



Shaping a Star-Spangled Experience  
**Bladensburg**

Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail and Scenic Byway  
2011

## Vision for a Star-Spangled Experience at Bladensburg

*(text to be inserted)*



# Shaping a Star-Spangled Experience – Bladensburg

This document outlines a *preliminary* long-term concept for the Star-Spangled Banner Trail at Bladensburg. It is an initial draft prepared for purposes of illustrating how this area of the trail might be enhanced for the bicentennial period and beyond – and for seeking feedback on the concepts proposed. The potential actions described in this document do not yet represent commitments by any of the potential partners listed.

## Prepared by:

**National Park Service**  
Chesapeake Bay Office

## In cooperation with:

**Maryland Department of Development**  
Maryland Department of Business and Economic  
Development, Division of Tourism, Film and the Arts

**Maryland Department of Transportation**  
State Highway Administration  
Maryland Scenic Byway Program

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Bladensburg Circulation Concept

## Shaping a Star-Spangled Experience – Bladensburg

Highest priority projects needed to make the Star-Spangled Banner Trail a success in the Bladensburg area during the bicentennial period include:

- trail visitor center at Bladensburg Waterfront Park
- Battle of Bladensburg Walking Tour
- sidewalk improvements along Bladensburg Walking Tour
- mobile application supporting trail routes
- parking, and safe pull-offs for cars and buses
- Joshua Barney Monument (Undaunted)



Young Visitors Enjoying Bladensburg Waterfront Park

# Introduction

## The Star-Spangled Banner Trail

The Star-Spangled Banner Trail connects the places, people, and events that led to the birth of our National Anthem during the War of 1812. The Chesapeake region was a center of this critical struggle between the United States and Great Britain. The trail covers 300 miles of land and water routes in Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia along which the British armies and American defenders traveled and fought (figure 1). The trail incorporates both the Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail and the Star-Spangled Banner Scenic Byway.

Established by Congress in May 2008, the Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail is one of 19 national historic trails recognized for their historic value and their educational and recreational potential. The National Park Service (NPS) will administer the trail in partnership with public, private, and nonprofit organizations. The trail complements the Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Watertrails Network and shares many waterways with the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail.

The Star-Spangled Banner Scenic Byway is a state-designated driving route that follows over 100 miles of the historic paths travelled by the British within Maryland.

## Comprehensive Management Plan

Future visitors to the trail will enjoy a compelling unified star-spangled experience made possible by the work of many whose actions are implemented in concert with a joint comprehensive management plan (CMP) for the trail and corridor management plan (CMP) for the byway. The *Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail and Scenic Byway Comprehensive Management Plan and Corridor Management Plan and Environmental Assessment* (CMP) is a single management plan for the Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail and for the Star-Spangled Banner Scenic Byway in the state of Maryland. Prepared by the NPS, together with its partners in Maryland, Virginia, and the District of

Columbia, the CMP provides a guide for development of the trail over the next 20 years, establishing goals, guidelines, and recommended actions. It also outlines a wide range of partnership activities that will build and maintain the trail, including strategies to increase public appreciation of related historic and natural resources.

As a plan for trail management, the CMP includes findings and recommended actions required pursuant to the National Trails System Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1241-1251). As a plan for byway management, the CMP meets the requirements of a scenic byway corridor management plan (Federal Register/Vol. 60, No. 96/Thursday, May 18, 1995), which the Maryland State Highway Administration (MD SHA) has adopted for management of Maryland's scenic byways.

## Star-Spangled Experience at Bladensburg

Simultaneous with development of the CMP, the NPS initiated more detailed planning for six areas of the trail where community stakeholders and potential partners expressed a high level of interest in planning and development of the trail. The areas included: North Point, Bladensburg, Baltimore, the Upper Bay (including Havre de Grace, Elkton, and Georgetown), the District of Columbia, and Alexandria. Many stakeholders and potential partners in these areas are already engaged in planning commemorative events and programs for the War of 1812 bicentennial period and are interested in enhancing community interest in the trail as well as potential support for development of visitor facilities and interpretive media.

The Bladensburg planning process focused on bringing stakeholders together in each community to develop a shared understanding about future enhancements needed to support interpretive and educational experiences and to protect trail resources. The process also focused on establishing priorities for actions. Stakeholders included potential trail partners, such as local government agencies, non-profit organizations, for-profit organizations, historians, and interested members of the public.

## Planning Objectives for Bladensburg

Future development and management of the trail at Bladensburg should accomplish the following four principal objectives:

- make the trail immediately visible and visitor-ready for the bicentennial period (2012 to 2015)
- protect resources important to the trail for the enjoyment of the local community and visitors
- provide a variety of learning and recreation experience in diverse settings rich in natural beauty and history
- leverage investments and successes associated with the bicentennial period to build support for further development of the trail

## Relevant Plans of the Partners

Planning involved understanding and documenting relevant plans of the trail partners. These plans are for the War of 1812 bicentennial commemoration, improvements at partner sites having high historic significance and interpretive associations with the War of 1812, local community infrastructure projects potentially benefiting the trail, and relevant projects sponsored by local historic preservation groups. Most of the plans include assessments and recommendations that describe a variety of visitor experience related to the events of the War of 1812 or that would contribute to an exciting and diverse trail experience in the Bladensburg area.

Recent plans proposing site-specific ideas and projects relevant to the trail include:

- *Maryland War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission Plan of Action* (MD Bicentennial Commission 2009)
- *War of 1812 Interpretive Signage Placement Plan* (NPS 2011b)
- *Access, Stewardship and Interpretation Opportunity Plan for Water Portions of the Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail in Maryland* (MD DBED 2010)
- *The Plan for the Battle of Bladensburg/War of 1812 Commemoration DRAFT 2* (War of 1812 /Battle of Bladensburg Task Force 2010)

- *Bladensburg Town Center Sector Plan and Sectional Map Amendment* (M-NCPPC 2007)
- *Anacostia Trails Heritage Area Plan* (M-NCPPC 2001)
- *Port Towns Sector Plan and Sectional Map Amendment* (M-NCPPC 2009)

## Presentation of Findings

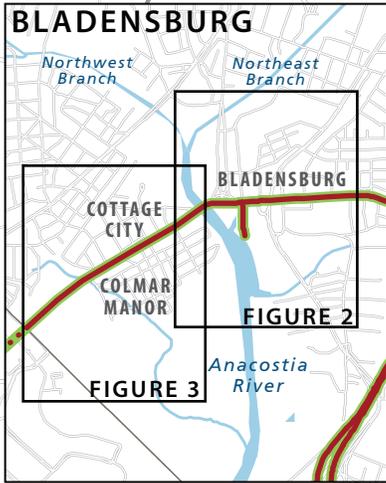
Findings from the planning process for Bladensburg are presented below under the following three headings:

- **Foundation for Planning** – Trail Purpose, Interpretive Themes, Historic and Archeological Resources, Recreation Opportunities
- **The Concept** – The Concept, Orientation to the Trail, Interpretive Media and Programming, Experiences at Historic and Archeological Resources, Recreation Opportunities
- **Implementation** – Partnerships, Recommended Actions, Priorities

Figure 1  
**Star-Spangled Banner Trail**

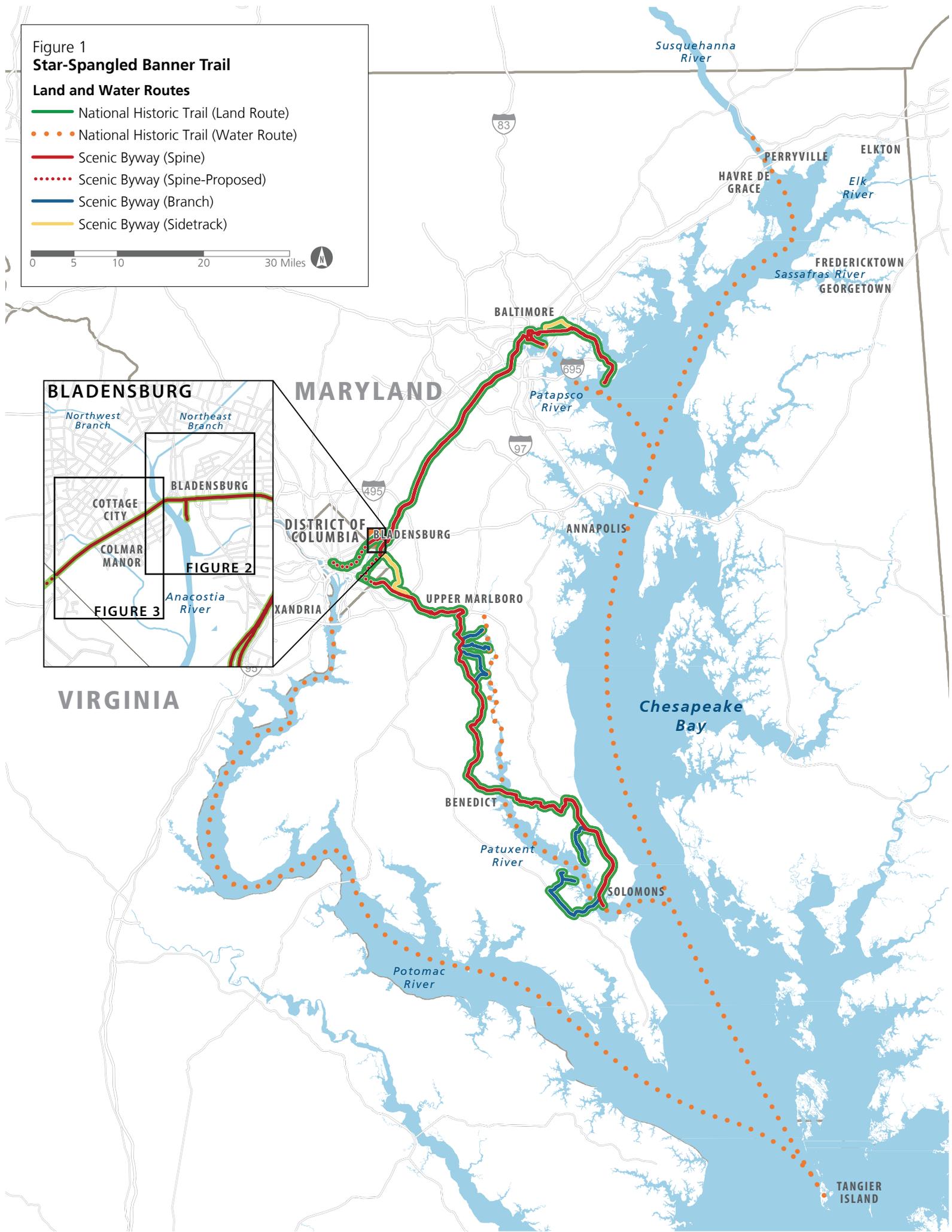
**Land and Water Routes**

-  National Historic Trail (Land Route)
-  National Historic Trail (Water Route)
-  Scenic Byway (Spine)
-  Scenic Byway (Spine-Proposed)
-  Scenic Byway (Branch)
-  Scenic Byway (Sidetrack)



**MARYLAND**

**VIRGINIA**



# Foundation for Planning

## Purposes of the Trail

The purposes of the Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail and Scenic Byway are to:

- protect the sites, landscapes, and routes significant to understanding the people, events, and ideals associated with the War of 1812 in the Chesapeake region and “The Star-Spangled Banner”
- provide educational and interpretive opportunities related to the War of 1812 and its relevance to modern society
- foster improved opportunities for land- and water-based recreation and heritage tourism

## Primary Interpretive Themes

The *Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail Interpretive Plan* (NPS 2011c) provides guidance for achieving a unified approach to developing and sustaining meaningful, high-quality interpretive services and visitor opportunities along the trail. The plan envisions a collaborative of public and private partners working together to interpret trail assets and to advocate for their protection. The plan helps trail partners at individual sites develop interpretive programs, services, and media that matches their site-specific assets to the types of audiences they serve and connect their places to the larger themes of the trail and to other geographic regions. Four primary interpretive themes (table 1) have been identified to provide a framework – and an inspiration – for selecting topics, storylines and interpretive approaches.

## Historic and Archeological Resources

Several special studies document historic and archeological resources related to the War of 1812, including the *Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail Feasibility Study and EIS* (NPS 2004) and *Report to Congress on the Historic Preservation of Revolutionary War and War of 1812 Sites in the United States* (NPS 2007), and recent efforts undertaken in preparation for the upcoming bicentennial commemoration of the war (Eshelman et al. 2010; Lyman et al. 2009; and MD Bicentennial Commission 2009).

Table 1. Primary Interpretive Themes

Interpretive Theme Statement	
<b>Theme 1</b>	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 three-year struggle that established a foundation for the United States’ economic independence and military strength.
<b>Theme 2</b>	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.
<b>Theme 3</b>	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.
<b>Theme 4</b>	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.

Six categories of historic resources are present along the trail (table 2) (NPS 2011c):

- battlefields
- cultural landscapes
- historic structures
- archeological sites
- museum collections and objects
- commemorative sites

**Table 2** War of 1812 Historic and Archeological Resources

Bladensburg	
<b>Battlefields</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Bladensburg American First Line</li> <li>- Bladensburg American Second Line</li> <li>- Bladensburg American Third Line</li> <li>- Fort Lincoln Cemetery/Barney Monument</li> </ul>
<b>Cultural Landscapes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Lowndes Hill</li> <li>- Barney Battery Site</li> <li>- evocative landscapes along the Anacostia River and its tributaries</li> <li>- evocative landscape at Bostwick House site</li> <li>- view of DC from Fort Lincoln Cemetery</li> <li>- view of Anacostia River from Bladensburg Waterfront Park</li> </ul>
<b>Historic Structures</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Market Master’s House</li> <li>- Magruder House</li> <li>- George Washington House</li> </ul>
<b>Archeological Sites</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Barney Battery Site</li> </ul>
<b>Interpretive Locations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Parthenon Site</li> <li>- Bladensburg Waterfront Park</li> <li>- Bladensburg Bridge Site</li> </ul>

Historic resources – with the exception of interpretive locations and some cultural landscapes (evocative landscapes) – are considered to have historic integrity and significance to the War of 1812 in the Chesapeake region.

In addition, along the trail many locations offer opportunities for interpretation that tell the stories about the causes, events, and outcomes of the war. At Bladensburg these include:

- Parthenon Site
- Bladensburg Waterfront Park
- Bladensburg Bridge Site

These sites lack integrity due to destruction, replacement, modern development, or intrusion. They therefore have interpretive value but are not the focus of preservation efforts.



Canon at American Third Line Battle Site (at Fort Lincoln Cemetery)



Grounds at Bostwick House



Market Master’s House

## Recreation Opportunities

Along the Anacostia River is an extensive network of stream valley parks offers diverse opportunities for active and passive recreation. These parks are the result of decades of land acquisition by the M-NCPPC, the NPS, and other partners. Today, several thousand acres of parkland buffer the river and protect the natural lands along its banks. The Anacostia Tributary Trail System follows rivers and creeks offering miles of hiking and biking trails that connect the parks along the water to local neighborhoods. Thousands of people of all ages and abilities use the parks and trails daily for exercise, relaxation, and socializing, including both local residents and visitors to the nation’s capital.

Following the network of trails visitors can walk or bike on a paved multi-use trail from Bladensburg Waterfront Park for several miles upstream along the Anacostia River, Northwest Branch, and Northeast Branch. Along Northwest Branch the trail continues upstream to Northwest Branch Stream Valley Park, Wheaton Regional Park, and Northwest Branch Recreational Park in Montgomery County. Along Northeast Branch the trail continues upstream to Indian Creek Stream Valley Park, Greenbelt Park, and Paint Branch Stream Valley Park. In the future the Anacostia River Walk will connect downstream to Anacostia Park in the District, enabling visitors to hike or bike from Bladensburg to the Potomac River . Other recreation activities along the trails include fishing, bird watching, in-line skating, and horseback riding.

Adjoining the stream valley parks along the Anacostia River are numerous local parks that provide active recreation facilities used by residents of local neighborhoods. Some parks are regional in scale, with facilities and parking supporting recreation needs for people well beyond local neighborhoods – such as Greenbelt Park which is a unit of NPS National Capital Parks East located just upstream of Bladensburg. Residents and visitors using these local and regional parks can extend their recreation experience by taking side trails along tributary streams that connect with the Anacostia Tributary Trail System.

Along the trail in the Bladensburg area Bladensburg Waterfront Park and Colmar Manor Community Park are two

local parks offering recreation opportunities. Bladensburg Waterfront Park on the Anacostia River features a public boat ramp, fishing pier, picnic pavilion, playground, and community boathouse. Free pontoon boat tours allow visitors to explore the river with a naturalist guide. Numerous special events are held at the park each year. A hiker/biker bridge across the Anacostia River links the park directly to the Anacostia Tributary Trail System. Colmar Manor Community Park includes athletic fields, tennis courts, basketball courts, a picnic area, and playground, as well as a canoe/kayak launch and connections to the Anacostia Tributary Trail System.



Free Anacostia River Tour Boat Leaves at Bladensburg Waterfront Park



Biker Enjoying the Anacostia River Trail in Anacostia River Park

## The Concept

At Bladensburg visitors would learn about the stories, places and people and untold stories of the War of 1812 with emphasis on the events of the summer of 1814 when the British marched into Bladensburg, defeated the American troops at the Battle of Bladensburg, and continued on to invade the Nation's capital.

### ORIENTATION

Bladensburg Waterfront Park would be a major attraction where the existing visitor center would become the primary visitor contact facility for the trail in the Bladensburg area. The trail website and new directional signage in the area would direct visitors to the waterfront park for orientation to the trail. There visitors would obtain information about the opportunities for learning and recreation in the Bladensburg area. New exhibits at the visitor center would tell stories of the War of 1812 and the Battle of Bladensburg, as well as stories about nature and wildlife, Native Americans and Captain John Smith, and the Chesapeake Bay.

### INTERPRETATION

Visitors would participate in interpretive programs focused on trail themes. These would be offered primarily at Bladensburg Waterfront Park, and at historic and archeological resource sites that are open for visitors and that are staffed in some fashion, such as George Washington House. Other partners would offer periodic special interpretive programs for visitors. M-NCPPC would continue to host most events at Bladensburg Waterfront Park. Additional events could be developed and promoted to engage visitors with the trail.

### PLACES TO VISIT ALONG THE TRAIL

Visitors would follow the trail from the visitor center to the various attractions along the trail where the events of the War of 1812 occurred or are commemorated. Interpretive media and programming would be focused at the sites of the American First Line, American Second Line (Dueling Grounds), American Third Line (Fort Lincoln Cemetery), Barney's Battery, Bostwick House, Magruder House, Market Square

and Market Master's House, and George Washington House. Visitors would be encouraged to follow the Battle of Bladensburg Walking Tour following the land routes used by the British and American military during the battle. Visitors would also follow the Dueling Creek Heritage Walk along Dueling Creek from Colmar Manor Park to Fort Lincoln Cemetery and the Bladensburg American Third Line site overlooking Washington, D.C. Mobile applications and brochures developed for self-guided tours would describe sites along each walking tour.

### RECREATION

Trail visitors would have access to the extensive network of existing recreational trails in the Anacostia Tributary Trail System. Accessing the Anacostia River Trail at Bladensburg Waterfront Park, visitors would be able to walk or bike upstream several miles to Wheaton or Greenbelt Park. Along the way they would have access to numerous local parks offering diverse opportunities for active recreation. In years to come, visitors to the trail would be able to walk downstream on the Anacostia River Walk to Anacostia Park and the Potomac River.

From Bladensburg Waterfront Park visitors would also access the Anacostia River for paddling. Following the tidal section of the river below the park, they would paddle the Kingfisher Canoe Trail downstream to explore Kenilworth Marsh, stop for a rest and visit to Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens, and then continue downstream past Kingman Island to a take-out facility at Anacostia Park near the Potomac River. Visitors without boats would explore the river on a free pontoon trip with a guide who would share stories about the natural history of the Anacostia River – a tributary to the Chesapeake Bay – and about the Battle of Bladensburg.

### RESOURCE PROTECTION

Resource protection at Bladensburg would focus on resources from the 1812 to 1815 period and restoration of the Anacostia River. Partners would assume primary responsibility for protection and the NPS would provide technical assistance with education of landowners regarding

stewardship, planning, partner acquisition, and identification of potential funding sources.

## **PARTNERSHIPS**

The trail would develop as partnerships are forged or enhanced with traditional and non-traditional partners who would collaborate to generally emphasize programs, media, and facilities to tell the stories of the War of 1812 at Bladensburg. Collaboration with the Captain John Smith Chesapeake NHT would support joint development of projects, programs, and facilities that provide recreational experiences and that would enhance visitor appreciation of the Anacostia River as a tributary to the Chesapeake Bay.

## **Illustrative Maps**

Figure 2 illustrates the existing and proposed visitor use facilities and interpretive media that would collectively provide the desired visitor experience along the trail in the Bladensburg area. The projects illustrated generally represent the collective ideas of the individual partners along the trail. Added to the projects from existing plans, are a number of projects identified during the concept planning process in meetings with partners and stakeholders.

## **Orientation to the Trail**

### **UNIFORM WAYSIDE AND DIRECTIONAL SIGNAGE**

In advance of the Bicentennial Celebration, plans are underway to design and install wayside signage along the trail that would tell the stories of the War of 1812 and that would direct visitors to those places. The NPS and its partners are evaluating candidate sites for 150 interpretive waysides and companion directional markers at important sites along the trail (NPS 2011b). A grant from the Federal Highway Administration's Scenic Byways program – awarded to Maryland's Star-Spangled Banner Byway – is funding design, fabrication, and installation of the signage.

Signs would incorporate content from a travel guide under development with scenic byways and NPS funding, using graphic standards compatible with NPS and site-specific guidelines. Signs would be implemented in three phases

from 2012 to 2014. The first 50 signs would be installed along the southern half of the trail in 2012; the remaining 100 signs would be installed along the northern half and at nationally significant locations along the trail that co-align with other state and national byways. At key features, route intersections and trail approaches, large panels or kiosks would provide visitors with a geographic and contextual overview of the trail to orient visitors to the sign system and nearby learning and recreation opportunities.

Among the initial 50 signs to be placed along the trail, ten would mark and interpret sites in the Bladensburg area, including:

- Market Square and Market Master's House
- Bostwick House
- Magruder House
- George Washington House and Balloon Park
- Bladensburg American First Line
- 40<sup>th</sup> Street and Bladensburg Road
- Bladensburg American Second Line (Dueling Grounds)
- Fort Lincoln Cemetery/American Third Line

### **INTERPRETIVE COMPANION SIGNS – ANACOSTIA TRAILS HERITAGE AREA (ATHA)**

Special markers would identify battlefield sites that today are located within the neighborhoods of Bladensburg, Colmar Manor, and Cottage City. They would be designed as either public art or large-scale markers that are clearly visible from the street and placed at or near War of 1812 sites to which people can drive. Visitors would pull-off the street and park. A wayside at the pull-off would tell relevant stories of the war. Partners have identified ten marker sites (BB Task Force 2010):

- Lowndes Hill
- Market Square and Market Master's House
- Bostwick House
- Magruder House
- Bladensburg Waterfront Park
- George Washington House and Balloon Park
- Bladensburg American First Line
- 40<sup>th</sup> Street and Bladensburg Road

- Bladensburg American Second Line (Dueling Grounds)
- Fort Lincoln Cemetery/American Third Line

#### **INTERPRETIVE COMPANION SIGNS – MD SHA**

Additional signs would be placed by the MD SHA to supplement interpretive waysides and markers placed by the Scenic Byways Program and by ATHA. These would present to the public a summary of knowledge obtained through archeological investigations at four sites in the Bladensburg area, in the vicinity of planned SHA roadway improvements. These waysides would be located at:

- Market Square and Market Master’s House
- Magruder House
- George Washington House and Balloon Park
- Barney Battery site

#### **VISITOR CONTACT – BLADENSBURG WATERFRONT PARK VISITOR CENTER**

The visitor center at Bladensburg Waterfront Park would be the primary visitor contact facility for trail visitors to the Bladensburg area. During the bicentennial celebration the visitor center would be the focus of the commemoration experience. Partners would collaborate to develop programs and events based at the visitor center and to raise funds to support program development and operations.

#### **Interpretive Media and Programming**

Meaningful experiences on the trail would be supported by programs and events interpreting key stories and engaging visitors in the trail and its themes. These might include the following:

#### **GUIDED BOAT TOURS**

Free guided pontoon boat tours would continue on the Anacostia River. Based at Bladensburg Waterfront Park, tours would be available periodically throughout the day during warm months of the year. Visitors would learn about the natural history of the river ecosystem as they float downstream with a naturalist guide through the wooded river corridor within Anacostia River Park.

Guided paddle trips would also be available from the park. With a naturalist guide, visitors would paddle downstream to explore the river corridor as well as Kenilworth Marsh, an extensive wetland system south of US 50 in the District of Columbia. Some visitors would continue further downstream to visit Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens.

#### **BATTLE OF BLADENSBURG WALKING TOUR (ATHA)**

The Battle of Bladensburg Walking Tour would direct visitors to War of 1812 sites throughout Bladensburg. The walking tour would guide visitors along land routes used by the British and American military during the Battle of Bladensburg and enable visitors to imagine challenges troops and residents faced during the war. Mobile applications and brochures developed for self-guided tours would describe sites along the walking tour.

An existing network of sidewalks would compose the Battle of Bladensburg Walking Tour. Appendix A presents a circulation concept for the walking tour, including identification of measures needed to ensure pedestrian safety. Projects recommended to enhance the visitor experience include:

- a mobile application supporting Battle of Bladensburg Walking Tour (BB Task Force 2010)
- new sidewalks
  - Quincy Street from 48<sup>th</sup> Street to 52<sup>nd</sup> Street
  - Upshur Street (US-1 Alt to 46<sup>th</sup> Street)
  - 46<sup>th</sup> Street
- sidewalk reconstruction
  - US-1 Alt (Upshur to 46<sup>th</sup> Street)
  - Annapolis Road MD 450 (south side of 47<sup>th</sup> Street to Kenilworth Avenue)
- intersection improvement projects (sidewalk repairs, ADA ramps, and road crossings)
  - 46<sup>th</sup> Street at Annapolis Road (MD 450)
  - 47<sup>th</sup> Street at Annapolis Road (MD 450)
  - 48<sup>th</sup> Street at Annapolis Road (MD 450)

Figure 2  
**Bladensburg Concept Plan**

**Existing Visitor Facilities**

- Trail
- ..... Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail
- Canoe/Kayak Launch
- Canoe/Kayak Outfitter
- Boat Ramp
- Fishing Pier
- Parking
- Picnic Pavilion
- Playground

**Potential Visitor Facilities**

- ..... Trail
- - - - Battle of Bladensburg Walking Tour (ATHA)
- Water Trail
- Interpretive Programming (for War of 1812 events)
- Interpretive Signs (funded through FHA Scenic Byways grant)
- Other Interpretive Companion Signs
- Star-Spangled Banner Visitor Center

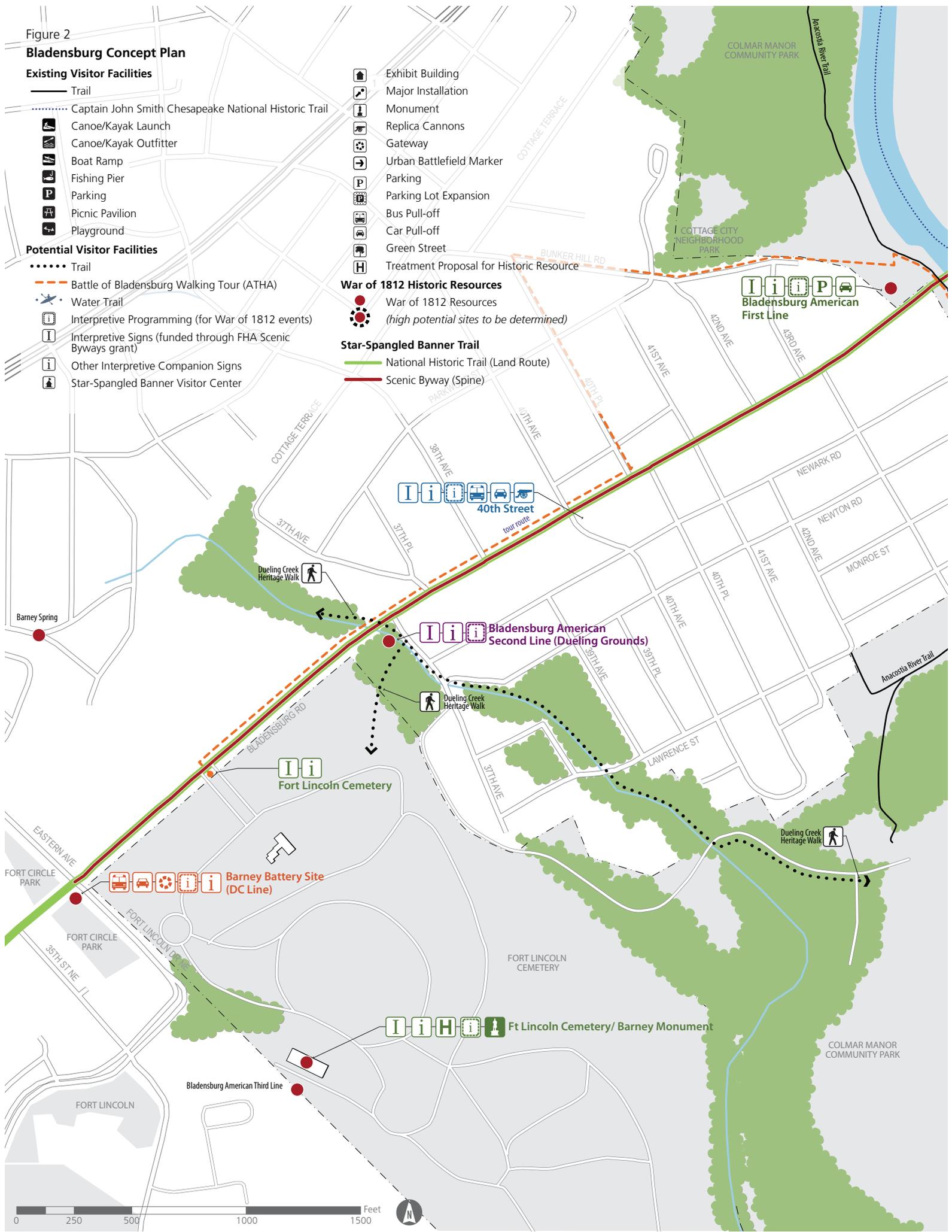
- Exhibit Building
- Major Installation
- Monument
- Replica Cannons
- Gateway
- Urban Battlefield Marker
- Parking
- Parking Lot Expansion
- Bus Pull-off
- Car Pull-off
- Green Street
- Treatment Proposal for Historic Resource

**War of 1812 Historic Resources**

- War of 1812 Resources  
*(high potential sites to be determined)*

**Star-Spangled Banner Trail**

- National Historic Trail (Land Route)
- Scenic Byway (Spine)



**I i i P**  
 Bladensburg American  
 First Line

**I i i i**  
 40th Street  
 tour route

**I i i i**  
 Bladensburg American  
 Second Line (Duelling Grounds)

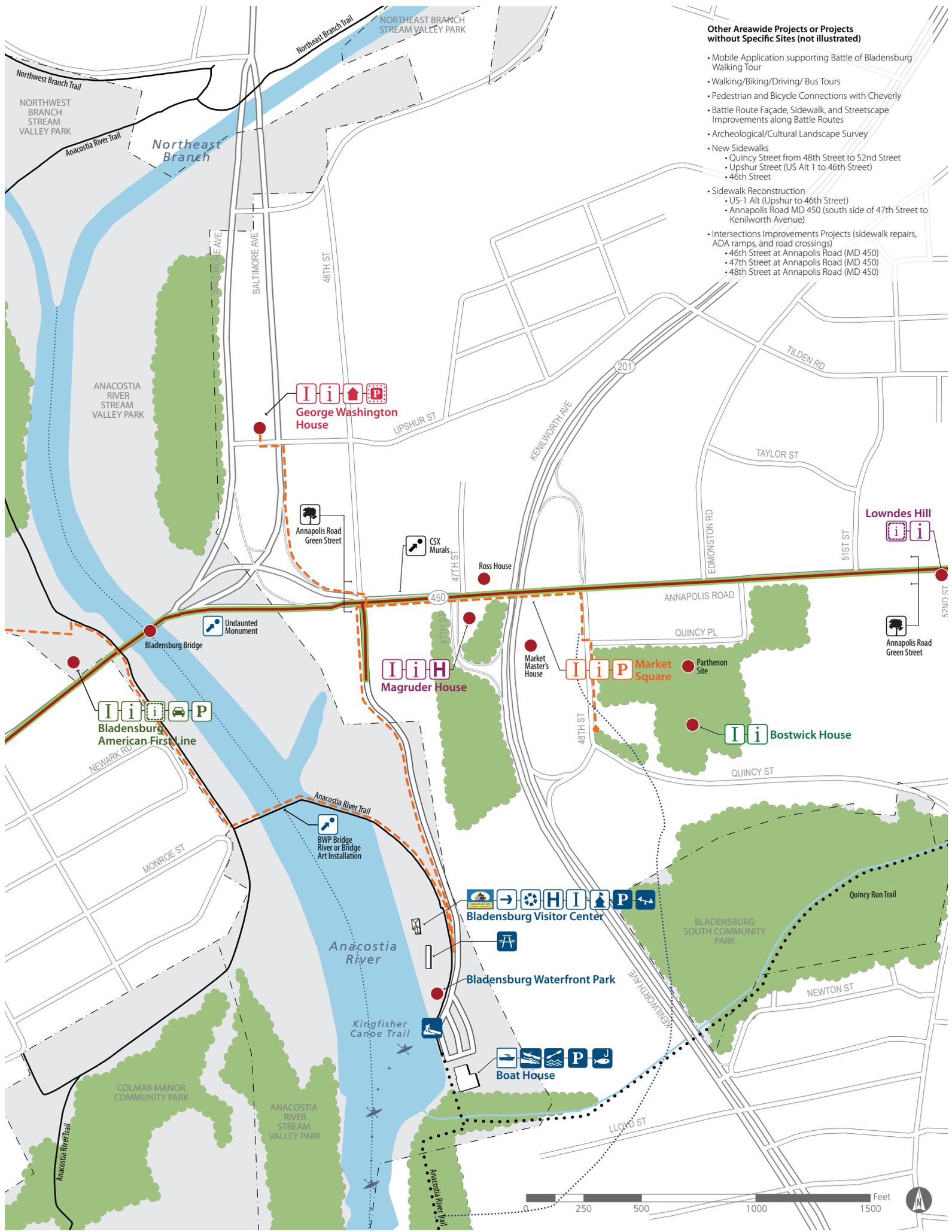
**I i**  
 Fort Lincoln Cemetery

**i i i i**  
 Barney Battery Site  
 (DC Line)

**I i i H i**  
 Ft Lincoln Cemetery/ Barney Monument

Bladensburg American Third Line





**Other Areawide Projects or Projects without Specific Sites (not illustrated)**

- Mobile Application supporting Battle of Bladensburg Walking Tour
- Walking/Biking/Driving/ Bus Tours
- Pedestrian and Bicycle Connections with Cheverly
- Battle Route Façade, Sidewalk, and Streetscape Improvements along Battle Routes
- Archeological/Cultural Landscape Survey
- New Sidewalks
  - Quincy Street from 48th Street to 52nd Street
  - Upshur Street (US Alt 1 to 46th Street)
  - 46th Street
- Sidewalk Reconstruction
  - US-1 Alt (Upshur to 46th Street)
  - Annapolis Road MD 450 (south side of 47th Street to Kenilworth Avenue)
- Intersections Improvements Projects (sidewalk repairs, ADA ramps, and road crossings)
  - 46th Street at Annapolis Road (MD 450)
  - 47th Street at Annapolis Road (MD 450)
  - 48th Street at Annapolis Road (MD 450)

**I i H P**  
George Washington House

Annapolis Road Green Street

CSX Murals

Ross House

**I i H**  
Magruder House

Market Master's House

**I i P**  
Market Square

Parthenon Site

**I i**  
Bostwick House

**I i**  
Lowndes Hill

Annapolis Road Green Street

**I i i i P**  
Bladensburg American First Line

Undaunted Monument

Bladensburg Bridge

Anacostia River Trail  
BWP Bridge River or Bridge Art Installation

**I i H I P**  
Bladensburg Visitor Center

Bladensburg Waterfront Park

**P**  
Boat House

Kingfisher Canoe Trail

BLADENBURG SOUTH COMMUNITY PARK

QUINCY RUN TRAIL

COLMAR MANOR COMMUNITY PARK

ANACOSTIA RIVER STREAM VALLEY PARK



## **DUELING CREEK HERITAGE WALK**

Visitors would follow the Dueling Creek Heritage Walk along Dueling Creek from Colmar Manor Park to Fort Lincoln Cemetery and the Bladensburg American Third Line site overlooking Washington, D.C. Interpretive signage and media would tell stories about the military preparations of the American's and the role of Barney and his marines in resistance to the British during the Patuxent campaign (MD DBED 2010).

## **GUIDED HIKE OR BIKE TOURS**

During special events, tour guides and storytellers would lead groups on tours of the area on foot, on bicycle, or by private vehicles. At other times, visitors would join periodic guided or interpreted tours of the area. Various partners would host tours, most of which would originate at Bladensburg Waterfront Park.

## **INTERPRETIVE PROGRAMS**

Visitors would participate in interpretive programs focused on trail themes. These would be offered primarily at Bladensburg Waterfront Park, and at historic and archeological resource sites that are open for visitors and that are staffed in some fashion, such as George Washington House. Other partners would offer periodic special interpretive programs for visitors.

## **SIGNATURE EVENTS**

Several partners already host War of 1812 related events at parks and historic and archeological resources sites in the Bladensburg area. M-NCPPC would continue to host most events at Bladensburg Waterfront Park. Additional events could be developed and promoted to engage visitors with the trail, such as cultural festivals, reenactments, paddling races, or bike rallies. Ideally there would be a continuing series of events and programs designed to draw targeted audiences to the trail.

## **Experiences at Historic and Archeological Resource Sites**

### **GEORGE WASHINGTON HOUSE AND BALLOON PARK**

The George Washington House and Balloon Park would be a major attraction in the Bladensburg area. Interpretive signs would describe the nearby British artillery position during the Battle of Bladensburg. A new building on the site would house exhibits related to the War of 1812.

Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the George Washington House currently serves as the Anacostia Watershed Society's headquarters. Located at a busy intersection, safety to adjacent parklands is a concern.

### **BLADENSBURG AMERICAN FIRST LINE SITE**

At the Bladensburg American First Line site an interpretive wayside, combined with views across the Anacostia River and adjoining woodlands, would enable visitors to envision a landscape where American soldiers positioned for days before the British arrived.

Located at the west end of the U.S. Alternate Route 1 Bridge, the Bladensburg American First Line site currently lacks safe vehicular access. Motorists now access the area via street parking on 43<sup>rd</sup> Avenue or Bunker Hill Road.

### **BLADENSBURG AMERICAN SECOND LINE SITE (DUELING GROUNDS)**

At the Bladensburg American Second Line site a new interpretive wayside would explain the battle events that occurred along Dueling Creek. The Dueling Creek Heritage Walk would begin at the Dueling Grounds site within the Dueling Creek Natural Area. The walk would take visitors to either the American Third Line site in Fort Lincoln Cemetery, or down Dueling Creek to Colmar Manor Community Park and the larger Anacostia River Trail network.

Owned and maintained by M-NCPPC, wetland ponds, fields, and forested lowlands characterize the 60-acre Dueling Creek Natural Area within Colmar Manor Park. Existing interpretive signs describe the park's history as a dueling ground.

### **BLADENSBURG AMERICAN THIRD LINE SITE (FORT LINCOLN CEMETERY)**

The American Third Line site in Fort Lincoln Cemetery would be a major attraction along the trail. The 178-acre cemetery includes a network of pathways, monuments, and interpretive signs describing the site's significance to the War of 1812 and the Civil War. At the highest point in the cemetery, visitors would find the site where the American Third Line was entrenched. There they would experience a striking vista of Washington, D.C. Looking across the landscape, they would learn about the American Third Line formed by American flotilla men and marines.

### **BARNEY BATTERY SITE (MARYLAND/D.C. LINE)**

At the Maryland/D.C. line signage would mark the entrance to the Battle of Bladensburg area. Visitors would stop at a new pull-off where an interpretive wayside would provide orientation to the area, telling the overall story of the Battle of Bladensburg and presenting findings of recent archeological research.

Located to the intersection of Bladensburg Road and Eastern Avenue, the site currently lacks opportunities for interpretation and access.

### **40<sup>TH</sup> STREET AND BLADENSBURG ROAD**

At 40<sup>th</sup> Street and Bladensburg Road, visitors would experience the site where Americans troops once stood as the British launched rockets at them. As visitors view replica cannons and interpretive signs, they would learn how 5,000 American troops once lined Bladensburg Road. Interpretive programming offered during special events would provide additional opportunities for visitors to learn about the Battle of Bladensburg.

### **MARKET SQUARE AND MARKET MASTERS HOUSE**

Market Square, a remnant of Colonial Bladensburg, served as a tobacco warehouse and market place during the 1800s. Visitors would read interpretive signs and learn how Bladensburg's proximity to navigable waterways established the town as a hub for trade and industry. Reading interpretive signs, visitors would learn about recent

archaeological surveys and discover what these findings reveal about Market Square and Market Master's House in the early 1800s.

Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the Aman Memorial Trust owns the Market Master House and rents the house as a private residence. The house and square are currently not open to the public.

### **BOSTWICK HOUSE**

At Bostwick House visitors would experience a Revolutionary era landmark related to trade and the military. Interpretive signs would describe the historic home, outbuildings, and gardens. Visitors would walk the grounds and learn about life during war from the perspective of the Stoddard family who owned the house in the early 1800s, their servants and slaves, and the British soldiers who used the house for their headquarters during the War of 1812.

Now owned by the town of Bladensburg and operated by the University of Maryland's Center for Heritage Resource Studies, the Bostwick House is listed on the National Register of Historical Places. The site currently includes an historical marker briefly describing the Bostwick House.

### **LOWNDES HILL**

Located along Annapolis Road, Lowndes Hill marks the site where the British encamped before the Battle of Bladensburg. Lowndes Hill would be a stop along the trail during special events. Interpretive signs would describe how the British first spotted the American First Line and provide an overview of the British and American troop movements throughout Bladensburg.

While Lowndes Hill was once a site surrounded by fields, today it is the site of Bladensburg Elementary School and adjoining development restricts views of the historic battlefield. Because of the elementary school access to the site for visitors is constrained.

### **MAGRUDER HOUSE**

Visitors to Magruder House would learn about how the British used the house as a hospital during the War of 1812.

Magruder House has not been significantly altered since it was built in 1743. Today Prince George’s Heritage, Inc. owns the building and uses it for its offices.

## Recreation Opportunities

### WATER TRAILS

The Maryland Office of Business and Economic Development (MD DBED) – in collaboration with the NPS, the Maryland Bicentennial Commission, and other state agencies – recently completed a plan outlining opportunities for expanding access, stewardship, and interpretation for water portions of the trail (MD DBED 2010). The plan identifies eleven areas along the trail where water trails are recommended to create water-based visitor experiences that are connected programmatically – through trail guides, maps, and itineraries – and that bring visitors from the water to War of 1812 resources. These areas are designated highest priority for implementation. The Anacostia River Branch/Bladensburg Segment is one of the eleven areas recommended for investment. Led by investments of the Maryland War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission, full implementation of the plan would require coordinated federal, state, and local partners, including government agencies, non-profit and for-profit organizations, and individuals.

**Kingfisher Canoe Trail.** Some visitors would choose to paddle the Anacostia River following the Kingfisher Canoe Trail, an 8-mile guided paddle trail from the Bladensburg Waterfront Park to the Anacostia Park boat ramp in Washington, D.C. Attractions along the trail include Kenilworth Marsh, Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens, the National Arboretum, Kingman Island, and recreational facilities in Anacostia Park. Interpretive media would be expanded to tell the stories of the War of 1812.

#### **Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail.**

Paddlers on the Anacostia River following the Kingfisher Trail would also be following the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail. Interpretive programming would also tell the stories of the John Smith Trail. Facilities would be developed jointly to support both trails.

### HIKING/BIKING TRAILS

**Anacostia River Trail, Northeast Branch Trails, Northwest Branch Trail.** Visitors to the trail in the Bladensburg area would have access to the extensive network of hiking/biking trails largely managed by M-NCPPC in Anacostia River Park and the stream valley parks upstream of Bladensburg. The trail network would be easily accessed from Bladensburg Waterfront Park or from the many local parks in the area which connect with the Anacostia River Park, such as Colmar Manor Park.

### BLADENSBURG WATERFRONT PARK

Bladensburg Waterfront Park would be a major attraction along the trail. At the visitor center, visitors would collect brochures and other materials to acquaint themselves to Bladensburg and the events of 1812. Exhibits, interpretive signs, and urban battlefield markers located throughout the park would describe the Battle of Bladensburg. Walking along the waterfront promenade, visitors would look across the Anacostia River and view the site where the British crossed the river to attack the American First Line. Special events in the Bladensburg segment of the trail would be focused at the park.

Operating from the Bladensburg Waterfront Park, “A Soldier’s Life” pontoon tour would take visitors out onto the Anacostia River where they would learn about military life during the War of 1812. From the boat ramp, visitors would launch canoes and kayaks to explore the river along the Kingfisher Canoe Trail, traveling alone or as part of a guided tour.

M-NCPPC owns and operates Bladensburg Waterfront Park, which is a CBGN site.

## Resource Protection

### ANACOSTIA RIVER RESTORATION

The Anacostia River forms at the confluence of Northwest Branch and Northeast Branch just above Bladensburg Waterfront Park. For decades urban development and water use within the watershed have adversely impacted the river. A regional multijurisdictional effort, underway since 1987, is

working to restore the Anacostia River. Restoration goals focus on reducing pollutant loads, restoring ecological integrity, restoring natural fish populations, increasing habitat diversity, expanding forest cover within the watershed, and increasing citizen and private awareness of how river restoration would benefit the community.

Recommended as part of the investment in Bladensburg to tell the stories of the War of 1812 is support for the restoration of the Anacostia River. The Maryland War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission's *Plan of Action* (MD Bicentennial Commission 2010) recommends funding for river restoration recognizing that restoration efforts will enhance the interpretive and recreational experience for visitors and residents as they learn about the War of 1812 and enjoy the many recreation opportunities associated with the Anacostia River in the Bladensburg area.

#### **ARCHEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS**

The Cultural Resources Section of the MD SHA recently sponsored the Bladensburg Archaeology Project, including the following four elements:

- Battle of Bladensburg survey
- Indian Queen Tavern excavation
- Market Master's House excavation
- Magruder House excavation

Investigations revealed evidence of the events of the War of 1812 in the Bladensburg area. Findings will be summarized for the public in wayside exhibits at each of the four sites.

Phase 2 of the investigation at the Battle of Bladensburg site in Fort Lincoln Cemetery will examine an undisturbed area along the District of Columbia/Maryland line, where archeologists hope to find more intact evidence of the battle. Resource protection actions will be taken, as appropriate, to protect resources documented through the Phase 2 investigations.

## **4. Implementation**

### **Partnerships**

Trail partners will continue to move forward with implementing the actions outlined above that will collectively create the desired Star-Spangled Banner experience along the trail in the Bladensburg area. The partners will at times work independently and at times in collaboration with one another.

Some of the partners who will help make the trail a reality in the Bladensburg area include:

- Public and Nonprofit Managers
  - Anacostia Trails Heritage, Inc.
  - Anacostia Watershed Society
  - Anacostia Watershed Restoration Partnership
  - Town of Bladensburg
  - Town of Colmar Manor
  - Prince George's County
  - Prince George's County Public Schools
  - Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC)
  - Maryland Department of Natural Resources
  - Maryland Department of Transportation
- Public and Private Charitable Organizations
  - George A. and Carmel D. Aman Memorial Trust
  - Prince George's Heritage, Inc.
- Tourism Organizations
  - Maryland Office of Tourism Development
- Commercial Facilities and Services
  - motels and other overnight accommodations
  - guide services
  - tour operators
  - equipment sales and rental businesses
- Educational and Research Institutions

## Recommended Actions

To make the trail a success in the Bladensburg area during the bicentennial period highest priority should be placed on implementing the following six projects:

- Trail Visitor Center at Bladensburg Waterfront Park
- Battle of Bladensburg Walking Tour
- sidewalk improvements along Battle of Bladensburg Walking Tour
- mobile application supporting trail routes
- parking, and safe pull-offs for cars and buses
- Joshua Barney Monument (Undaunted)

Table 3 summarizes these six projects, as well as others recommended in the North Point area. Projects are grouped by priority – high, moderate, and low. Project priorities were established by developing and applying criteria to evaluate how well each project would perform. Criteria considered

how each project would enhance the visitor experience, how it would protect trail resources, and whether it has a sponsor with demonstrated capacity to implement the project who is ready for visitors.

Also considered was the extent to which the project will support the upcoming bicentennial of the War of 1812. Most – but not all – projects are ranked high priority if they are identified in the *Maryland War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission Plan of Action* (MD Bicentennial Commission 2009).

Estimated costs and optimum finish dates are taken from source planning documents, where provided. Funding for projects will come through a variety of public, private, and non-profit sources, if and when it is available. The potential actions described in this document do not yet represent commitments by any of the potential partners listed.

**Table 3. Star-Spangled Banner Trail Implementation Priorities<sup>1</sup>**

Project	Site	Lead Partner	Source Planning Document (s)	Estimated Cost	Optimum Finish Date
<b>High Priority Projects</b>					
Trail Visitor Center	Bladensburg Waterfront Park	MNCPPC	Maryland War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission Plan of Action	\$3,000,000	2012
Battle of Bladensburg Walking Tour	Battle of Bladensburg Walking Tour	Anacostia Trails Heritage Area	Plan for the Battle of Bladensburg War of 1812 Commemoration (BB Task Force 2010)	TBD	2012-2014
Sidewalk Improvements along Walking Tour Route on Quincy, Upshur, and 46 <sup>th</sup> Streets, US Route 1 Alt and Annapolis Road	Battle of Bladensburg Walking Tour	MD SHA	Battle of Bladensburg Task Force	\$347,500 – \$421,375	2012-2014
Mobile Application supporting Tour Routes	Battle of Bladensburg Walking Tour	Anacostia Trails Heritage Area	Plan for the Battle of Bladensburg War of 1812 Commemoration	TBD	2012-2014
Parking, and Safe Pull-Offs for Cars and Busse	40 <sup>th</sup> and Bladensburg Road at the American Line	Anacostia Trails Heritage Area, Development Partner	Plan for the Battle of Bladensburg War of 1812 Commemoration	TBD	2012-2014
Joshua Barney Monument (Undaunted)	Bladensburg Waterfront Park	Aman Trust	Plan for the Battle of Bladensburg War of 1812 Commemoration	\$400,000	2014
Biking/Driving/ Bus Tours	Areawide	Anacostia Trails Heritage Area	Plan for the Battle of Bladensburg War of 1812 Commemoration (BB Task Force 2010)	\$30,000	2012-2014
Gateway Element, Restore Barney Barge Replica, Urban Battlefield Marker	Bladensburg Waterfront Park	MNCPPC	Plan for the Battle of Bladensburg War of 1812 Commemoration	TBD	2012-2014
Intersection Improvements at 46 <sup>th</sup> 47 <sup>th</sup> and 48 <sup>th</sup> Streets and Annapolis Road	Battle of Bladensburg Walking Tour	MD SHA	Battle of Bladensburg Task Force	\$75,000	2012-2014
Exhibit Building	George Washington House	Anacostia Watershed Society	Maryland War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission Plan of Action	\$250,000	2012
Bridge Art	Kenilworth Bridge Tunnel	Anacostia Trails Heritage Area	Plan for the Battle of Bladensburg War of 1812 Commemoration	\$50,000	2012-2014

**Table 3. Star-Spangled Banner Trail Implementation Priorities<sup>1</sup>**

Project	Site	Lead Partner	Source Planning Document (s)	Estimated Cost	Optimum Finish Date
<b>Medium Priority Projects</b>					
Remaining Battle Route Façade, Sidewalk, and Streetscape Improvements	Areawide	Stakeholders	Maryland War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission Plan of Action	\$3,500,000	2014
Interpretive Companion Signs	Areawide	Anacostia Trails Heritage Area	Anacostia Trails Heritage Area (personal communication)	TBD	2014
Interpretive Programming for Special Events	Areawide	Anacostia Trails Heritage Area	Maryland War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission Plan of Action	TBD	2014
Pedestrian and Bicycle Connections with Cheverly	Areawide	M-NCPPC	M-NCPPC	TBD	Ongoing
Anacostia River Restoration	Areawide	Anacostia Watershed Restoration Partnership	Maryland War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission Plan of Action	\$2,500,000	2014
Gateway Element, Pull-Off for Cars and Busses	Barney Battery Site (D.C. Line)	TBD	Plan for the Battle of Bladensburg War of 1812 Commemoration	TBD	2014
Battlefield Preservation	Bladensburg American 3 <sup>rd</sup> Line (Fort Lincoln Cemetery)	Stakeholders	Maryland War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission Plan of Action	TBD	2014
Dueling Creek Heritage Walk	Bladensburg American Second Line (Dueling Grounds)	Anacostia Trails Heritage Area	Maryland War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission Plan of Action	TBD	2014
Parking Expansion	George Washington House	Anacostia Watershed Society	Stakeholders	TBD	2014
Interior and Exterior Exhibits	Magruder House	Prince George's Heritage	Maryland War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission Plan of Action	\$300,000	2012
<b>Low Priority Projects</b>					
Rehabilitation, Exterior Site Work, Handicapped Accessibility	Magruder House	Prince George's Heritage	Maryland War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission Plan of Action	\$500,000	2011
Parking	Market Square	Aman Trust	Plan for the Battle of Bladensburg War of 1812 Commemoration	TBD	2014

<sup>1</sup> The actions described in table 3 above do not represent commitments by any of the potential partners listed.

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**PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY - WAR OF 1812 WALKING TOUR CONCEPT**



**Star Spangled Banner Scenic Byway**  
Bladensburg - Circulation Concept

DRAFT - 08/30/11

