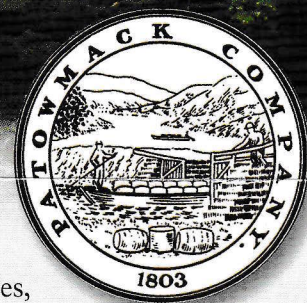


Potomac Heritage Trail

Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail

Eastern Loudoun County
Northern Fairfax County
Virginia



Portal to the Piedmont

This braided network of trails, open space, and natural areas winds through a spellbinding corridor linked by land, water, and history. Parks and pathways along the Potomac River retrace George Washington's vision of "a great avenue into the Western Country." It was realized first by the Patowmack Canal Company he founded in 1784, and later in 1827 with the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal and the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad. Recent combined

Seneca Bypass Canal © KENNETH GARRETT

work of county and regional agencies, volunteers, private landowners, and developers has created a route that connects our past with the present. Today residents and visitors alike enjoy recreation and exploration along a scenic passageway through floodplain forests and Piedmont hills—snapshots of our nation's character from commerce and conflict to conservation and collaboration.



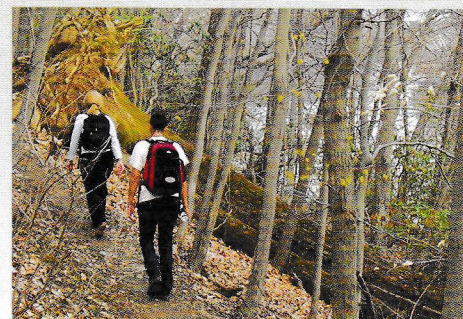
Ball's Bluff National Cemetery

WIKIMEDIA COMMONS



Canoeing on the middle Potomac River

NPS



Hiking in Seneca Tract

NPS

Experience an Urban Oasis

The Potomac Heritage Trail is part of a larger national scenic trail network that traverses the District of Columbia, Virginia, Maryland, and Pennsylvania. The Trail weaves through an expanding system of parks, historic sites, and public river landings in northern Fairfax and eastern Loudoun counties. Existing Trail segments give a growing metropolitan region breathing space along the Potomac River

in Virginia between Scott's Run Nature Preserve and White's Ferry—the only working historic ferry on the Potomac. A highlight is Great Falls, its jumble of rapids and rock marking a dramatic transition between the Atlantic Coastal Plain and Piedmont regions.

Important to many groups of people over many centuries, Potomac Heritage Trail landscapes offer reflection, adventure, exploration, and discovery. Hikers

and equestrians can meander through 100-year-old forests once home to American Indians. Vestiges of early 1800s mills and canals hide in an ecosystem graced with birds, flowers, and changing colors. Quiet contemplation awaits you where hallowed ground stirs thoughts of soldiers in battle and slaves seeking freedom. Nature and history meet along the Trail, linking people and places as the Potomac courses toward the heart of the nation.



Eastern box turtle
NPS



Virginia bluebells
© HELEN HAMILTON



Common yellowthroat
NPS



Copperhead
NPS



Gray tree frog
NPS

A Natural Network with Growing Connections

Signs and artifacts of America's early ambitions meet and celebrate a growing conservation legacy along this trail network.

In the 1970s community groups, students, and park agencies cleaned up litter and conserved lands that would, in 1983, be designated part of a corridor for the Potomac Heritage Trail. Their visionary action made possible today's linear park network now embracing parts of five

geographic regions from Chesapeake Bay to the Allegheny Highlands. Other trails, like the C&O Canal Towpath in Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park, are recognized segments of the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail.

Published by
Potomac
Heritage
National Scenic
Trail Office,
National Park
Service, U.S. Department
of the Interior



More Information

Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority
www.nvrpa.org
703-352-5900

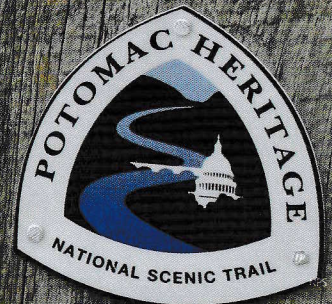
Town of Leesburg Parks and Recreation
Department
www.leesburgva.org
703-777-2420

Loudoun County Department of Parks, Recreation
and Community Services
www.loudoun.gov/prcs
703-777-0343

Fairfax County Park Authority
www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks
703-324-8702

National Park Service
www.nps.gov/grfa
www.nps.gov/pohe

Potomac Heritage Trail Association
www.potomactrail.org



Potomac Heritage Trail

Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail

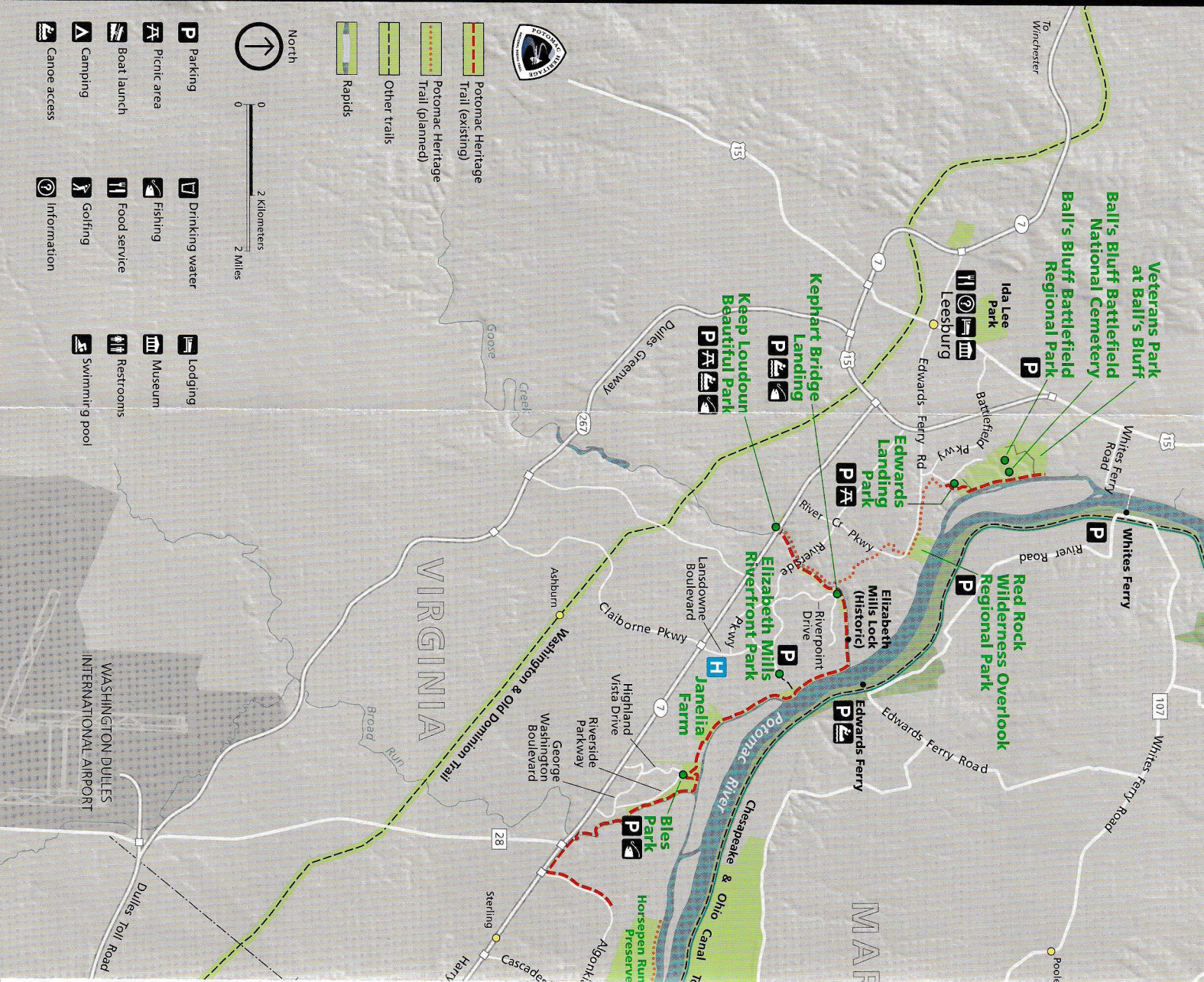
Eastern Loudoun County
Northern Fairfax County
Virginia

- Parking
- Picnic area
- Boat launch
- Camping
- Canoe access
- Drinking water
- Fishing
- Food service
- Information
- Lodging
- Museum
- Restrooms
- Swimming pool

North

0 2 Kilometers
0 2 Miles

- Potomac Heritage Trail (existing)
- Potomac Heritage Trail (planned)
- Other trails
- Rapids



APPROXIMATE TRAIL DISTANCES

On Land

- Keep Loudoun Beautiful! Park to Bles Park: 4.5 mi (7.2 km)
- Algonkian Regional Park Club House to Riverbend Park Visitor Center: 8 mi (12.8 km)
- Riverbend Park Visitor Center to Great Falls Park Visitor Center: 2 mi (3.2 km)
- Loop within Scott's Run Nature Preserve: 2 mi (3.2 km)

On Water

- McKimmy Boat Launch (upstream near Point of Rocks) to White's Ferry: 19.5 mi (31 km)
- White's Ferry to Riverbend Park: 12.5 mi (20 km)
- Keppert Landing (on Goose Creek) to Algonkian Regional Park: 7.2 mi (11.5 km)

The Potomac Heritage Trail is marked with a combination of trail markers and blazes. Please respect private property and stay on the trail!

