



## Shaping a Star-Spangled Experience along the National Historic Trail

*Share your vision for land and water routes of the Trail at public and partner workshops in November*

The Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail and Star-Spangled Banner Scenic Byway connect the places, people, and events that led to the birth of our National Anthem during the War of 1812. The Chesapeake Bay region was a center of this critical struggle between the United States and Great Britain. The trail and byway cover 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.

Established by Congress in May 2008, the Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail is one of 26 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 NPS, together with partners in Maryland, Virginia, and the District, is developing a comprehensive management plan that will guide development of the trail and byway over the next 20 years. The plan will describe a wide range of visitor experiences, the protection of resources, collaboration among partners, and the balance between recreation, tourism, and resource protection. The plan will also support Maryland's effort to seek National Scenic Byway status for its existing byway.

The NPS invites your comments about the places and stories that are important to you, and how the trail and byway should evolve to promote and protect them. We urge you to attend one of four upcoming public workshops in early November. Additional workshops with trail partners will be held in Virginia, the District of Columbia, and Baltimore City. We look forward to hearing from you!



### Save the Date! The Trail Needs Your Voice!

#### *Input Sought on Trail Planning, Development, and Management*

In early November, the National Park Service (NPS) in coordination with local partners in Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia will host a series of workshops to provide information about the trail and byway and seek your input on how they should be developed and managed.

- What places should be included on the trail?
- How should the NPS and partners protect, develop, or interpret these places?
- What stories and messages should the trail convey?
- What kinds of activities should visitors be able to enjoy along the trail?
- What are the most important priorities for this trail?

Your involvement and input is essential to the success of this trail, a legacy for Bicentennial efforts. Please join us at one of four public scoping workshops to share your comments and suggestions:

**Wednesday, November 3, 2010**  
Anacostia Watershed Society  
The George Washington House  
4302 Baltimore Avenue  
Bladensburg, MD 20710  
4-6pm

**Monday, November 8, 2010**  
Lower Susquehanna Heritage Greenway  
Conowingo Hydroelectric Plant Visitor Center  
4948 Conowingo Road  
Darlinton, MD 21034  
6-8 pm

**Thursday, November 4, 2010**  
North Point State Park Visitor Center  
8700 North Point Road  
Edgemere, MD 21219  
6-8 pm

**Tuesday, November 9, 2010**  
Benedict Volunteer Fire Department  
and Rescue Squad  
18210 Hyatt Avenue  
Benedict, MD 20612  
6-8 pm

Three additional workshops will be held with trail partners in Virginia, the District of Columbia, and Baltimore City to explore regionally-specific issues and opportunities.

For more information about public and partner workshops, please visit the Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail website at [www.nps.gov/stsp](http://www.nps.gov/stsp) or call Abbi Wicklein-Bayne at 410.260.2483.

## The Purposes of the Trail and the Byway

- Protect the sites, landscapes, and routes significant to understanding the people, events, and ideals associated with the War of 1812 in the Chesapeake 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

## What are National Historic Trails?

National historic trails follow and commemorate routes of exploration, migration, trade, communication, or military action. These routes are recognized by Congress for their nationally significant stories, modern-day integrity, and recreation potential. Trails link structures and landscapes through auto routes, off-road trails, and waterways. They provide for interpretation and resource protection, promote outdoor recreation, and encourage citizen engagement.

## What are National Scenic Byways?

National Scenic Byways are transportation corridors recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Transportation as having outstanding scenic qualities ranging from picturesque farms to city skylines. Byways must also contain nationally distinct historical, archaeological, ethnographic, natural, or cultural resources or character. For more information, visit [www.byways.org](http://www.byways.org).

## What is a Comprehensive Management Plan?

A comprehensive management plan establishes the goals, guidelines, and actions needed to build and manage a national historic trail. The plan outlines a wide range of partnership activities that will build and maintain the trail, including strategies to increase public appreciation of its historic and natural resources.

The comprehensive management plan for the Star-Spangled Banner trail and byway will include the following:

- Management objectives and practices
- Inventory and assessment of resources and intrinsic qualities
- Map showing resources, intrinsic qualities and land uses
- Trail and byway marking and signage strategy
- Maintenance, enhancement, and protection strategy
- Environmental assessment
- Implementation schedule

Since Maryland’s Star-Spangled Banner Byway overlaps with the proposed land routes of the trail, the NPS will develop the plan in a way that will support Maryland’s effort to seek National Scenic Byway status.

## How does trail planning relate to the bicentennial of the War of 1812?

The bicentennial of the War of 1812 takes place from June 2012 to February 2015. During this period, new investments and special events around the Chesapeake Bay will raise the national and international profile of the region.

As much as possible, the Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail and Star-Spangled Banner Byway will build on the attention

and excitement of the bicentennial to encourage new infrastructure, resource protection, and interpretation that contributes to the long-term vision for the trail and byway. The bicentennial period and its resulting partnerships will propel the trail and byway toward a lasting legacy for both the region and the nation.

## Who ensures that the management plan reflects the interests of the public and trail partners?

The *Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail Advisory Council*, comprised of representatives of federal and state agencies and public and private interests appointed by the Secretary of the Interior, advises the NPS on the development and implementation of the trail plan.

The *Scenic Byway Advisory Committee*, comprised of members of the advisory council and tourism and planning staff from each county through which the byway passes, assists with development of the byway corridor.

Information regarding advisory council and byway committee meetings will be posted on the NPS website at [www.nps.gov/stsp](http://www.nps.gov/stsp).

## Who else is providing input on the plan?

A growing list of agencies and local and regional consortiums assisting with the trail and byway is on the NPS website at [www.nps.gov/stsp](http://www.nps.gov/stsp).



- 1) Strolling the towpath along the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal;
- 2) Crossing the Woodrow Wilson Bridge on National Trails Day;
- 3) A kayaking sojourn on the Patuxent;
- 4) Reading history in the landscape at Jefferson Paterson Park;
- 5) Cannons mark the line of defense at Patterson Park;
- 6) Fall afternoon on the Patuxent





**Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail**

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The National Park Service Chesapeake Bay Office coordinates the Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Watertrails Network and serves as the administrator for the Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail and the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail. The Maryland Office of Tourism Development serves as the administrator for the Star-Spangled Banner Scenic Byway within Maryland.

**EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA**

For more information about this newsletter please contact:

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**Next Steps for the Trail and Byway**

After November’s public workshops, the planning team will draft a set of alternative approaches for developing and managing the trail and byway. In a second series of workshops to be held in early 2011, the National Park Service will present these alternatives to the public and partners for comment.

A draft of the management plan, including an environmental assessment, will be publicized in summer 2011. The public will again have the opportunity to share comments, ideas, and suggestions during a 30-day review period.

Approval of the final CMP/EA is expected in fall 2011.

**Timeline**

Fall 2010	Public Workshops Trail and Byway Issues and Ideas
Winter 2011	Public Workshops Management Alternatives
Summer 2011	Draft Management Plan Distribution for Public Comment
Fall 2011	Management Plan Approval National Park Service and Maryland State Highway Administration

“The Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail, a trail consisting of water and overland routes totaling approximately 290 miles, extending from Tangier Island, Virginia, through southern Maryland, the District of Columbia, and northern Virginia, in the Chesapeake Bay, Patuxent River, Potomac River, and north to the Patapsco River, and Baltimore, Maryland, commemorating the Chesapeake Campaign of the War of 1812...

...the Secretary of the Interior shall...encourage communities, owners of land along the trail, and volunteer trail groups to participate in the planning, development, and maintenance of the trail; and consult with other affected landowners and Federal, State, and local agencies in the administration of the trail...

...subject to the availability of appropriations, the Secretary of the Interior may provide, to State and local governments and nonprofit organizations, interpretive programs and services and technical assistance for use in carrying out preservation and development of the trail; and providing education relating to the War of 1812 along the trail.”

--National Trails System Act (P.L. 90-543, as amended through P.L. 111-11, March 30, 2009)