

Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail

March 2015



route marking & graphic identity guide

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INTRODUCTION



PURPOSE, NEED, AND GOALS

The Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail (PHT or the Trail) is a developing network of outdoor recreation pathways that celebrate the natural and cultural history—and continuing evolution—of lands and waterways between the Chesapeake Bay and the Allegheny Highlands. Segments of the Trail network are managed by local, regional, state and federal agencies and, in some cases, by private organizations. Along with the evolution of the Trail network over the past 15 years, the need to better develop clear associations between and among Trail segments has become increasingly apparent to realize fully the values associated with the designation of the Trail as a component of the National Trails System.

These guidelines are a “toolkit” for Trail segment managers, intended to foster continuity between and among various segments of the Trail network—and experiences associated with such segments—by establishing a consistent identity for the network through a set of clear, concise, and flexible tools. Using the tools in these guidelines, staff of the National Park Service (NPS) can more efficiently and effectively assist Trail segment managers with planning, designing, and producing various types of interrelated media, thus creating a consistent look and feel. Consistency allows users to plan and execute travel with a high level of confidence, and a means to navigate and experience intended routes. In addition, clear, consistent, and recognizable graphics will help develop and maintain an identity for the Trail network, Trail experiences among users, and NPS partner agencies and organizations. This established identity will allow further development of advocates for outdoor recreation and conservation, and establish a basis on which to promote Trail experiences and associated places to national and international audiences.

These guidelines can be applied in a variety of trail contexts. The guidelines also respect the need for Trail segment managers to retain institutional identities and address organizational needs and goals. The following criteria were followed in the creation of these guidelines:

- ◆ Trail signage and information materials should be highly efficient in order to give users the impression of a coherent, unified trail system, thus providing continuity of experience.
- ◆ The National Park Service should produce a set of general guidelines that provide a menu of options for Trail partners. The guidelines should be easy to implement and should recognize existing practices.
- ◆ The guidelines suggest a family of signs composed of a limited range of images, materials, and colors intended to reduce complexity and clutter in the Trail corridor, to establish a clear identity and continuity of experience, and to account for the existing design guidelines of partner agencies and organizations.
- ◆ Guidelines, particularly the graphic identity, are designed to complement a range of interpretive media. Elements of the guidelines should be applied to other future media including Web pages, cell phone and tablet applications, brochures, maps, guides and more.
- ◆ Guidelines incorporate best practices pertaining to accessibility. Guidance from the Architectural Barriers Act (ABA) and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) has been used to develop this document.

THE USER EXPERIENCE

The Trail network today embodies a wide range of resource types, management interests, and users. The need to establish and maintain physical, graphic, and interpretive continuity between and among Trail segments is essential for a corridor with national and international significance. Without such continuity, the “Trail” is simply a list of unrelated outdoor recreational opportunities.

These guidelines are intended to further establish and improve the following experiences for trail users:

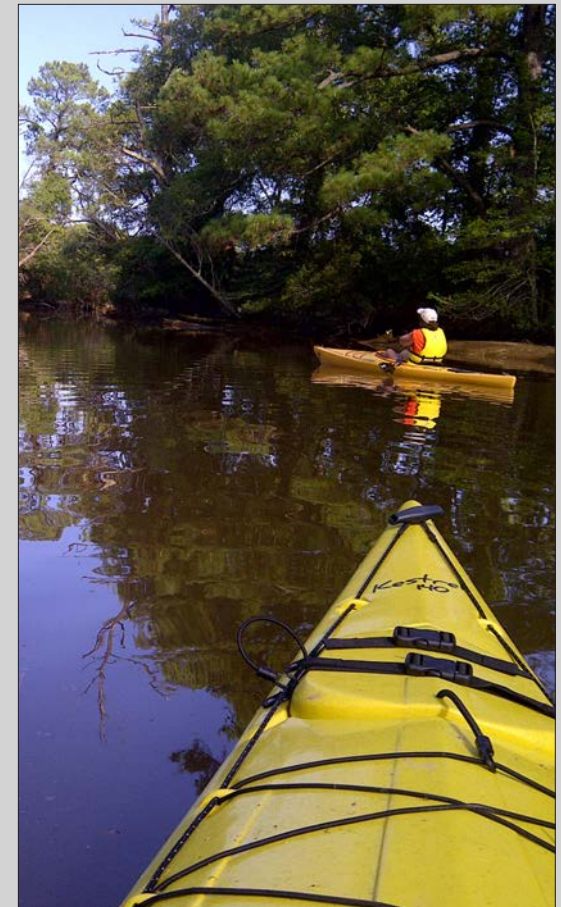
- ♦ The local experience - Users can confidently and safely navigate between Trail segments managed by different partners.
- ♦ The long-distance experience - Users can confidently and safely navigate significant portions of—or the entire length of—the Trail corridor between the mouth of the Potomac River and the Allegheny Highlands.
- ♦ A sense of the connections between lands and rivers and streams - Users are aware of intersections between land trails and launch and landing sites for canoes, kayaks, and other human-powered craft; various combinations of travel modes can provide opportunities for physical continuity throughout the Trail network.
- ♦ A sense of something larger - At key trailheads and destinations, users understand their current location in relation to the Trail network as a whole from both navigational and interpretive perspectives. This experience ties site-specific locations to local and regional histories.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

These guidelines build off of previous planning efforts that articulate the purpose, role, and functions of the Trail designation; and expand on previous guidance. And, as best practices evolve, the guidelines will be revised. Future updates will be made as conditions change or as new circumstances arise within the Trail network. Other plans related to the Trail network are listed below and can be found at

<http://www.nps.gov/pohe/getinvolved/planning.htm>:

- ♦ *Foundation Document: Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail (2014)*: Provides basic guidance for planning and operations. Articulates the purpose, significance, and fundamental resources and values for the Trail.
- ♦ *Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail: Identity Guidelines for Trail Partners (2006)*: Guidelines for Trail partners on the Trail insignia (logo), text for printed communications, trailhead orientation signs, wayside interpretive exhibits, and design templates for publications.
- ♦ *2006 Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail Development and Management Plan*: Provides guidance for developing and managing segments of the Trail in the Commonwealth of Virginia.
- ♦ *Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail: Northern Virginia's Piedmont Region: Wayside Exhibits (2008)*: Illustrates a related set of categories for different kinds of signs and provides reproducible examples of each (orientation to the network and the region; sites; types of outdoor recreational uses; interpretation; route marking) with implementation beginning in 2008.
- ♦ Director's Order 45: *National Trails System (2013)*.



LEGISLATION AND ADMINISTRATION

The Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail is a component of the National Trails System, authorized in 1983 as an amendment to the National Trails System Act (Public Law 90-543, 82 Stat. 919); the Trail is also considered part of the National Park System. The National Park Service is responsible for administration of the federal interest in the Trail.

Primary responsibilities include:

- ♦ Authorize and manage use of the Trail insignia, a Federal mark (i.e., Trail marker or logo);
- ♦ Manage trails within Trail-related areas of the national park system as segments of the Trail network; and
- ♦ Execute formal agreements with other governmental and non-governmental entities for management of Trail segments.

Based on extensive public involvement, NPS roles also include:

- ♦ Provide coordination and maintain partnerships between and among staff of governmental agencies, nonprofit organizations, and volunteers;
- ♦ Provide assistance with Trail-related projects managed by other entities to develop, manage, interpret, promote, and sustain the Trail network and related Trail segments;
- ♦ Consider trends, anticipate needs and opportunities, and maintain a vision for the Trail network;
- ♦ Establish annual work plans; and
- ♦ Develop continuity of experience throughout the Trail network.

TRAIL TYPES

The network of trails that comprise the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail include long and short trails which connect to various destinations as well as to other trail systems. In order for PHT users to navigate effectively, trails within the PHT network can generally be categorized as one of two types:

- ♦ Primary Trail Segment - Contribute to an opportunity for continuous, nonmotorized travel between the mouth of the Potomac River and the Allegheny Highlands. As part of the Trail network, such routes enable unique long-distance experiences.
- ♦ Connecting and Side Trails - Provide opportunities for local experiences, combine use of a Trail segment with other trails to form loops, allow access to out and back experiences and access to Trail-related points of interest or to primary Trail segments.

For more information on the National Trails Act, visit:

<http://www.nps.gov/ncrc/programs/nts/legislation.html>.



On-Road Cycling Route – MUTCD M1-8a



Cross-Country Skiing



Hiking



Paddling



Horseback Riding



Mountain Biking

TRAIL EXPERIENCES

Building on the intent of the National Trails System Act, trails within the PHT network provide one or more of the following nonmotorized travel experiences. Consistent use of these—or similar symbols—will help users choose a route and experience. These symbols should be used on maps, signs, as well as interpretive and informational media.



TOOLS

The suite of tools in this section provides Trail segment managers with the ability to aid current and potential trail users in pre-trip planning as well as navigation. Consistent use of these elements on signage, as well as in print and web materials will ensure that users and PHT advocates perceive the PHT network as a unified system and set of complementary and outstanding outdoor recreational experiences.

TRAIL TERMS

- ♦ Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail is the official name.
- ♦ The abbreviated name is the Potomac Heritage Trail.
- ♦ The initials PHT can be used for brevity.
- ♦ Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail network (or Trail network), Potomac Heritage Trail network, or PHT network can be used to refer to the physical network of trails, as well as the larger community of organizations and agencies involved in the management and stewardship of resources in the Trail corridor.

FONTS

In order to ensure that materials (including signs and brochures) have a high level of readability, the following fonts are recommended. See “Appendix A: Access for Everyone” for additional Outdoor Developed Area Guidelines that uphold the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the Architectural Barriers Act (ABA).

- ♦ Arial
- ♦ Optima=====
- ♦ Trebuchet
- ♦ Frutiger
- ♦ **Helvetica**=====
- ♦ Tahoma
- ♦ Univers (sans serif)=====
- ♦ Century (serif)



The official trail logo – three color (black, white, and Pantone 299 Blue). Trail segment managers can request versions of the logo in a 3-inch sticker, 3.5-inch plastic decal, and/or as a 9-inch plastic decal.

THE TRAIL MARKER (LOGO)

Signs link people to places; they enable safe journeys and enrich the experience of travel. At their best, they enlarge our perspectives and deepen our appreciation of our heritage. Use of the Trail logo helps to achieve all of these ends.

The Trail logo, an official “Federal mark” published in the Federal Register, is the official Trail insignia¹. With written permission from the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail administrator, the logo may be used on signs and in printed and electronic media such as brochures, guides, maps, and websites. The logo should not be used in place of a blaze or other means of marking a route in cases where directional guidance is necessary and/or desirable.

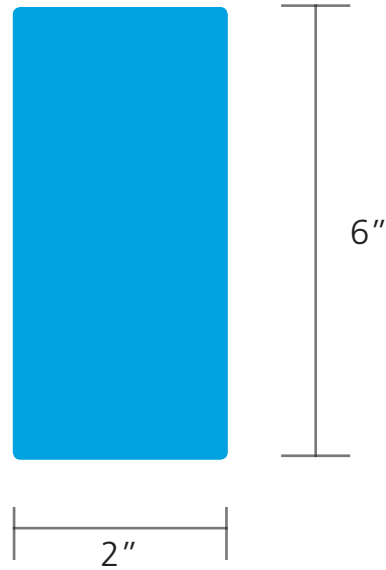
Use of the Trail logo provides visual continuity and recognizes formal relationships between Trail segments and the Trail network, the National Trails System, the National Park Service (as Trail administrator), and the Trail management partners. When possible the logo should be placed on the main body of a trail sign in the upper right hand or the lower right hand corner.

1. The design of the Trail insignia is part of a family of insignia for national historic and national scenic trails within the National Trails System. Authorities for development and use of the Trail insignia (or logo) can be found in the National Trails System Act of 1968 (as amended), 16 U.S.C. 124(a) and 1246(c) and in Protection of Official Badges, Insignia, etc. in 18 U.S.C. 701.3

THE BLAZE

Primary Trails should be marked with a blue (Pantone 299 blue) paint blaze in both directions of travel. Where possible, the blaze should be placed at eye level (approximately six feet off the ground) on trees, posts, or rocks. The standard blaze should consist of a rectangle of paint two inches wide by six inches high. A right turn should be marked with a double blaze, with the right rectangle offset slightly higher as shown below. A left turn would be the opposite.

The Standard Blaze

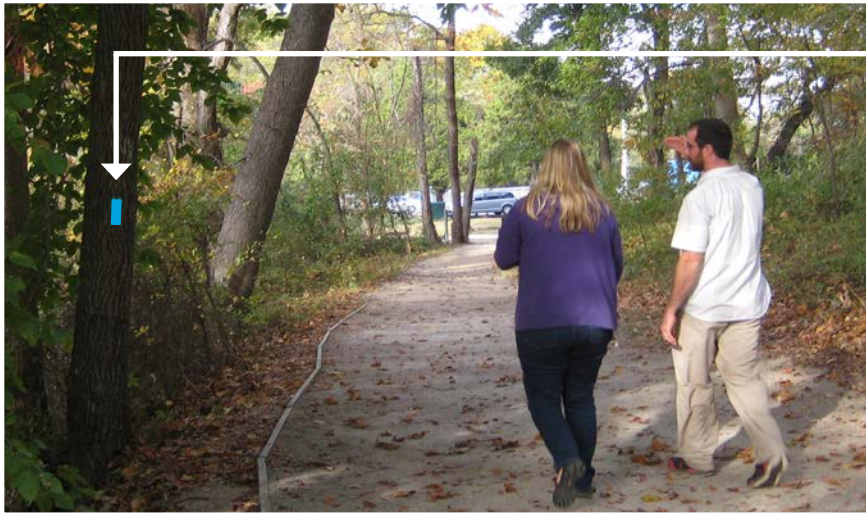


Left Turn



Right Turn





Use of the standard blaze along the Trail to reinforce user confidence about the route



Use of the left turn blaze to indicate an upcoming turn



as displayed



as seen with protanopia



as seen with deuteranopia

When To Use The Blaze

The blaze is a complement to the Trail logo on primary Trails. The Trail logo should not be used in place of the blaze. The overall purpose of the blaze is to communicate to trail users that they are following an intended route and to aid in navigational decisions.

Thus, the blaze should be used mainly at decision points along a route, such as trail intersections, road crossings, and changes in direction. In areas where the trail tread is well defined—such as a paved trail—the blaze need only be used where the user has a choice to make. Minimal use of blazes and other forms of route marking reinforce the PHT as a national scenic trail.

By using the official blue color the blaze will be visible for people with protanopia and deuteranopia, the two most common forms of color blindness.

THE TRAIL BANNER

A banner provides a visual cue that a particular place is associated with the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail. A banner helps to convey brand identity better than the logo alone. The black banner shown here should be used at sites within the Trail corridor managed by the National Park Service. It contains a rectangular black background, along with the logo and official Trail name. The banner is best applied as a “headline” graphic atop printed materials, informational signs, and Web pages.

The Black Banner

For use at NPS sites

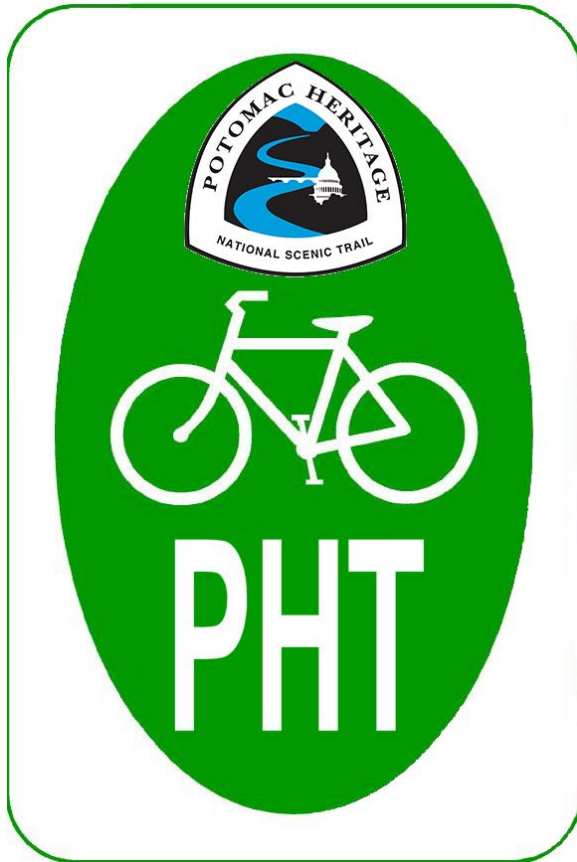


Brush Stroke Banner

This banner can be used at locations managed by entities other than the National Park Service



On-Road Bicycling Route
MUTCD M1-8a compliant



ON-ROAD BICYCLING ROUTE

The sign below, which is referred to in the *Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices* as M1-8a, can be used along roadways to denote PHT on-road bicycling routes. On-road routes are usually paved and present a very different experience and setting than that of off-road routes. This sign is currently in use along roadways in the Northern Neck area of Virginia.

Trail segment managers should be aware of state policies for planning, installing, and maintaining on-road Trail-related signs. The *Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices*, or MUTCD, should be referenced for any Trail signage along roadways. It defines the standards used by road managers nationwide to install and maintain traffic control devices on all public streets, highways, bikeways, and private roads open to public travel. The MUTCD is published by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) under 23 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 655, Subpart F.

REGIONAL ORIENTATION

Orientation panels place users in the landscape, illustrate location in the context of the entire Trail network, and provide important information. These panels should also stimulate further interest in the Trail network.

The PHT regional panel shown here has been designed for use at trailheads and other key destinations in the network. The panel focuses on the bigger picture (regional geographic scale) and is designed to give users a sense of something larger. The map is not intended to be used for navigation.

Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail

PIEDMONT REGION

George Washington walked, rode horseback, and boated through this region pursuing his dream of westward expansion—connecting the Atlantic Seaboard to the frontier West. His efforts to reengineer, dam, channelize, and straighten the Potomac River influenced industrialization in the 1800s and beyond. But the river resisted. Today wild intermingles with urban. Huge oaks, sycamores, and tulip poplars guard the river and welcome all seeking solace there.

The Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail network is a portal into the region's history, culture, and ecology. Here a network of hiking and water trails affords you an intimate connection with the river and the distinctive Piedmont landscape. The trails beckon exploration and offer adventure.

Experiences found along this section of trail

- Hiking
- Bicycling
- Canoeing

Hiking Trail
Segments of the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail wind through a 50-mile-long corridor of private and public lands in northern Fairfax and eastern Loudoun counties. The corridor showcases the rolling hills of the Piedmont at the river's edge. The rich floodplain forest here offers many discoveries from spring wildflowers to great mill ruins.

Water Trail
Miles of water trail on the Potomac River and Goose Creek allow paddlers to hug the safety and calm near the shoreline. Paddlers may surprise great blue herons, kingfishers, wood ducks, and even rare otters. Historic features like Goose Creek Canal and George Washington's Patowmack Canal await your discovery.

THE BLAZE
Thus, the blaze should be used mainly at decision points along a route, such as trail intersections, road crossings, or major changes in direction. In areas where the trail tread is well defined—such as a paved trail—the blaze need only be used where the user has a choice to make.

Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail

Trail segments here in Fairfax and Loudoun counties are part of the larger Trail network that traverses the District of Columbia, Virginia, Maryland, and Pennsylvania. The Trail network passes through five distinct landscapes, each the result of climatic effects on past and present geologic environments and each influencing the history of people living there.

- Various Potomac Heritage Trail segments
- Great Allegheny Passage
- Laurel Highlands Hiking Trail
- Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Towpath
- Potomac Heritage Trail (George Washington Memorial Parkway)
- Fort Circle Park Trail
- Alexandria Heritage Trail
- Mount Vernon Trail
- Southern Maryland Potomac Heritage Trail (On Road Bicycle Route)
- Northern Neck Heritage Trail (Bicycling Route)



LOCAL EXPERIENCE PANEL

Navigational and related user information should be shown on a "local experience" map or panel that will often be accompanied by a regional orientation panel. The exact design and content of the local experience map or panel is flexible. The local experience panel should clearly indicate which local trail is part of the PHT network. Below is an example of a local experience panel. The map at left shows an example of how to indicate which local trail is designated as the PHT.



THUMBNAIL MAPS OF THE TRAIL

These “thumbnail” maps can be used on materials where space is limited—such as a brochure or an application for a smart phone. The maps show the location and geographic expanse of the trail network, while not requiring the amount of space and detail as the PHT regional panel. Trail management partners may use either map.

A simplified version of the thumbnail map, without topographic detail and colors depicting land cover, can be used when space is limited and map details may not be clearly readable.



RACK CARDS

Great Allegheny Passage

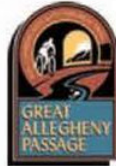
Passing through the Mountains

The Great Allegheny Passage, a segment of the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail, is the longest rail-trail in the East. Using massive railroad bridges and tunnels, the hiking and biking trail passes through—not over—the Allegheny Mountains.

The trail system is complete between McKeesport and Meyersdale, Pennsylvania. When finished, the Great Allegheny Passage will extend 150 miles between Cumberland, Maryland, and Pittsburgh, connecting with the western terminus of the 184.5-mile Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Towpath.

More Information

Allegheny Trail Alliance
888-ATA-BIKE
www.atatrail.org



Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail

District of Columbia, Maryland, Virginia, Pennsylvania

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Connecting People and Places

The Great Allegheny Passage is a segment of the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail. An enterprise of many partners, the evolving Trail network celebrates the heritage of the Potomac and upper Ohio river basins and offers opportunities for hiking, bicycling, boating, horseback riding and cross-country skiing.



Information on federal roles

Potomac Heritage N.S.T. Office
National Park Service
304-535-4014
www.nps.gov/pohe
Post Office Box B
Harpers Ferry, WV 25425

Designed to fit in a brochure rack, these cards inform readers about the existence and location of Trail segments and of an association with the Trail network. They are used for promotion and public education and not for site-specific user information. Rack cards are a relatively inexpensive way to print and distribute information about a Trail segment and the Trail network. Placed at visitor centers or museums, for example, rack cards will explain local connections to the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail network as a whole. At public events and visitor centers away from Trail segments, cards invite visitation and public participation. With a minimal initial investment, rack cards can be easily updated.

The rack card is 3.75 inches wide by 8.5 inches tall, printed on both sides. Side A of the card contains information about the Trail segment and key messages about the trail's relationship to the PHT; optional elements include a major illustration. Side B features a map of the PHT corridor or regional maps.

TRAIL MESSAGING

The Trail network should be consistently described. Below are key facts and messages for use on signs, printed materials, and in web-based materials.



Key Messages

Key messages are used to communicate meanings, concepts, contexts, and values represented by Trail resources. The National Park Service refers to these messages as “interpretive themes” because these messages are vital for telling the stories associated with the Trail network and describing the values for which the Trail corridor is nationally significant. Partners are encouraged to use these messages as a basis for site specific interpretive media and programs.

These key messages apply to the Trail network as a whole.

- ◆ **Meeting Ground for Ideas**

The Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail is based on a network of mutually beneficial partnerships to develop and sustain a system of trails and associated resources for recreation, transportation, health, and education between the mouth of the Potomac River and the Allegheny Highlands in western Pennsylvania. Among users and stakeholders, the Trail is also a meeting ground for 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.

- ◆ **Natural History and Human Ecology**

Between the mouth of the Potomac River and the Allegheny Highlands, the Trail corridor includes portions of five distinct physiographic regions. Each region, in different ways, has inspired and shaped human generations with beauty, abundance, and utility.

- ◆ **Nation-Building / Nurturing a Nation**

Routes connecting the Potomac River with the Forks of the Ohio River provided an essential context for the development of the US republic, and now connect Trail visitors and users with the places and stories related to the founding and continuing evolution of the nation.

- ◆ **Boundary, Corridor, and Crossroads**

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.

Key Facts

- ◆ **What is the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail?**

Authorized by Congress in 1983 as an amendment to the National Trails System Act (NTSA), the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail is a “component” of the National Trails System—an evolving network of over 700 miles of locally-managed trails between the mouth of the Potomac River and the Allegheny Highlands in western Pennsylvania. The Trail network includes opportunities for hiking, bicycling, paddling, horseback riding, and cross-country skiing in one of the most diverse and historically significant corridors in the nation.

- ◆ **What is the meaning of “national scenic trail”?**

National scenic trails are 100 miles or longer, continuous, primarily nonmotorized routes with outstanding outdoor recreation opportunity.

- ◆ **Why was the Trail authorized?**

Complementing other federal legislation, trails authorized in the NTSA are intended to provide for the increasing outdoor recreational needs of the nation. In a practical sense, the Trail is a means to connect people to places, to recognize local resources and experiences in a national context, and to establish and maintain partnerships.

- ◆ **How do trails become part of the Trail network?**

Outside of areas managed by federal agencies, a trail is recognized as a “segment” of the Trail network through a formal “agreement for management,” usually a “memorandum of understanding,” between the National Park Service and the managing entity, governmental or non-governmental. Such agreements usually span a period of five to ten years and include an authorization by the Trail administrator for use of the Trail insignia.

- ◆ **How long is the Trail?**

Based on existing agreements, the Trail network is approximately 710 miles, of which approximately 50 miles are planned segments. Depending on starting and ending points and modes of travel, a continuous route might span a distance of 500–600 miles. A walk from Point Lookout State Park in southern Maryland to the northeast terminus of the Laurel Highlands Hiking Trail, for example, is approximately 585 miles.

- ◆ **How is the Trail managed?**

The Trail network is managed through a wide range of partnerships between and among local, regional, state and federal agencies; volunteers; nonprofit organizations; and the National Park Service.

For more information on the National Trails System, see the “Frequently Asked Questions” Web page at

<http://www.nps.gov/nts/>.

For more information about the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail, see the NPS Web page for the Trail at

<http://www.nps.gov/pohe/>

APPLICATIONS

This chapter provides additional information on how and where to use the elements described in the tools chapter.

WAYFINDING SIGNS

Wayfinding signs help users navigate to and along the Trail network. This section provides guidance on where and when to use the PHT logo/banner to help users find their way. The following are some options to illustrate ways to use the Trail logo to complement local identity while creating continuity throughout the Trail network.

Trailheads

Option A (NPS areas): Agency name is located above the PHT black banner –such as Chesapeake and Ohio Canal NHP or Piscataway Park.

Option B uses only the PHT logo below the Trail partner name. The logo is available as a 3” sticker, 3.5” plastic decal, or 9” plastic decal from the PHT Trail Office. Note that the size of the information and the PHT logo should be generally proportional to each other.

OPTION A

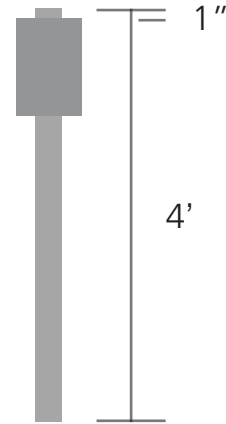
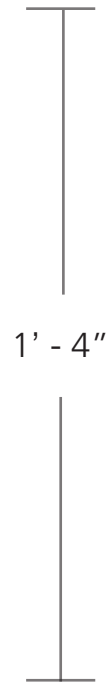


OPTION B



Option C uses the brush-stroke oriented vertically.

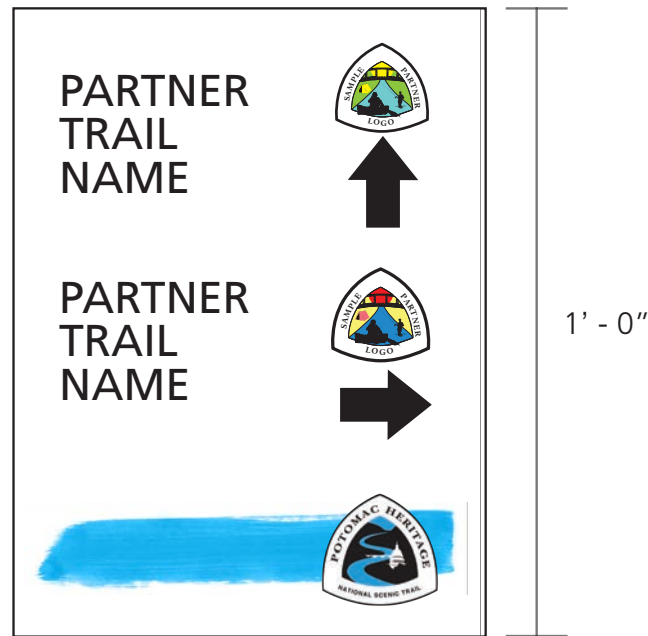
OPTION C



Trail Intersections

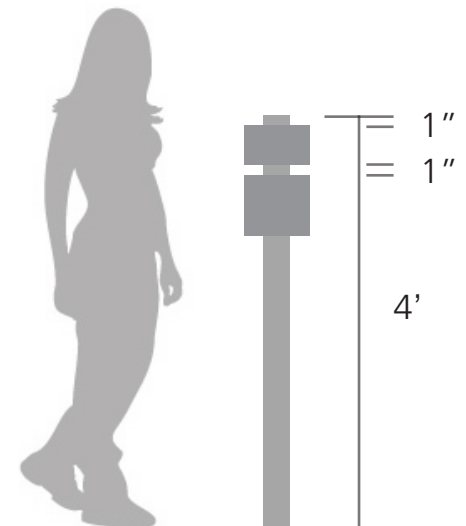
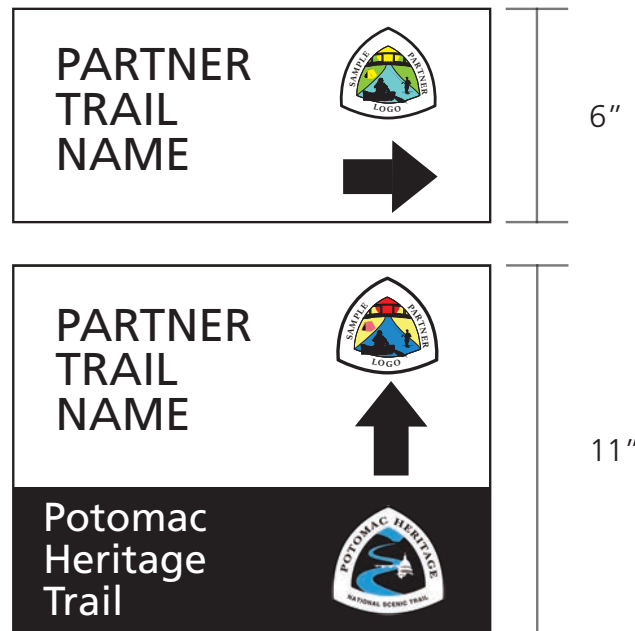
Shared Identity

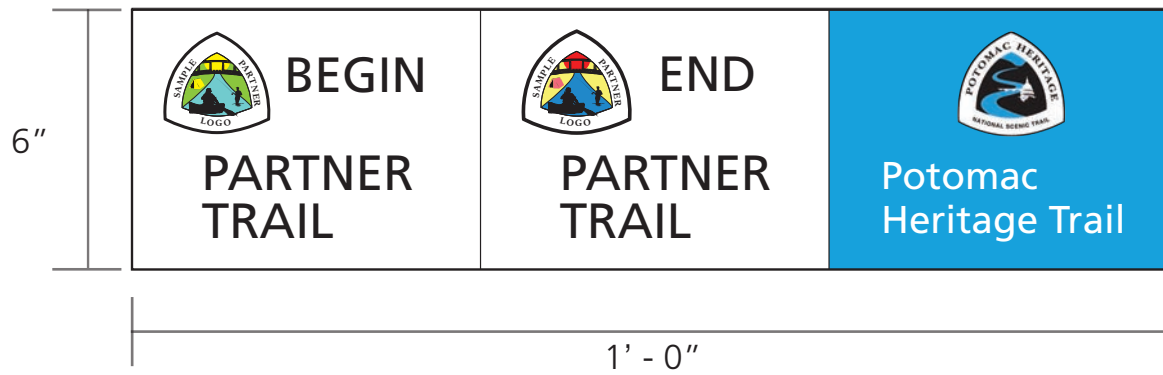
This sign does not separate information and includes a brush-stroke at the bottom to indicate that both trails are part of the PHT network.



Single Trail

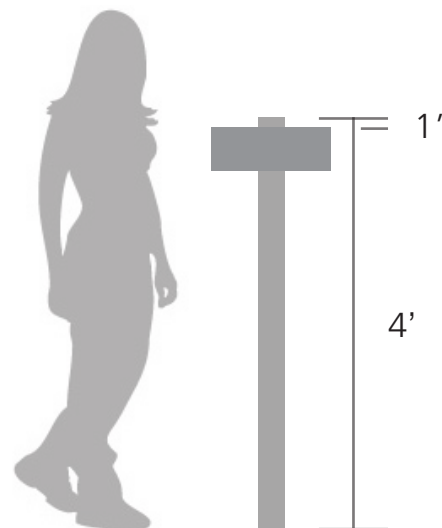
The PHT logo should also be used where the user has to make a route choice. The signs below use separation between icons to show that the trail that goes straight ahead is also the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail (via the black banner) and that the trail that goes to the right is not part of the PHT network.





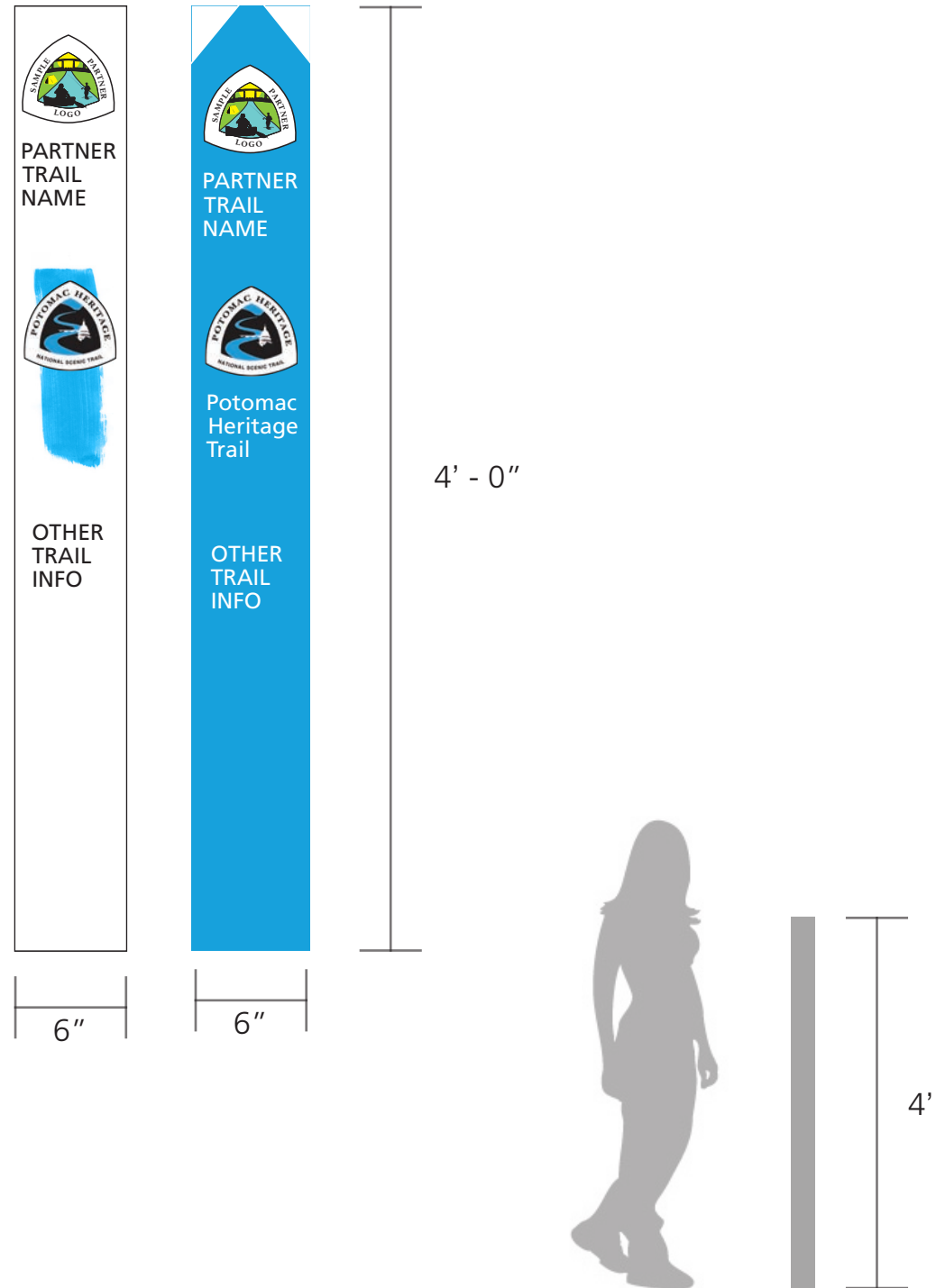
Changes in Trail Jurisdiction

The PHT identity provides continuity between trails managed by different agencies and organizations. Hence, it is important to use the PHT logo or banner in transition areas between different Trail segment managers. Use of the logo or banner on signage in these areas accomplishes two objectives: 1) it reinforces user confidence that they remain on a primary Trail segment; and 2) it creates a geographic and thematic link between different jurisdictions.



Water Trail Launch and Landing Sites

The PHT network includes paddling routes on rivers and streams. In some cases, these areas contain a transition between a PHT water route and a PHT land trail. Signs should indicate that these areas are part of the network. Below are two methods for marking put-in and take-out locations.



Rural and Natural Areas

Trail segments in rural and natural areas may use signs with a natural feel, such as wooden posts with small icons.

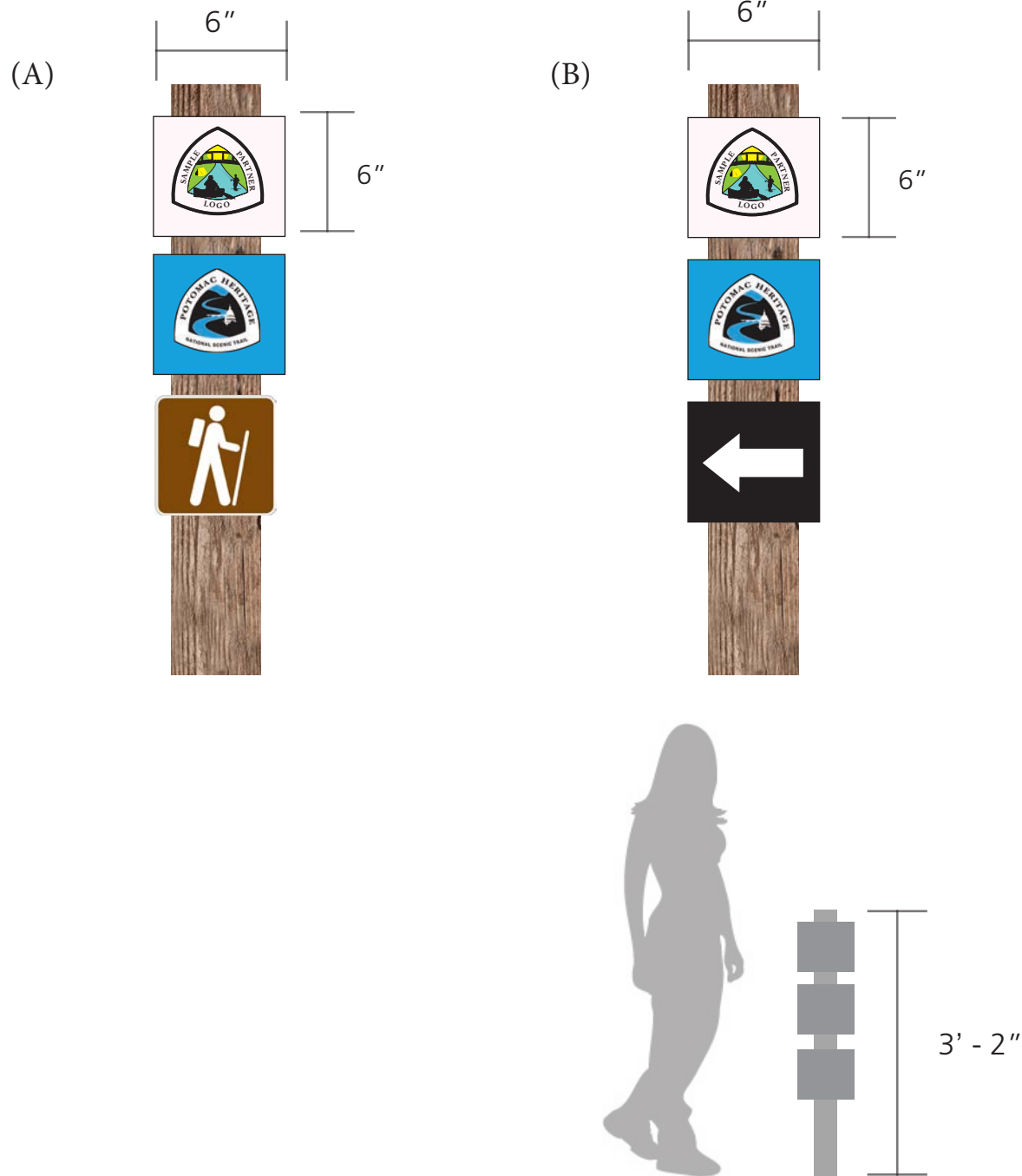
Mark the start of a trail and transitions between jurisdictions.

This image (A) shows use of the PHT logo beneath the information for the Trail segment manager, but above information showing what uses are permitted on the trail. The 4'x4' post is suggested to be cut into a triangle shape at a 45 degree angle and the height should be 3'2" above ground.

Marking an intersection or change in direction.

This image (B) shows use of the PHT logo below the Trail segment information and above the navigational arrow.

The PHT logo (3.5 inches) is mounted on a 6X6 inch blue metal square. The partner trail logo is mounted on a 6X6 inch metal square as well, color to be determined by the partner.

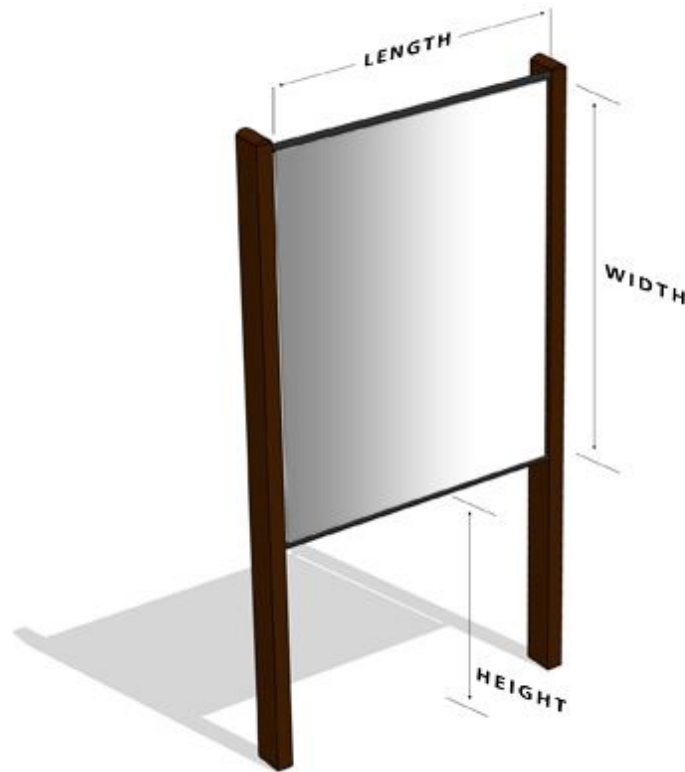


KIOSKS AND SIGN KITS

Trail signs should be used at major trailheads. Please note that signs should comply with either ABA or ADA depending on the jurisdiction and funding source (see appendix A).

The Single Panel Sign Kit

A single sign kit, shown here, should be used for the PHT regional panel.

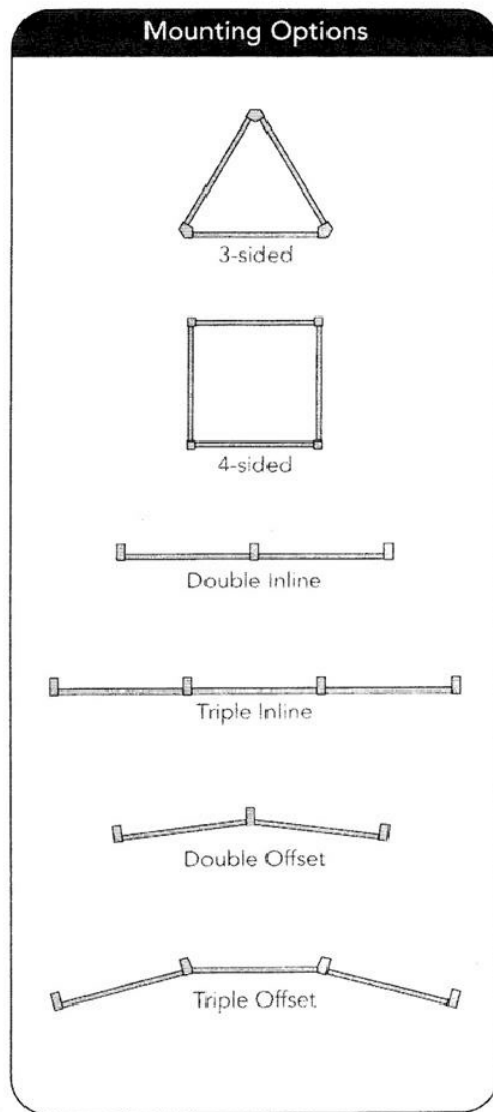
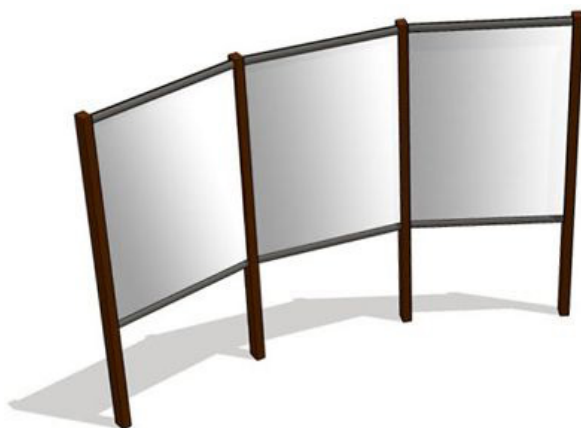
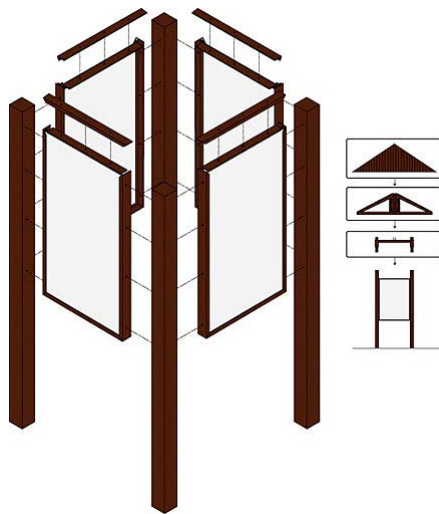


Panel Sizes:
(LxW, inches): 24x36, 24x48,
36x48

Height:
32 inches

Material:
Galvanized Steel, Weathering
Steel, Painted Aluminum (NPS
Brown/NPS Medium Gray)





Multiple Panels

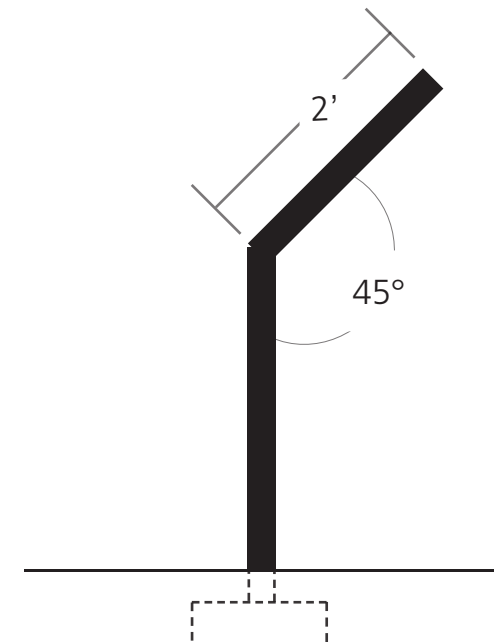
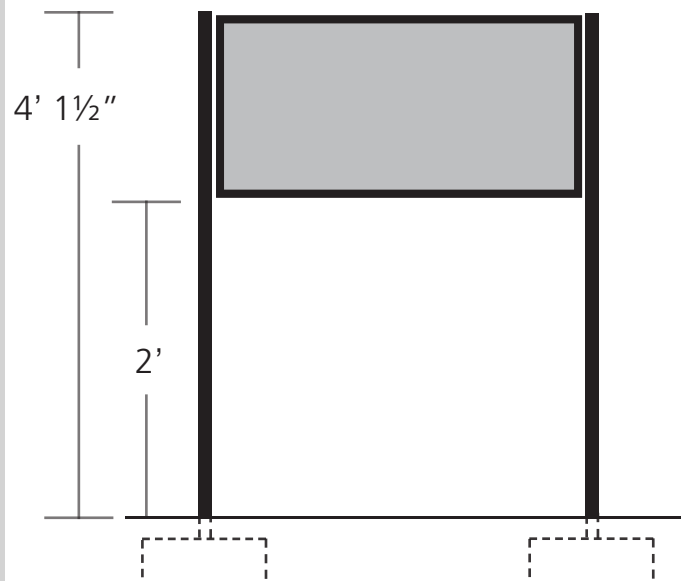
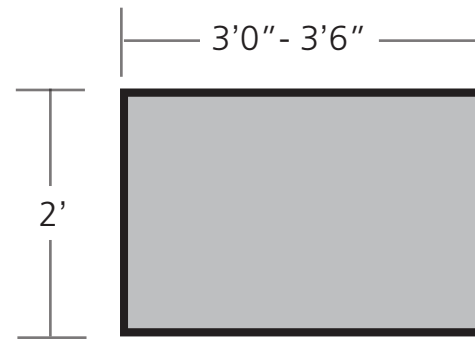
A Two-Panel Sign Kit: The two-panel sign kit should provide both the PHT regional panel and the Local Experience or site specific panel.

A Three-Panel Sign Kit: The three-panel sign kit should provide both the PHT regional panel and the Local Experience panel. The third panel is at the discretion of the Trail segment manager.

A Four-Panel Sign Kit: The four-panel sign kit would provide both the PHT regional panel and the Local Experience panel. The third and fourth panels are at the discretion of the Trail segment manager.

Interpretive Panels

The standard low-profile interpretive panel shown here is used to convey local or regional interpretive information at a particular place along a Trail segment. Interpretive panels will usually relate in some way to the key messages about the Trail, identified on page 18 of these guidelines.





TRAIL SETTINGS

The following categories of trail settings can be used as a tool among Trail segment managers, other Trail partners, and NPS staff to determine what kind of PHT-related signage and interpretive materials are appropriate at a particular location.

Anchor Sites

Some trails in the network lead directly to anchor sites—key historical locations, tourist destinations, or events that are nationally significant. A PHT regional panel should be located at the starting point of these trails.

Anchor Sites Along Primary Routes

These trailheads are major developed areas that provide direct access to PHT primary routes and include parking, multiple informational and interpretive panels, and a visitor contact station with the PHT stamp for the NPS Passport book. These trailheads typically serve a larger, more regional population and are part of the PHT Primary Trail experience. The signs at these trailheads should include the PHT regional panel, the local experience panel, additional interpretation on natural and cultural history, and trail information.





Connecting Trailheads

Connecting trailheads are those that are part of the larger PHT network that offer access to PHT connecting trails and loops. These trailheads typically provide parking and a minimum two-panel kiosk; one panel being the PHT regional panel and the second being the local experience panel.



Public Transit Hubs

Public transit hubs, such as Virginia Railway Express (VRE) and Maryland Area Regional Commuter (MARC) Stations, have an opportunity to serve as a location for visitors to enter the PHT trail network and should allow for the same level of signage and amenities as trailheads. A public transit hub that serves as a trailhead (and that is recognized on informational materials) may have bike lockers, safe pedestrian access to the Trail, and sidewalks and/or bike lanes along major motorized and nonmotorized access routes to the transit hub.



Trail partners are encouraged to consult with the Trail administrator. Agencies and organizations that manage Trail segments may also contact the Trail Office to request Trail markers and digital files, as well as technical assistance.

Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail Office
National Park Service
304-535-4016 or 4014
phnst@nps.gov

Website for the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail:
www.nps.gov/pohe

Website for the National Trails System Act of 1968 (as amended):
<http://www.nps.gov/ncrc/programs/nts/legislation.html>

Outdoor Developed Area Guidelines:
See “Appendix A: Access for Everyone”

RESOURCES FOR TRAIL PARTNERS

APPENDIX A

ACCESS FOR EVERYONE

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the Architectural Barriers Act (ABA), and Outdoor Developed Area Guidelines for trailheads and trail signs ensure an accessible experience to visitors of all abilities. State and local jurisdictions are required to comply with ADA guidelines, while federally managed sites or projects using federal funds must comply with ABA.

The full set of guidelines can be found at the following links:

<http://www.access-board.gov/guidelines-and-standards/recreation-facilities/outdoor-developed-areas/a-summary-of-accessibility-standards-for-federal-outdoor-developed-areas>

<http://www.access-board.gov/guidelines-and-standards/recreation-facilities/outdoor-developed-areas>

<http://www.ada.gov/>

The following check lists are provided so that existing and proposed trailheads and trail signage can be evaluated for their compliance with **ABA and Outdoor Developed Area Guidelines**.

CHECK LISTS

Trailhead Kiosks

Yes No N/A

The letters are in a readable type face of sans serif (Arial, Optima, Trebuchet, Frutiger, Helvetica, Tahoma, or Univers) or serif (NPS Rawlinson or Century). NPS standard fonts, Frutiger and NPS Rawlinson, are preferable.

Font size is 24pt (Helvetica) minimum.

Regardless of type size, there is sufficient space between characters, words, and lines. The default settings of Frutiger and NPS Rawlinson provide ample space.

Alignment is flush left and ragged right and hyphens are avoided.

Black or white type color is used or at least a 70% contrast is distinguishable (e.g., black text on any light colors, white text on dark colors.) Contrast of typeface to background is between 70% and 95%.

Understandable hierarchical patterns and layouts are used to simplify reading.

YES NO N/A

Purely decorative elements or graphics in the background are avoided so that text is presented clearly.

Italicized and underlined text is avoided.

Special effects to text are only on large display fonts or headers, not on secondary text.

All-caps text is avoided.

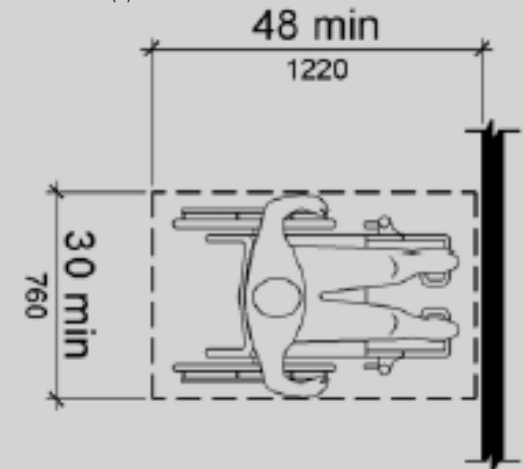
Graphics (photographs, diagrams, and maps) are enlarged accordingly without distortion, loss of detail, contrast, focus, or clarity of image.

Photograph or image content contrasts with surrounding content clearly.

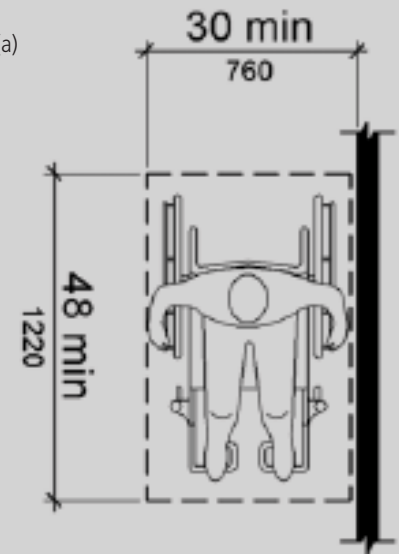
Line drawings are clear and bold with limited detail and a minimum type size of 16pt for labels.

Clear floor space is provided at kiosk, 2'6" x 4' (30" x 48") from a forward or parallel approach, with a 2% maximum slope in any direction on a firm and stable surface. See Figure 305.5.

FORWARD (a)



PARALLEL (a)



POSITION OF CLEAR FLOOR OR GROUND SPACE

Outdoor Constructed Features at Trailheads:

YES NO N/A

At least 20%, but no less than one, of each type of outdoor constructed feature provided at trailheads is accessible.

Unless otherwise specified, one full unobstructed side of the clear ground space adjoins or overlaps an outdoor recreation route or a trail, as applicable, or another clear ground space.

Openings in the clear ground space surface do not allow the passage of a sphere more than ½" in diameter.

A handheld shower spray unit is provided, with a hose at least 4'11" (59") long and at least one fixed position 1'3" (15") minimum and 4' (48") maximum above the ground. EXCEPTION: When vandalism is a consideration, a fixed showerhead mounted at 4' (48") above the ground is allowed in place of a handheld shower spray unit.

Operable parts of outdoor rinsing showers, such as handles or levers, are 1'3" (15") minimum and 4' (48") maximum above the ground. They are operable with one hand without tightly grasping, pinching, or twisting the rest, and with no more than 5 pounds of force. If self-closing devices are used, they remain open and allow water to flow for at least 10 seconds.

Benches:

YES NO N/A

Where provided, benches have companion seating clear space adjacent to the bench of 3' x 4' (36" x 48") adjoining an outdoor recreation access route or trail. The clear space does not overlap the trail and is a maximum 2% maximum grade in any direction. If necessary for drainage and the clear ground space is other than asphalt, concrete, or boards, a 5% maximum slope is allowed. 20%, but no less than one, of each type of bench provided at each location on the trail is accessible.

Best practice: Bench seat is 3'6" (42") long minimum and between 1'6" (20") deep minimum and 2' (24") deep maximum. Bench seat surface is 1'3" (17") minimum and 1'5" (19") maximum above the finish floor or ground. Additional clear floor space is provided parallel to the short axis of the bench, 2'6" by 4' (30" x 48") from a parallel approach, with a 2% maximum slope in any direction on a firm and stable surface. See Figure 305.5.

Trash and Recycling Receptacles:

YES NO N/A

Where provided, trash and recycling receptacles have a clear ground space of 3' x 4' (36" x 48") positioned for a forward approach to the receptacle opening OR 2'6" x 5' (30" x 60") positioned for a parallel approach to the receptacle opening. The clear ground space is a firm and stable surface with 2% maximum slope in all directions or 5% maximum where necessary for drainage and the surface is other than asphalt, concrete, or boards.

Operable parts of trash and recycling containers, such as handles or latches, are 15" minimum and 48" maximum above the ground. They are operable with one hand without tightly grasping, pinching, or twisting the rest, and with no more than 5 pounds of force.

Viewing Scopes:

YES NO N/A

Viewing scopes have a clear ground space of 3' x 4' (36" x 48") positioned for a forward approach to the viewing scope with a knee clearance of 2'3" (27") minimum and a toe clearance of 9" minimum. The clear ground space is centered on the eyepiece of the viewing scope. The clear ground space is a firm and stable surface with 2% maximum slope in all directions or 5% maximum where necessary for drainage and the surface is other than asphalt, concrete, or boards.

The eyepiece of the viewing scope used from a seated position is 3'7" (43") minimum and 4'3" (51") maximum above the ground surface. Other operable parts of the element, such as handles or levers, are located 1'3" (15") minimum and 4' (48") maximum above the ground and are operable with one hand without tightly grasping, pinching, or twisting the rest, and with no more than 5 pounds of force.

Trailheads:

YES NO N/A

Trailhead signage provides the following information: length of the trail or trail segment; surface type; typical and minimum tread width; typical and maximum running slope; and typical and maximum cross slope.

At least one outdoor recreation access route connects accessible parking spaces and other arrival points; the starting point of the trail; and accessible elements, spaces, and facilities within the trailhead.

Existing trailheads. Elements or spaces are altered but the circulation path to the altered space or element is not changed at existing trailheads. If so, the circulation path does not have to be altered to comply with the technical requirements of outdoor recreation access routes. If the circulation path to the trailhead is altered and a condition for exception does not permit full compliance with a specific provision in the technical requirements for outdoor recreation access routes, the circulation path must comply with the specific provision to the extent practicable.

Outdoor Exhibits and Maps:

Non-tactile Exhibits and Maps:

YES NO N/A

Objects are identified and it is communicated to visitors that the objects are NOT meant to be touched.

When possible, alternative formats such as audio descriptions and large print displays are provided for learning and understanding what the exhibits are meant to convey

Tactile and Interactive Exhibits and Maps:

YES NO N/A

Parallel Approach. Exhibit surface is 3' (36") long minimum and 3' (36") high maximum

Forward Approach. Exhibit surface is 2'-6" (30") long minimum and 3' (36") high maximum, with 2'-3" (27") minimum knee clearance space under the counter.

Objects are identified and it is communicated to visitors that objects are meant to be touched.

Tactile models, maps, reproductions, and other exhibits are available whenever possible.

YES NO N/A

The model is made of materials that are comfortable to touch, resistant to wear, and finished with a coating that allows for routine cleaning.

There are no applied or glued elements on the model, but instead it is cast, carved, or CNC (computer numerical control) routed as one piece.

Color and images are incorporated in the materials, spray applied, or ink-jet printed. There is no brush-painted detail or self-adhesive vinyl decals or type used.

Varieties of texture are used to differentiate features, such as topography and vegetation, on the model.

Details of the model are in the appropriate scale and are discernible by finger touch.

Clear floor space is provided at exhibits, 2'6" by 4' (30" x 48") from a forward or parallel approach, with a 2% maximum slope in any direction on a firm and stable surface. See Figure 305.5.

YES NO N/A

Reach ranges for tactile and interactive exhibits and maps from a forward approach that is unobstructed are between 1'3" (15") minimum and 4' (48") maximum. See Figure 308.2.1. If the reach is obstructed a maximum of 1'8" (20"), the reach may be 4' (48") maximum, while where the obstruction is between 1'8" (20") and 2'1" (25"), the reach may be 3'8" (44") high maximum. See Figure 308.2.2.

Reach ranges for tactile and interactive exhibits and maps from a parallel approach that is unobstructed no more than 10" are between 1'3" (15") minimum and 4' (48") maximum. See Figure 308.3.1. If the side reach is obstructed no more than 10" maximum in depth and 2'10" (34") maximum in height, the high side reach is 4' (48") maximum in height. See Figure 308.3.2. Where the reach depth is between 10" and 2' (24"), the high side reach shall be 3'10" (46") maximum for a reach depth of 2' (24") maximum. See Figure 308.3.2.

Interpretive Waysides:

YES NO N/A

Letters are in a readable typeface of sans serif (Arial, Optima, Trebuchet, Frutiger, Helvetica, Tahoma, or Univers) or serif (NPS Rawlinson or Century). NPS standard fonts, Frutiger and NPS Rawlinson, are preferable.

Font size is 24pt (Helvetica) minimum.

Regardless of type size, there is sufficient space between characters, words, and lines. The default settings of Frutiger and NPS Rawlinson provide ample space.

Alignment is flush left and ragged right and hyphens are avoided.

Black or white type color is used or at least a 70% contrast is distinguishable (e.g., black text on any light colors, white text on dark colors. Contrast of typeface to background is between 70% and 95%.

Understandable hierarchical patterns and layouts are used to simplify reading.

Purely decorative elements or graphics in the background are avoided so that text is presented clearly.

YES NO N/A

Italicized and underlined text is avoided.

Special effects to text are only on large display fonts or headers, not on secondary text.

All-caps text is avoided.

Graphics (photographs, diagrams, and maps) are enlarged accordingly without distortion, loss of detail, contrast, focus, or clarity of image.

Photograph or image content clearly contrasts with surrounding content.

Line drawings are clear and bold with limited detail and a minimum type size of 16pt for labels. Tactile signage should be used whenever possible.

Clear floor space is provided at work surfaces, 2'6" by 4' (30" x 48") from a forward approach, with a 2% maximum slope in any direction on a firm and stable surface. See Figure 305.5.

Interpretive waysides provide 2'3" (27") minimum knee clearance under the surface.

Event Announcements:

YES NO N/A

Event announcements are provided with information to contact the park (email and phone number) to request special accommodations that may be needed.

Event announcements are provided in a variety of formats including large print, audio, and/or accessible PDF to meet the needs of diverse audiences.

Audio-Visual Systems and Videos:

YES NO N/A

Videos include open and/or closed captioning. The captions display spoken dialogue as printed words on television screens, computer monitors, projection screens, captions boards, and other visual displays. Text should indicate identification of speakers and nonverbal sound effects. Subtitles refer to translation only. Captions display vocabulary relevant to the audience. Open captioning is recommended as a best practice, and NPS guidelines state that all new media must be open-captioned, i.e., on at all times. A black bar underneath text is also recommended as a best practice to increase readability for users.

YES NO N/A

Black or white type color is used or at least a 70% contrast is distinguishable. Contrast of typeface to background shall be between 70% and 95%.

Graphics (photographs, diagrams, and maps) are enlarged accordingly without distortion, loss of detail, contrast, focus, or clarity of image.

Photograph or image content clearly contrasts with surrounding content.

Transcripts are available for videos in standard, large print format, and/or accessible digital documents (e.g., PDFs).

Cell Phone Tours and Audio Programs:

YES NO N/A

Black or white typeface colors are used on cell phone tour indicator signage of at least a 70% contrast and are distinguishable. Contrast of typeface to background shall be between 70% and 95%.

Letters of cell phone tour indicator signage are in a readable typeface of sans serif (Arial, Optima, Trebuchet, Frutiger, Helvetica, Tahoma, or Univers) or serif (NPS Rawlinson or Century). NPS standard fonts, Frutiger and NPS Rawlinson, are preferable. Font size is 24pt (Helvetica) minimum and provides sufficient space between characters, words, and lines.

Transcripts are available for cell phone tours in standard, large print format, and/or accessible digital documents (e.g., PDFs).

If applicable, walking routes are accessible with 3' (36") minimum width and 5' (60") minimum diameter turning spaces.

YES NO N/A

Where stopping points are provided at elements, they allow 2'6" x 4' (30" x 48") clear space from a forward or parallel approach with a 2% maximum slope in any direction on a firm and stable surface. See Figure 305.5. If necessary for drainage, slip underneath elements may be 8.33%.

Conditions for Exceptions:

The conditions in AGODA 1019 are the basis for using the exceptions to the requirements for outdoor constructed features and trails. On trails, the exceptions apply only on the portion of the route where the condition applies. The trail is required to fully comply with the requirements in chapter 10 of the AGODA at all other portions of the route where the conditions do not apply.

YES NO N/A

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | This project will use an exception in AGODA 1019.2 for outdoor constructed features and trails. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Compliance is not feasible due to terrain. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Compliance cannot be accomplished with the prevailing construction practices. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Compliance would fundamentally alter the function or purpose of the facility or the setting. |

Compliance is precluded by the:

- Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. §§ 1531 et seq.)
- National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. §§ 4321 et seq.)
- National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. §§ 470 et seq.)
- Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. §§ 1131 et seq.)
- Other federal, state, or local law the purpose of which is to preserve threatened or endangered species; the environment; or archeological, cultural, historical, or other significant natural features

route marking & graphic identity guide

