

POTOMAC HERITAGE NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL

Mailing Address

National Park Service, National Capital Regional Office, 1100 Ohio Drive, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20242. Telephone: 202-426-6700.

Directions

The Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail was authorized to be included in the National Park System on March 28, 1983. The trail route has not yet been formally designated and, therefore, is not generally available for public use. A planning effort is underway which will result in a comprehensive management plan leading to ultimate designation of trail segments. The trail segments can only be designated upon application to the Secretary of the Interior by state or local governments.

The 700-mile-long trail will extend through the Potomac River Valley linking sites that commemorate a rich blend of historical events, natural scenes, and recreational opportunities. The general trail corridor will extend from the Chesapeake Bay at Smith Point, Virginia, and Point Lookout, Maryland, through tidewater Virginia and Maryland to Washington, D.C., and west through Virginia hunt country to Harpers Ferry where it crosses to Maryland and joins the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal towpath to Cumberland. The entire 184-mile length of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal is included as a segment of trail from Georgetown in the District of Columbia to Cumberland, Maryland. From Cumberland, the trail would continue through Maryland into Pennsylvania to Conemaugh Gorge, just west of Johnstown.

Visitor Activities

For activities within the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park, see that listing for details or write to Superintendent, C&O Canal National Historical Park, P.O. Box 4, Sharpsburg, Maryland 21782.

General Information

The Chesapeake and Ohio Canal towpath, 184 miles long, is included as a principle segment of the trail. In addition, the 17-mile Mount Vernon Trail for pedestrians and cyclists along the George Washington Memorial Parkway from Mount Vernon to Memorial Bridge is scheduled for inclusion as a segment of the trail.

