

Shaping a Star-Spangled Experience **North Point**

Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail and Scenic Byway
2011

Vision for a Star-Spangled Experience at North Point

By connecting important sites, themes, and landscapes from the War of 1812, the North Point portion of the Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail and Scenic Byway will revive a dormant suite of natural and cultural resources on a historic Chesapeake peninsula.

In 2030, the heroic defense of Baltimore is a well-shared story among residents and visitors alike, stirring national pride and a heightened sense of place. The family casting bait into the Patapsco River at Fort Howard Park encounters trail signage that invokes the scene from 1814, when British ships filled the horizon. A tour boat from Fort McHenry—the famous origin of the Star-Spangled Banner—docks nearby, giving visitors a meaningful connection to the land-based battle for Baltimore and the courageous role of citizen-soldiers who turned back more than four thousand British troops. On crisp fall days, North Point State Park bustles with re-enactors that draw tourists by boat, car, and bicycle. Touch-points like the Gorsuch Farm, Todd's Inheritance, and Battle Acre Park are part of the local showcase, well groomed and promoted, offering trails, picnic areas, and interpretive programs that bring the North Point story to life.

Residents and visitors also connect with the rich ecosystem of the Chesapeake Bay, from dramatic views at the mouth of the Patapsco River to the shallow coves of Bear Creek. Layers of history and landscape converge with hours of outdoor recreation for people of all ages. A series of water trails, with convenient launch sites for kayaks and canoes, transforms shorelines from boundaries to gateways. Paddlers travel the same routes of British vessels and make shoreline stops at historic points along Bear Creek and Back River. At the North Point State Battlefield—the site of the Battle of Bladensburg—visitors will learn how American forces successfully defended the land route to Baltimore, delaying the British forces and giving time for the defenders to prepare for the attack on the city. At the Bauer Farm, they find peaceful fields and forests that evoke the setting of 1814 as the British began to attack and plunder. Fishing piers are improved and expanded. At the Black Marsh Heritage Area, educators introduce school groups to the marvels of wetlands—and invite students to imagine British soldiers, fighting their way through the foreign maze of “swamps” on the peninsula.

Many of North Point's attractions are knit together by the North Point Heritage Greenway Trail. The trail provides safe access to parks and historic sites by foot or by bike, while connecting with local schools, several community facilities, and the Chesapeake Bay. A growing number of tourists and local residents explore the trail and frequent local businesses along the way. Their experience of North Point deepens, strengthening local and regional stewardship of its historic and natural resources for generations to come.



Shaping a Star-Spangled Experience – North Point

This document outlines a *preliminary* long-term concept for the Star-Spangled Banner Trail at North Point. 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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Shaping a Star-Spangled Experience – North Point

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

- North Point State Battlefield and Battle Acre Park rehabilitation (phase 1)
- North Point Heritage Greenway Trail completion
- War of 1812 Exhibit at North Point State Park Visitor Center design and installation
- North Point Water Trail development
- British Troop Landing Site at Fort Howard enhancements
- Bear Creek Water Trail and Maryland Line Trail development



Stakeholders and Interested Marylanders Receiving a Demonstration at North Point State 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.

The 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 North Point

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 North Point 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 North Point

Future development and management of the trail at North Point 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 experiences 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 experiences related to the events of the War of 1812 or that would contribute to an exciting and diverse trail experience in the North Point 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)
- *Baltimore County Capital Improvements Team – List of Priorities* (Baltimore County 2010d)
- *War of 1812 Interpretive Signage Placement Plan* (NPS 2011b)
- *North Point State Park Visitor Center – War of 1812 Exhibits Concept Plan* (NPS 2011e)
- *Access, Stewardship and Interpretation Opportunity Plan for Water Portions of the Star-Spangled*

Banner National Historic Trail in Maryland (MD DBED 2010)

- *North Point Heritage Greenway Trail* (Baltimore County and North Point Peninsula Council 2010c)
- *North Point State Battlefield Concept Plan* (NPS 2011d)
- *Battle Acre Historic Park Rehabilitation and Improvement Project Proposal and Plan* (Baltimore County 2007a)
- *North Point Peninsula Community Plan* (Baltimore County 2007b)
- *Star-Spangled Banner Hiker Biker Trail* (Donnelly 2010)

Other recent plans with less relevant or more general recommendations and older documents include:

- *North Point State Park and Black Marsh Wildlands Master Plan* (MD DNR 1993)
- *Baltimore County Master Plan 2020* (Baltimore County 2010a)
- *Greater Dundalk-Edgemere Community Conservation Plan* (Baltimore County 2000)

Presentation of Findings

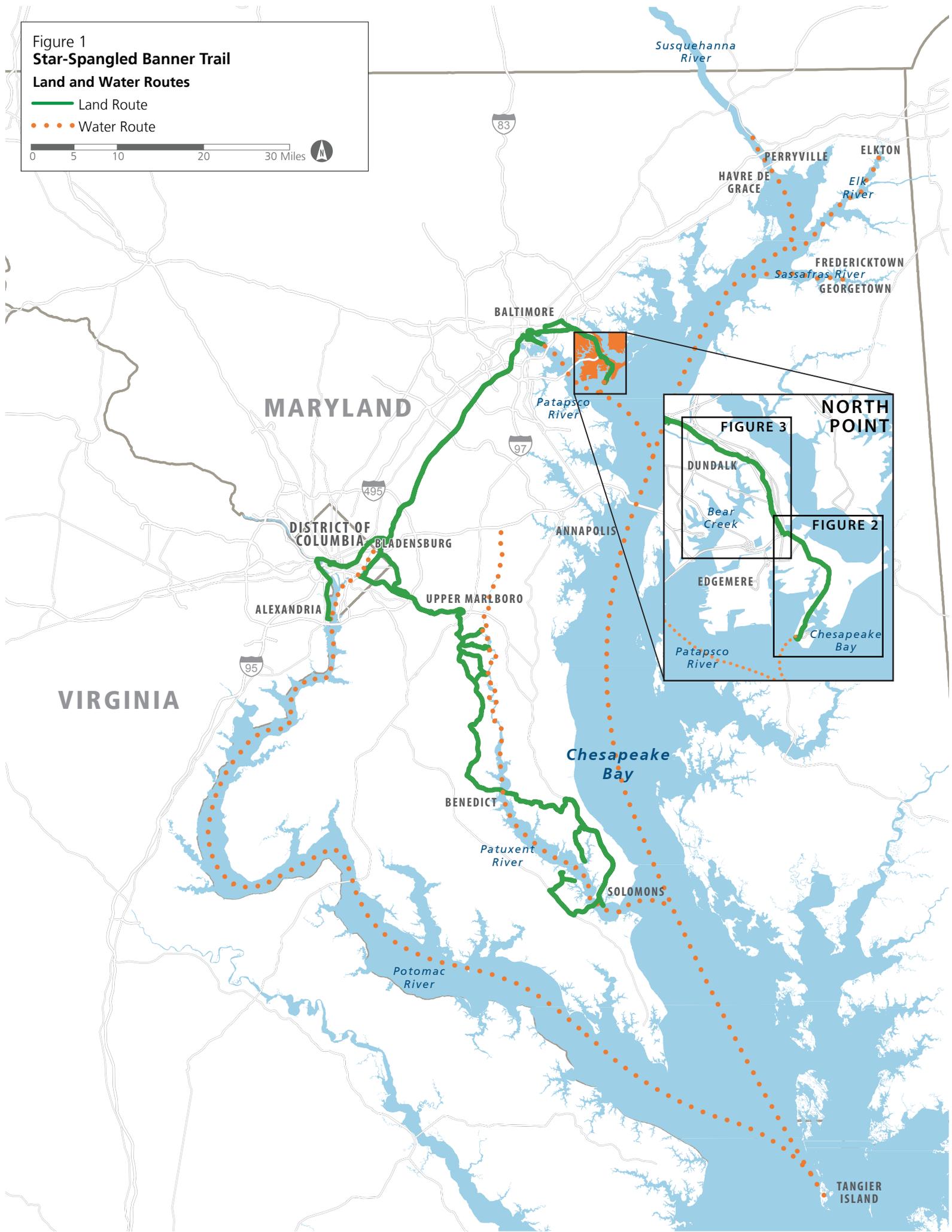
Findings from the planning process for North Point are presented below under the following three headings:

- **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

- Land Route
- Water Route



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	
Theme 1	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.
Theme 2	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.
Theme 3	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.
Theme 4	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

North Point Peninsula	
Battlefields	- North Point State Battlefield
Archeological Sites	- Ridgely House - Todd's Inheritance - Shaw House Foundation and Cemetery
Cultural Landscapes	- North Point Landing - North Point State Park - landscapes evocative of the early 19 th century (particularly along North Point Road and at North Point State Park)
Commemorative Sites	- Aquila Randall Monument - Battle Acre Park



Shaw Cemetery

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 North Point these include:

- Fort Howard (former Veterans Administration (VA) property)
- Lodge Farmhouse Site
- General Ross Death Site
- Gorsuch Farm Site
- Bear Creek Park
- Charlesmont Park
- Methodist Meeting House Site



Battle Acre Park

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.

In North Point the land route of the trail generally follows the historic travel route of the British army from its landing point near Fort Howard (former VA property) along North Point Road to the site of the Battle of North Point in Dundalk (figure 2).



North Point Landing at Fort Howard

Recreation Opportunities

Along the trail at North Point there are outstanding opportunities for a wide variety of land- and water-based recreation activities. The quality of these experiences is enhanced by the rural character retained throughout much of the North Point Peninsula – from the town of Edgemere to Fort Howard Veterans Park – found in few locations so close to Baltimore City. Much of the North Point Road corridor remains highly evocative of the early 19th century. This, together with the dramatic water views of the Chesapeake Bay and the intimate views of small tidal rivers, significantly enhances the quality of recreation experiences.

North Point State Park (including Black Marsh, one of Maryland’s 32 natural heritage areas) encompasses much of the North Point Peninsula south of Edgemere, along with a number of Baltimore County parks and Fort Howard, owned by the Veterans Administration. North Point State Park attracts visitors from the local community and from all over the region who come to hike and bike its trails and to enjoy the Chesapeake Bay. Visitors can spend an entire day along the shore, picnicking, walking, biking, fishing, and participating in interpretive programs.

In the future, development of the North Point Heritage Greenway Trail will offer hiking and biking connections from Edgemere to North Point State Park and Baltimore County’s Veterans Park, linking War of 1812 sites on the peninsula, such as Todd’s Inheritance and the Shaw House Foundation.

Most sites offer visual access to the water, although only two currently have boat launching facilities and only one has docking facilities for power boats. Future development of the North Point Water Trail around the tip of the peninsula will greatly enhance opportunities for paddling on the Back River, along the Chesapeake Bay shoreline of North Point State Park, Shallow Creek, the Patapsco River, and North Point Creek. Other improvements to North Point State Park, Fort Howard Park, and Fort Howard will include new interpretive trails, fishing piers, picnicking facilities, and observation decks that will greatly enhance opportunities for day-use recreation.

The Bear Creek area of the North Point Peninsula offers a network of Baltimore County parks and school sites with active recreation facilities and waterfront day-use areas that have picnicking facilities, walking trails, and boat launches (for motorized and non-motorized boats). Future development of the Bear Creek Water Trail from the mouth of Bear Creek to Charlesmont Park will enhance opportunities for paddling in the area. Improvements to Battle Acre Park and North Point State Battlefield will enhance opportunities for passive recreation at both sites.



Beach at North Point State Park



Fishing on Bear Creek

The Concept

At North Point 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 landed near North Point and were delayed in their march to Baltimore at the ensuing Battle of North Point.

ORIENTATION

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

Secondary visitor contact facilities would be available at Todd's Inheritance and at the North Point State Battlefield.

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 Fort Howard, Todd's Inheritance, the Shaw House Foundation and Cemetery, Gorsuch Farm and the Ross Death Site, the Aquila Randall Monument, North Point State Battlefield, and Battle Acre Park. New signage, itineraries, maps, and virtual media would strengthen connections among these sites.

RECREATION

Visitors would enjoy enhanced opportunities for recreation at state and local parks – on both land and water. New water trails would enable boaters to explore the waters around the North Point Peninsula and in the Bear Creek area. Water trail guides would be produced for the North Point Water Trail and the Bear Creek Water Trail. Several new

canoe and kayak soft launches would be developed, along with paddlers waysides along the water trail routes where paddlers can stop, get out of their boats for a rest and where interpretive media would be available.

Enhanced opportunities for day-use, walking, biking, and site-seeing would be available at local parks along the trail, such as Fort Howard Park, Fort Howard Veterans Park, and parks along the shoreline of Bear Creek (such as Charlesmont, Bear Creek, and Stansbury Parks). Connecting land trails would also link many parks and attractions. North Point Heritage Greenway would provide a safe connection for hikers and bikers from Edgemere to Fort Howard Veterans Park (with a possible future extension to the Patapsco River at North Point Landing). The Defenders Trail would continue as a nine-mile travel route beginning at Fort Howard (former VA property) with a guide produced by the Dundalk-Patapsco Neck Historical Society. The new Maryland Line Trail would connect visitors to recreational and interpretive opportunities along Bear Creek, with a connection to Battle Acre Park and North Point State Battlefield. In the future a Star-Spangled Banner Hiker/Biker Trail could be developed that connects Edgemere (the north endpoint of the North Point Heritage Greenway) to Patterson Park in Baltimore City, making it possible to safely hike or bike from Fort Howard to Baltimore.

RESOURCE PROTECTION

Resource protection at North Point would focus on resources from the 1812 to 1815 period and landscapes evocative of the early 19th century that are on, or in close proximity to the land and water routes of the trail. 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 North

Point. 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 Chesapeake Bay.

Illustrative Maps

Figures 2 and 3 illustrate the existing and proposed visitor use facilities and interpretive media that would collectively provide the desired visitor experience along the trail in the North Point 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.

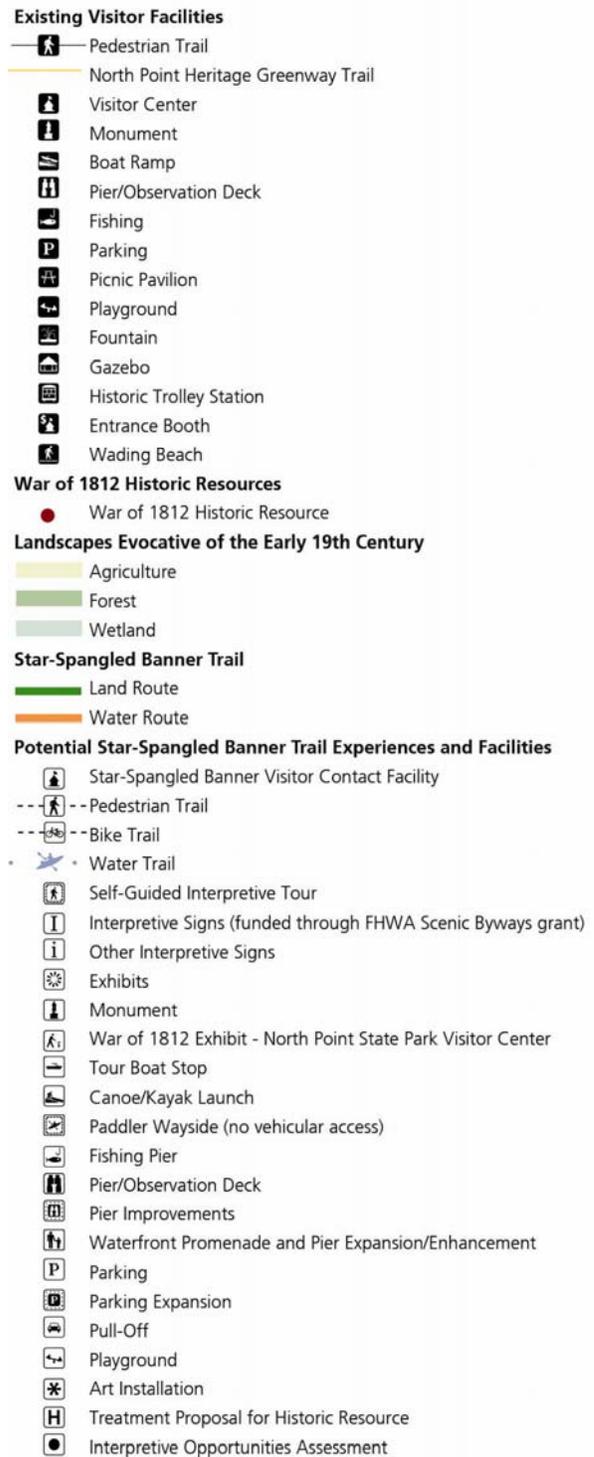
Orientation to the Trail

UNIFORM WAYSIDE AND DIRECTIONAL SIGNAGE

In advance of the Bicentennial Celebration, plans are underway to design and install wayside signage along the trail that will tell the stories of the War of 1812 and that will 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.

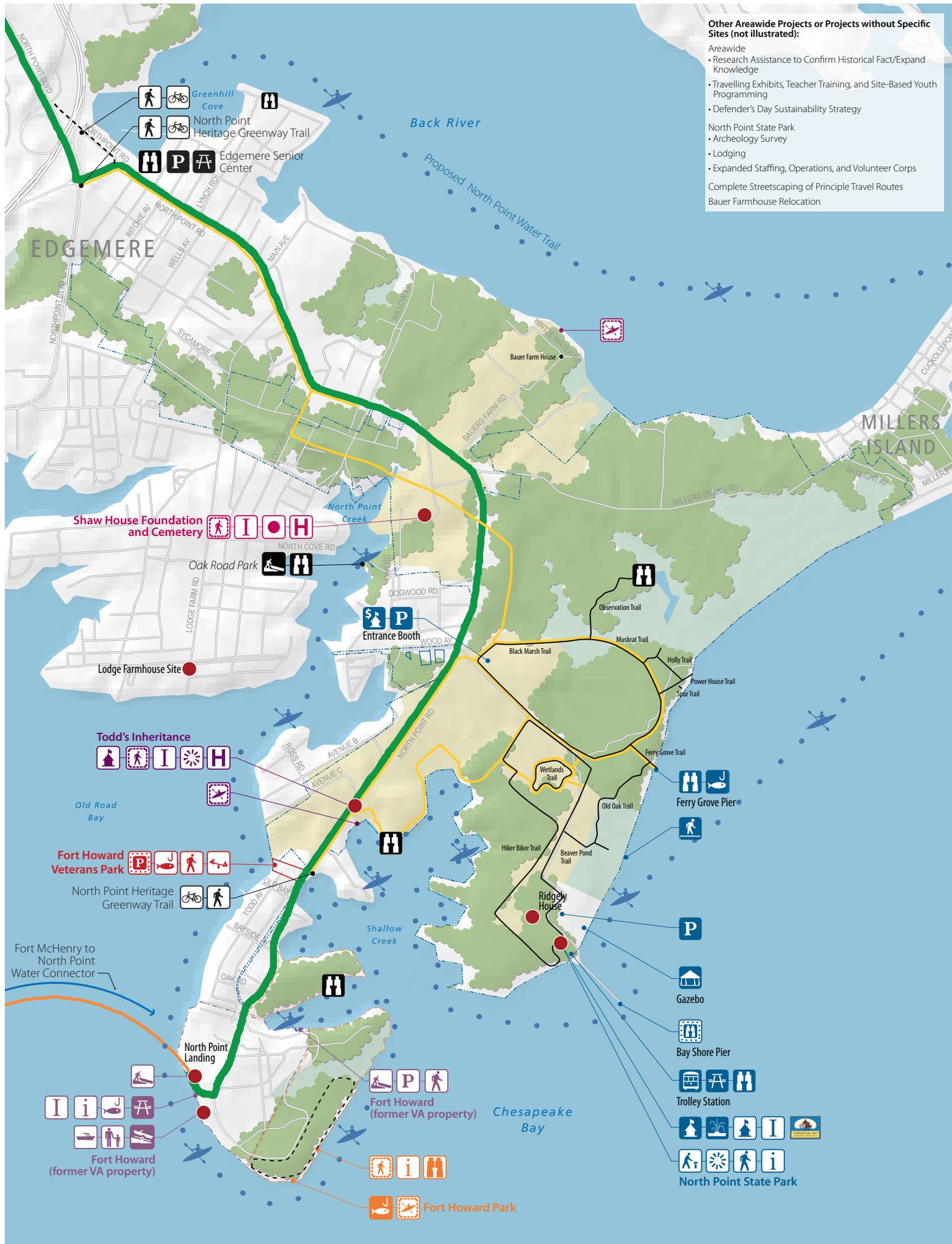
Signs will incorporate content from a travel guide under development with scenic byways and NPS funding, using graphic standards compatible with NPS and site-specific guidelines. Signs will be implemented in three phases from 2012 to 2014. The first 50 signs will be installed along the southern half of the trail in 2012; the remaining 100 signs will be installed along the northern half and at nationally significant locations along the trail that

Figure 2:
Shaping a Star-Spangled Experience - North Point
Opportunities for Trail Experiences



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

- Areawide
 - Research Assistance to Confirm Historical Fact/Expand Knowledge
 - Travelling Exhibits, Teacher Training, and Site-Based Youth Programming
 - Defender's Day Sustainability Strategy
- North Point State Park
 - Archeology Survey
 - Lodging
 - Expanded Staffing, Operations, and Volunteer Corps
- Complete Streetscaping of Principle Travel Routes
- Bauer Farmhouse Relocation



Greenhill Cove
 North Point Heritage Greenway Trail
 Edgemere Senior Center

Shaw House Foundation and Cemetery

Todd's Inheritance

Fort Howard Veterans Park

Fort McHenry to North Point Water Connector

North Point Landing
 Fort Howard (former VA property)

Fort Howard (former VA property)

Fort Howard Park

Ferry Grove Pier

P

Gazebo

Bay Shore Pier

Trolley Station

North Point State Park

EDGEMERE

MILLERS ISLAND

Back River

Proposed North Point Water Trail

North Point Creek

Shallow Creek

Chesapeake Bay

co-align with other state and national byways. At key features, route intersections and trail approaches, large panels or kiosks will 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 will mark and interpret sites in the North Point area, including:

- Fort Howard
- Todd’s Inheritance
- North Point State Park
- Shaw House Foundation and Cemetery
- abandoned earthworks (near Edgemere)
- Gorsuch Farm and Ross death site
- Aquila Randall Monument
- Bear Creek Park (on the Maryland Line Trail)
- Battle Acre Park
- North Point State Battlefield

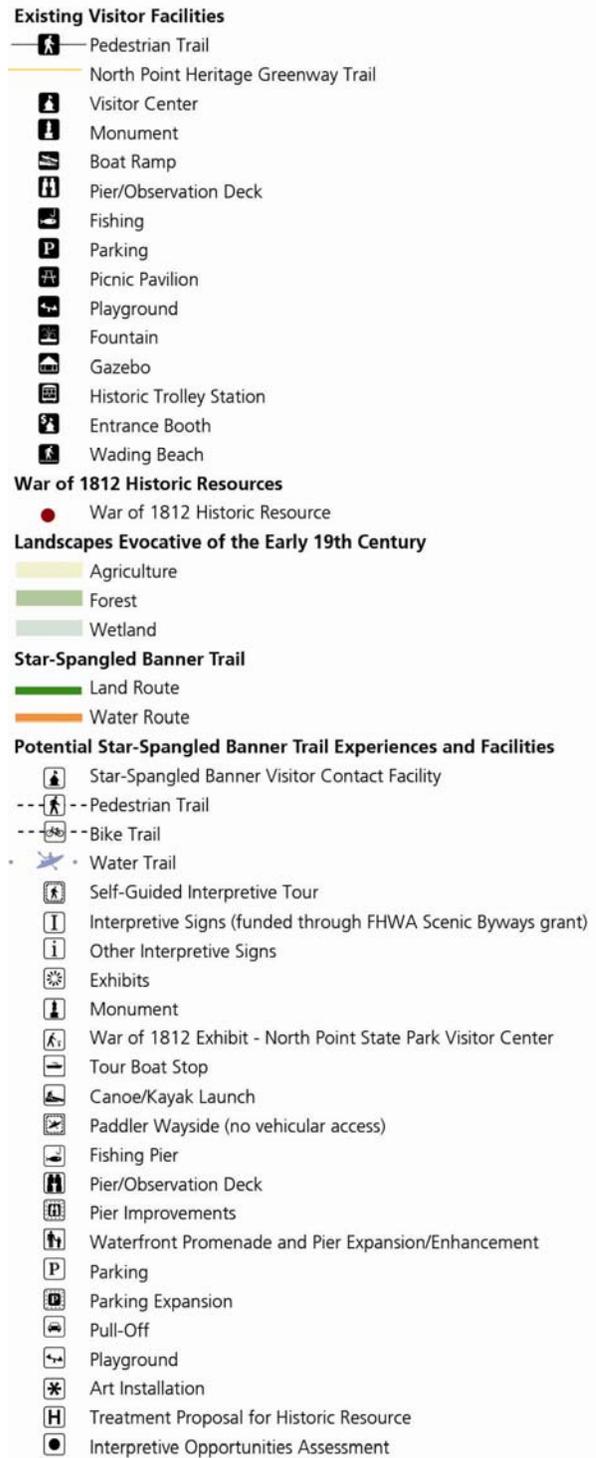
VISITOR CONTACT – NORTH POINT STATE PARK VISITOR CENTER

The visitor center at North Point State Park would be the primary visitor contact facility for trail visitors to the North Point area. The NPS in cooperation with MD DNR is developing new exhibits for the visitor center that would orient visitors to the trail and tell the stories of the War of 1812 and the Battle of North Point, as well as stories about nature and wildlife, Native Americans, Captain John Smith, and the Chesapeake Bay (NPS 2011e). Several sites outside the visitor center would also tell the stories of the war and direct visitors to the visitor center to learn more.

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:

Figure 3:
Shaping a Star-Spangled Experience - North Point
Opportunities for Trail Experiences



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

- Areawide
- Research Assistance to Confirm Historical Fact/Expand Knowledge
- Travelling Exhibits, Teacher Training, and Site-Based Youth Programming
- Defender's Day Sustainability Strategy



GUIDED BOAT AND PADDLE TOURS

From Fort McHenry visitors would be able to take a tour boat to Fort Howard and North Point State Park. Once at North Point, a green tour bus would transport visitors to nearby historic and archeological resource sites on the trail.

Visitors would also be able to engage a tour guide, pontoon boat or rented motorized and non-motorized boats for an interpreted trip around the North Point Peninsula or in Bear Creek.

SELF-GUIDED ITINERARIES

Visitors planning their own driving, boating, walking, or biking trips would use itineraries and accompanying interpretive materials to add richness to their experience. Materials could be available on-line, as apps, or in hard copy through a kiosk at historic and archeological resource sites or local parks along the trail.

Self-guided itineraries would take visitors to locations with markers and interpretive waysides, including:

- Fort Howard
- Todd's Inheritance
- North Point State Park
- Shaw House Foundation and Cemetery
- abandoned earthworks (near Edgemere)
- Gorsuch Farm and Ross death site
- Aquila Randall Monument
- Bear Creek Park (on the Maryland Line Trail)
- Battle Acre Park
- North Point State Battlefield
- Methodist Meeting House Site
- Sites along Bear Creek (such as Stansbury Park, Sollers Point and Colgate Creek)
- Bread and Cheese Creek

GUIDED HIKE OR BIKE TOURS

At North Point State Park visitors could join guided or interpreted walking or biking tours along the North Point Heritage Greenway Trail, taking them to historic and archeological sites and local parks from Fort Howard to Edgemere.

INTERPRETIVE PROGRAMS

Visitors would participate in interpretive programs focused on trail themes. These would be offered primarily at North Point State Park, North Point State Battlefield, and at historic and archeological resource sites that are open for visitors and that are staffed in some fashion, such as Todd's Inheritance. Other partners – such as the Dundalk-Patapsco Historical Society – 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 at North Point. Most celebrated is the annual Defenders Day event hosted by the Dundalk-Patapsco Historical Society held at Baltimore County's Fort Howard 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 Partner Sites](#)

NORTH POINT STATE PARK

North Point State Park would offer diverse recreation opportunities and interpretive attractions for trail visitors. Most visitors would continue to arrive by private vehicle, although in the future more would arrive by bicycle and boat. Boaters would follow the North Point Water Trail to the park where they can come ashore and participate in recreation activities and interpretive experiences. In time, many visitors could arrive via boat tour from Fort McHenry. Existing park facilities include parking, hiking and biking trails, fishing piers, observation points, picnic facilities, wading beach, visitor center, and historic structures such as the gazebo, fountain and a trolley station.

At North Point State Park visitors would experience a landscape and views across the Chesapeake representative of the early 19th century. Touring the visitor center, a new exhibit would tell the stories of the War of 1812 and the Battle of North Point, as well as stories about nature and

wildlife, Native Americans and Captain John Smith, and the Bay Shore Amusement Park. Interpretive programming and informal contact with staff would build upon these stories.

FORT HOWARD PARK

At Fort Howard Park visitors would enjoy views of the bay, fish from the fishing pier, and hike an interpretive trail through forest and wetlands. Stopping at waysides and observation points along the shoreline, they would learn about the Chesapeake Bay's natural history and the War of 1812. A new paddlers wayside would enable those traveling the North Point water trail by canoe or kayak to stop for a rest and to walk the interpretive trail. The Dundalk-Patapsco Neck Historical Society would continue to host the annual Defenders Day event at the park.

Existing park facilities include trails, a fishing pier, and parking.

FORT HOWARD VETERANS PARK

Located along North Point Road, Fort Howard Veterans Park would be a recreational attraction along the trail. Visitors would find opportunities for active recreation at a playground and athletic fields and for fishing and a view of the bay and wildlife.

FORT HOWARD

Fort Howard would be a major attraction on the trail. There visitors would experience the Patapsco River where it flows into the Chesapeake Bay – at the place where historians generally believe the British landed near North Point. Visitors would arrive by car, tour bus, bicycles, boats, and on foot. Some would arrive via a tour boat that stops at Fort Howard, enroute between North Point State Park and Fort McHenry. Walking the waterfront promenade, visitors would learn about the War of 1812, with a focus on the Battle of North Point. As they view the bay from the water's edge, they would also learn about the natural history of the Chesapeake region. On the Shallow Creek side of the property visitors would have access to Shallow Creek, where they would be able park, walk to the water, and launch a canoe or kayak into Shallow Creek.

Fort Howard currently includes several interpretive signs about North Point's importance to the War of 1812, water access sites, and picnic facilities. Because Fort Howard would likely be redeveloped as a private development in the near future, it is important for the trail partners to establish a working relationship with the Baltimore County War of 1812 Advisory Committee Baltimore County Department of Recreation and Parks, the community, and the private developer.

NORTH POINT STATE BATTLEFIELD

North Point State Battlefield – where the Americans disrupted the British advance into Baltimore City – would be a major visitor attraction along the trail. The 9-acre site – owned by the state of Maryland and managed as a unit of North Point State Park – would offer interpretive opportunities for visitors and host educational programming. Walking along a self-guided interpretive trail, visitors would envision the American lines and British troops approaching from the east. Throughout the year, visitors would have opportunities to participate in special events on the sites, including educational programs and possibly reenactments. Via the Maryland Line Trail, visitors would make the one block connection to Battle Acre Park. From there they could continue on to Bear Creek at either Charlesmont Park or Bear Creek Park.

Currently, North Point State Battlefield does not include public access or facilities. A recent concept plan for the battlefield – prepared by the NPS and MD DNR with assistance from stakeholders and interested citizens – explored alternative concepts for enhancing public access and providing facilities, as well as interpretive programming, landscape enhancement, and streetscape enhancements to encourage visitors to walk from the battlefield site to nearby Battle Acre Park.

BATTLE ACRE PARK

At Battle Acre Park visitors would experience a ceremonial landscape set aside in 1839 to commemorate the Battle of North Point. Walking along paths, they would view the monument and from a series of new waysides, learn about the defense efforts against the British. Via the Maryland Line

Trail, visitors would make the one block connection to the North Point State Battlefield site and to Bear Creek at either Charlesmont Park or Bear Creek Park.

The Battle Acre Historic Park Committee of the Society of the War of 1812 and the Baltimore County Recreation and Parks Department recently worked together to create a redevelopment plan for the park. The *Battle Acre Historic Park Rehabilitation and Improvement Project* (Baltimore County 2007a) identifies priority projects that would enhance the experience for both residents and visitors at Battle Acre Park. The plan recommends a partnership between Baltimore County and The Battle Acre Historic Park Committee to rehabilitate park infrastructure and re-establish the site's historic significance within Baltimore County and the State of Maryland

TODD'S INHERITANCE HOUSE AND CULTURAL LANDSCAPE (INCLUDING THE CEMETERY)

Walking along the interpretive trail at Todd's Inheritance, visitors would learn about the site's use as an American signal house, horse courier station, and headquarters during the War of 1812. Throughout the year, the Friends of Todd's Inheritance programming and events would build upon these interpretive messages. A new paddlers wayside on Shallow Creek would enable those paddling the North Point Water Trail by canoe or kayak to stop for a rest and to visit the site.

Currently, access and interpretation is limited to a widened shoulder with an interpretive panel describing Todd's Inheritance.

SHAW HOUSE FOUNDATION AND CEMETERY

At the Shaw House Foundation and Cemetery visitors would experience a landscape which is generally evocative of the early 19th century. The experience would be self-guided, using interpretive materials that direct people through the site and that describe the events that occurred in the area in the days leading up to and following the Battle of North Point.

Currently accessible by the North Point Heritage Greenway, the site includes only one interpretive sign.

METHODIST MEETING HOUSE

The Methodist Meeting House would be a commemorative site along the trail. Erected for 1914 centennial celebrations, the Methodist Meeting House monument memorializes the War of 1812. At the site, visitors would learn about stories related General Stricker, fallen British combatants, and the Battle of North Point.

The existing Methodist Meeting House site includes a monument but lacks both visual and physical access along North Point Road.

AQUILA RANDALL MONUMENT

The Aquila Randall Monument is a privately-owned commemorative site along the trail – dedicated in 1817 – to commemorate the death of Aquila Randall during a skirmish preceding the Battle of North Point. The monument is recognized as one of America's earliest known monuments erected on a battlefield. Stopping at the site, visitors would view the monument and read the inscription, learning about wounding of Aquila Randall and the skirmish that led to his death in 1814.

Surrounded by a mix of commercial and residential uses, the Aquila Randall monument currently lacks safe public access.

BAUER FARM

Located along the Back River, Bauer Farm could be a destination where visitors would experience a landscape evocative of the region's 1812 landscape. A new paddlers wayside would enable those traveling the North Point water trail by canoe or kayak to stop for a rest and to view an agricultural and wooded landscape evocative of the early 19th century.

GORSUCH FARM SITE AND ROSS DEATH SITE

Traveling along North Point Boulevard on the trail, visitors would stop at the Gorsuch Farm site, the American videttes headquarters prior to the Battle of North Point. Visitors would read interpretive panels describing Gorsuch Farm's association with the War of 1812 and learn about the site's connection to General Ross's death.

Land and Water Trails

HIKING/BIKING TRAILS

North Point Heritage Greenway. Residents and visitors to the southern portion of the North Point area would have the opportunity to travel from Fort Howard to Edgemere via a safe multi-modal path that connects War of 1812 sites with local schools, several community facilities, North Point State Park, and the Chesapeake Bay. The trail would follow a combination of sidewalks and paved shared-use trails. Walking or biking along the trail, visitors would learn about the Battle of North Point and the role of residents in the Chesapeake region in the early 1800s.

Initial greenway trail development would occur in six segments from Edgemere to Fort Howard Veterans Park. Future development phases would include trail expansion and amenities such as benches, water fountains, restrooms, and Bear Creek Water Trail

Star-Spangled Banner Hiker/Biker Trail. The *Star-Spangled Banner Hiker Biker Trail* (Donnelly 2010) proposes a hiker/biker route that connects War of 1812 resources along the historic troop movement routes from Fort Howard to Patterson Park. In addition to the trail's main route, the concept envisions spur trails connecting travelers to related War of 1812 resources and recommends trail design guidelines to ensure a consistent visitor experience.

There are no specific proposed partner actions identified at this time aimed at implementing the Star-Spangled Banner Hiker/Biker Trail.

Maryland Line Trail. Accessible by land and water trail, the Maryland Line Trail would connect visitors to both recreational and interpretive opportunities along Bear Creek. As visitors walk along the trails they would learn about land and water routes used by the British and American troops.

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. 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.

North Point Water Trail. The tip of the North Point Peninsula is one of the eleven high priority areas recommended for water trail development. Following the water trail, paddlers would set out from the Edgemere Senior Center and then paddle down the Back River to the Chesapeake Bay, where they would follow the bay shore first to North Point State Park and then to Fort Howard Park. From there they would round the peninsula to arrive at Fort Howard, and then continue north up North Point Creek to Oak Road Park. At the mouth of Shallow Creek, a branch of the water trail would provide a more protected opportunity for paddling within a protected bay. New soft launches for canoe and kayak access and paddlers waysides along the water trail are identified at several locations where interpretive media would also be installed. Associated facilities are recommended at stops along the water trail, including enhancements to the existing waterfront promenade at Fort Howard, an interpretive trail at Fort Howard Park, and a walking trail connection to Todd's Inheritance (from a new paddlers wayside on Shallow Creek).

Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail.

Paddlers on the North Point Peninsula Water Trail would also be following the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail. Interpretive programming would also tell the stories of the John Smith Trails. Water trail facilities would be developed jointly to support both trails.

Bear Creek Water Trail. The Bear Creek Water Trail is recognized as a branch of the Maryland water trails network

(MD DBED 2010). The water trail would follow the water route used by both British and U.S. troops from the mouth of Bear Creek to Charlesmont Park, near the site of the Battle of North Point. The water trail guide would highlight stops at parks in the vicinity of historic sites with some relation to the War of 1812 or the time period of the war.

Paddlers would access the trail from the network of existing launch sites on Bear Creek. New paddler waysides (accessible only from the water) at Stansbury Park and Chesterwood Park would also likely provide opportunities for paddlers to go ashore and rest, explore local sites, and learn about the British occupation of North Point, and the Battle of North Point. Future planning to identify the location of future access sites and expansions to existing access sites would include opportunities for public comment prior to the selection of specific sites.

Paddlers who stop at Charlesmont Park would be able to hike to Battle Acre Park and North Point State Battlefield via the Maryland Line Trail. At the adjoining Bear Creek Elementary School there would be opportunities to create an outdoor classroom to connect children with nature and fulfill the new environmental literacy education requirements.

Implementation

Partnerships

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

Some of the partners who would help make the trail a reality in the North Point area include:

- Public and Nonprofit Managers
 - Baltimore County
 - Baltimore County War of 1812 Advisory Committee
 - Baltimore County Public Libraries (North Point and Sollers Branches)
 - Baltimore County Public Schools
 - Maryland Department of Natural Resources
 - Maryland Department of Transportation
 - U.S. Veterans Administration
 - Battle Acre Park Committee
 - Todd’s Inheritance Historic Site, Inc.
- Public and Private Charitable Organizations
 - Friends of North Point Battlefield
 - Friends of Todd’s Inheritance
 - Clean Bread and Cheese Creek
 - North Point Peninsula Council
 - Dundalk Renaissance Corporation
 - Dundalk-Patapsco Neck Historic Society
 - Old Dundalk Neighborhood Association
 - Baltimore Boy Scouts of America – Chesapeake District
 - Girl Scouts of Central Maryland – Local Cluster
- Tourism Organizations
 - Maryland Office of Tourism Development
 - Baltimore County Tourism
- Community Groups
 - Eastfield-Stanbrook Civic Association
 - Gray Manor and Northshire Community Assoc
 - Dundalk Heritage Fair Association

- Dundalk Heritage Parade Committee
- Greater Dundalk Community Council
- Greater Dundalk Alliance
- Commercial Facilities and Services
 - marinas
 - 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 North Point area during the Bicentennial period highest priority should be placed on implementing the following six projects:

- North Point State Battlefield and Battle Acre Park (with enhanced connection between the two)
- North Point Heritage Greenway Trail
- War of 1812 Exhibit at North Point State Park Visitor Center
- North Point Water Trail
- British Troop Landing Site at Fort Howard
- Bear Creek Water Trail and Maryland Line Trail

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 would support the upcoming bicentennial of the War of 1812.

Estimated costs and optimum finish dates are taken from source planning documents, where provided. Funding for projects would 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 Priorities¹

Project	Site	Lead Partner	Source Planning Document (s)	Estimated Cost	Optimum Finish Date
High Priority Projects					
North Point State Battlefield Concept Plan Implementation/ Battle Acre Park Rehabilitation (Phase 1) (with enhanced connections between the battlefield and the park)	North Point State Battlefield and Battle Acre Park	Maryland DNR, Baltimore County Recreation and Parks	Maryland War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission Plan of Action; North Point State Battlefield Concept Plan (NPS 2011d)	Phase 1: Battlefield – \$1,515,000 Battle Acre – \$430,000	2014
North Point Heritage Greenway Trail	North Point Heritage Greenway Trail	North Point Community Council, Baltimore County, Maryland DNR	Capital Improvements Team List of Priorities (2010)	Phase 1: (Segments 4, 5, 6): \$340,000; Phase 2: \$115,000 (State Park Segment)	2014
Visitors Center War of 1812 Exhibit	North Point State Park	Maryland DNR	Maryland War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission Plan of Action	\$250,000	2012
Soft Launch Improvements and Signage at Fort Howard, Todd’s Inheritance, Fort Howard Park, and Bauer Farm	North Point Water Trail	Baltimore County, Stakeholders	Plan for Water Portions of the Star-Spangled Banner NHT in Maryland (2010)	\$144,000	2014
British Troop Landing Improvements and Interpretation	Fort Howard	State of Maryland, Developer	Capital Improvements Team List of Priorities (2010)	TBD	2013
Bear Creek Water Trail with Signage and Soft Launch; Paddlers waysides (water access only) at Charlesmont, Bear Creek, Stansbury, and Chesterwood Parks	Bear Creek Trail System	Stakeholders	Plan for Water Portions of the Star-Spangled Banner NHT in Maryland (2010)	\$152,000	2013
Maryland Line Land Trail	Bear Creek Trail System	Stakeholders	Stakeholders	TBD	2014
Self-Guided Interpretive Tours and Coordinated Interpretation	Areawide	Maryland DNR, Dundalk-Patapsco Neck Historical Society	Maryland War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission Plan of Action; Friends of Todds Inheritance	TBD	2014
Streetscaping of the Trail Route, especially in Edgemere and Dundalk	Areawide	Baltimore County	Maryland War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission Plan of Action	TBD	2014
Uniform Interpretive Wayside Signage at all Sites <i>(in addition to signs funded through the FHWA Scenic Byways grant)</i>	Areawide	TBD	Maryland War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission Plan of Action	TBD	2014

Table 3. Star-Spangled Banner Trail Implementation Priorities¹

Project	Site	Lead Partner	Source Planning Document (s)	Estimated Cost	Optimum Finish Date
Battle of North Point Exhibit	Dundalk-Patapsco Neck Historical Society Museum	Dundalk-Patapsco Neck Historical Society	Dundalk-Patapsco Neck Historical Society	TBD	2012
North Point State Battlefield Concept Plan Implementation/ North Point Road Connection to Battle Acre (Phase 2)	North Point State Battlefield and Battle Acre Park	Maryland DNR, Baltimore County Recreation and Parks	Maryland War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission Plan of Action; North Point State Battlefield Concept Plan (NPS 2011d)	Phase 2: Battlefield – \$5,155,000, Connection to Battle Acre – \$1,280,000	2020
Medium Priority Projects					
Restoration	Aquila Randall Monument	Baltimore County	Maryland War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission Plan of Action	TBD	2014
Interpretive Opportunities Assessment for Historical and Archaeological Sites including: Gorsuch Farm, Aquila Randall Monument, Shaw Cemetery, and Methodist Meeting House	Areawide	Stakeholders	Capital Improvements Team List of Priorities (2010)	TBD	2015
Travelling Exhibits, Teacher Training, and Site-Based Youth Programming	Areawide	Dundalk Renaissance Corporation, Baltimore County War of 1812 Advisory Committee	Stakeholders	TBD	Ongoing
Enhancements to existing facilities (fishing pier, path, parking, playground)	Fort Howard Park	Baltimore County	Maryland War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission Plan of Action	\$1,200,000	2014
New Interpretive Trail along Shoreline with Observation Decks	Fort Howard Veterans Park	Baltimore County	Plan for Water Portions of the Star-Spangled Banner NHT in Maryland (2010)	\$100,000	2015
Vehicle Pull-Offs at Gorsuch Farm, Aquila Randall Monument, Shaw Cemetery, and Methodist Meeting House	Individual Sites	Baltimore County, Maryland SHA, Stakeholders	Maryland War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission Plan of Action; Capital Improvements Team List of Priorities (2010)	TBD	2015
"Green" Tour Buses/Boats with service to and from Fort McHenry	North Point State Park	State and Local Tourism Agencies, private tour operators	Maryland War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission Plan of Action	TBD	2015

Table 3. Star-Spangled Banner Trail Implementation Priorities¹

Project	Site	Lead Partner	Source Planning Document (s)	Estimated Cost	Optimum Finish Date
Fort McHenry to North Point Water Connector	Patapsco River	State and Local Tourism Agencies, private tour operators	Stakeholders	TBD	2013
Outdoor Exhibits	Todd's Inheritance	Maryland DNR, Todd's Inheritance Historic Site, Inc.	Maryland War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission Plan of Action; Capital Improvements Team Preliminary List of Priorities (2010)	\$50,000	2012
Defender's Day Sustainability Strategy	Areawide	Dundalk Patapsco Neck Historical Society; Baltimore County War of 1812 Advisory Committee	Stakeholders	TBD	2012
Research to Confirm Historical Fact/Expand Knowledge	Areawide	Dundalk Patapsco Neck Historical Society; Baltimore County War of 1812 Advisory Committee	Dundalk Patapsco Neck Historical Society	TBD	Ongoing
Low Priority Projects					
British Combatants Memorial	Methodist Meeting House	TBD	Maryland War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission Plan of Action	TBD	2014
Conservation Assessment of Granite and Appropriate Follow-Up Actions	Methodist Meeting House	TBD	Capital Improvements Team List of Priorities (2010)	TBD	Ongoing
Restoration	Todd's Inheritance	Maryland DNR/Todd's Inheritance Historic Site, Inc.	Maryland War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission Plan of Action; Capital Improvements Team List of Priorities (2010)	\$1,000,000	2012
House Foundation Stabilization Needs Assessment and Appropriate Related Actions	Shaw House Foundation and Cemetery	Friends of North Point State Park	North Point State Park Black Marsh Wildland Master Plan	TBD	2020

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

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