Potomac River

Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail

Potomac River

The Potomac is the widest tributary of the Chesapeake Bay. It is sometimes known as the "Nation's River" because it flows through Washington D.C. About 200 years before our country's capital city was built, the towns of Namoraughquend, Assaomeck, and Namassingakent stood there. The towns' names and locations were recorded by Captain John Smith, who sailed the Potomac from June 18 to July 16, 1608. The Potomac's Great Falls, managed by the National Park Service, are some of the steepest rapids on the east coast.

Learn more at nps.gov/cajo

Image courtesy Kaitlyn Dolan/ Chesapeake Bay Program