Like Christ Episcopal Church, St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church is located at an important site along the RFNSB. It is the only currently identified interpretive site along the Newtowne Neck sidetrack of the RFNSB, although the new state park represents an important new opportunity for interpretive planning (see other entry). It is important to develop meaningful interpretation at the site to make the trip down the side route worthwhile. Like Christ Episcopal Church, interpretation should focus not only on the church and Catholic themes, but on the development history of the neck in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.

The story – Oldest Roman Catholic Church in Maryland, dating to 1640; church built in 1766; early story reflects religious intolerance against Catholics; was a self-contained Jesuit community.

(24) Newtowne Neck State Park (Newtowne Neck Road, Leonardtown area; <http://dnr2.maryland.gov/publiclands/Pages/southern/newtowne.aspx>)

Opened for public use in the spring of 2014. Early master planning process is underway. Manors, plantations, and wharf sites should be identified and their stories told. Themes, stories, and interpretive media need to be identified.

The story – The manor house located on the property today is believed to be the third manor house constructed on the property and dates back to 1789. Originally a 1-1/2 story structure, it was made into a full two-story building with an attic in the early 1800s. This was a time of great prosperity for the parish with a working farm, blacksmith shop, flour mill and other money-making entities flourishing on the property.

(25) CHURCH – St. Andrew's Episcopal Church (Leonardtown area/California; <http://standrewsleonardtown.org>) St. Andrew's Parish was created by the Maryland Provincial Assembly in 1744 from parts of two adjoining parishes – All Faith Parish on the north, and William and Mary Parish on the south. The northern boundary was from Breton Bay and Major Barnes's Mill on Breton Bay Run to Cole's Creek on the Patuxent. The southern boundary was from Legrande's Creek on the Patuxent to Poplar Hill Creek on the Potomac. (<http://standrewsleonardtown.org/history/>)

The story – One reason the new parish of St. Andrew's had been established was to serve Leonardtown, which had become Maryland's first incorporated town and the county seat of St. Mary's County in 1710. Just why the new church of this parish was built five miles from the town in an isolated spot is not clear. However, the site was near the geographical center of the new parish.

| St. Mary's County – SOUTH OF LEONARDTOWN, cont'd |
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| <p>(26) AREA - Cecil's Mill Historic District (Great Mills; http://www.co.saint-marys.md.us/voluntr/historicpreservcomm/Historic%20Property%20sm382.asp and http://msa.maryland.gov/megafile/msa/stagsere/se1/se5/026000/026600/026634/pdf/msa_se5_26634.pdf)</p> <p>Cecil's Mill is historically significant (the NR listing is available at the second website cited, and two buildings are protected by easement); although its nineteenth century industrial history does not relate directly to the RFNSB period and themes, its earlier uses relate to the RFNSB, and interpretation at the site can support all programs. A kayak launch site alongside the Saint Marys River and Route 5 (http://www.visitstmarysmd.com/activities-attractions/detail/great-mills-canoe-kayak-launch) should be investigated as a location for an interpretive sign or kiosk on this topic and further investigation should be undertaken into subjects that could be told at this location.</p> <p>The story – One of Maryland's first industrial districts – milling established at this location in the seventeenth century (conv. Pete Himmelheber). Originally a textile factory (1810) to process cotton.</p> |
| <p>(27) CHURCH - St. George's Protestant Episcopal Church (Poplar Hill Lane, Valley Lee; http://www.stgeorgesvalleylee.org/our-history) St. George's is located off of the Piney Point sidetrack of the RFNSB. Like other churches along the RFNSB, interpretation should focus not only upon the church and religious themes, but upon the development history of the land around it in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. Manors, plantations, and wharf sites should be identified and their stories told. Themes, stories, and interpretive media need to be identified.</p> <p>The story – Church established in 1692; seventh Episcopal Parish in Maryland; William and Mary Parish established in 1638. From the church's website: As settlement quickly spread westward up the Potomac and Patuxent Rivers [after 1634], a new political subdivision, St. George's Hundred, was established in 1638 just west of St. Mary's River. It is believed that the first church at Poplar Hill – St. George's present landholding in what is now called Valley Lee – was built between 1638 and 1642.</p> |
| <p>(28) Piney Point Lighthouse, Museum and Historic Park (Piney Point; http://www.stmarysmd.com/recreate/museums) Interpretation at Piney Point is important in making the drive down this sidetrack of the RFNSB worthwhile. The site includes an 1836 lighthouse and keeper's quarters plus the Potomac River Maritime Exhibit Building and Museum. Potomac River and Chesapeake Bay maritime history.</p> <p>The story – Exhibits and interpretive signage share the story of navigation on the Potomac from precolonization to current day commerce. Nineteenth century maritime stories and stories associated with the settlement of the Piney Point/St. George Island peninsula in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries should be developed.</p> |
| <p>(29) CHURCH - Trinity Episcopal Church (Historic St. Mary's City; http://www.trinitysmcmd.com/content.cfm?id=317)</p> <p>Interpretation at Trinity Episcopal Church should be closely coordinated with interpretation of St. Mary's City.</p> <p>The story – On land associated with founding of Maryland, associated with first state capital; religious toleration.</p> |
| <p>(31) AREA – Mattapany Road (http://www.stmarysmd.com/docs/Historic%20Preservation%20Rual%20Roads.pdf)</p> <p>The story – Dr. Julia King suggests that interpretation be built around this link to the Patuxent River which starts at Historic St. Mary's City, a very early road now followed (partially) by Mattapany Road (spelling is from Google Earth). Charles Calvert, the third Lord Baltimore, left his uncle Leonard in St. Mary's City and built his "country estate" Mattapony as part of a strategy to secure the colony and monitor shipping and neighbors on the Patuxent River. (He established Thomas Notley at Notley Hall on the Wicomico River for the same reasons.) In Dr. King's view, this story helps demonstrate that "the Calverts aren't hunkered down in St. Mary's City" – they are smart as "colonial entrepreneurs" – "if you don't do this, you create opportunities for treason." "You don't see this at all in Virginia," she notes, "Everybody's loyal to the king and the Royal Governor [there] – the king is not in the equation" in Maryland, where the Calverts struggle with contending political forces, somewhat too simply, perhaps, ascribed to differing religious affiliations. [The site of Mattapony itself is on the Patuxent Naval Air Station and inaccessible.]</p> |

St. Mary's County – SOUTH OF LEONARDTOWN, cont'd

(32) St. Mary's College of Maryland (Historic St. Mary's City; <http://www.smcm.edu/about/history.html>)

Like Trinity Episcopal Church, interpretation at St. Mary's College should be closely coordinated with interpretation of St. Mary's City.

The story – Early female seminary, on land associated with founding of Maryland.

(33) CHURCH - St. Ignatius Church (Villa Road, Webster Field;

http://msa.maryland.gov/megafile/msa/stagsere/se1/se5/026000/026200/026262/pdf/msa_se5_26262.pdf; also of interest: <http://www.nps.gov/pohe/planyourvisit/somd-hike-1.htm>)

St. Ignatius Church is located within the vicinity of an early Catholic manor and is important to the interpretive experience of the eastern end of the RFNSB. Like other churches along the RFNSB, interpretation should focus not only upon the church and religious themes, but upon the development history of the land around it in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. Manors, plantations, and wharf sites should be identified and their stories told. Themes, stories, and interpretive media need to be identified.

The story – First chapel built in 1641, in St. Mary's City. Chapel closed in 1704, when policies of religious toleration were abolished. Present church built in 1785. One of the oldest surviving Catholic churches in Maryland.

(34) St. Inigoes State Forest (next to Webster Field;

<http://www.dnr.state.md.us/land/stewardship/province/StInigoes.asp>)

Located less than 5 miles south of historic St. Mary's City in St. Mary's County, the 985-acre St. Inigoes peninsula's includes woodlands, wetlands, and agricultural land along eight miles of shoreline separating the St. Mary's River and Smith Creek, 600 acres of public hunting lands, and waterfowl blinds available by reservation.

The story – Captain John Smith most likely viewed the landscape while hugging the shoreline of the Potomac River on June 17, 1608. In Colonial times, it was originally acquired as part of a larger 4,000 acre tract in 1634.



The 20th-century reproduction of the 17th-century *Maryland Dove*, at anchor at Historic St. Mary's City, St. Mary's County

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FRONT COVER: This view of Potomac River tidal marsh grasses and a great blue heron high in the sky above the road to St. George Island might have greeted the Europeans who explored and settled this region in the 17th century, ultimately changing much—but by no means all—of the landscape first known, for thousands of years, by American Indians. Inset images from left: *The Maryland Dove* at Historic St. Mary's City; Religious Freedom National Scenic Byway, Nanjemoy Loop, Charles County; St. Ignatius Church (Villa Road, Webster Field; 1785—one of Maryland's oldest surviving Catholic churches); marina on Cobb Island. (Unless otherwise noted, all photos on the cover and in the text are courtesy of Lardner/Klein Landscape Architects, P.C.)

BACK COVER: Inset images from left: Bicyclist at Point Lookout State Park; Jenkins Barn, Smallwood State Park; Friendship Park, Charles County Parks; entrance to Leonardtown, Maryland's oldest incorporated town. Background: tidal marsh, road to St. George Island.

