

Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail and Scenic Byway
Draft Comprehensive Management Plan and Corridor Management Plan
and Environmental Assessment

Appendix K

Visitor Readiness

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1. Introduction

The following text provides detailed information regarding the Maryland portion of the Star-Spangled Banner Trail in support of its potential nomination as a National Scenic Byway or All-American Road through the Federal Highway Administration's National Scenic Byways Program.

The trail's historic context, primary themes, and national significance are described in chapters 1 and 2 of the *Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail Comprehensive Management Plan and Star-Spangled Banner Scenic Byway Corridor Management Plan* (CMP).

Appendix L correlates the national significance of the trail's historical and recreational qualities with the portion of the route in Maryland proposed for nomination as a National Scenic Byway or All-American Road. Appendix L also documents the important role that scenic and natural qualities found along key portions of the travel route play in providing a setting in which natural landscapes, waterscapes, and townscapes are evocative of the War of 1812 time period.

Conservation and preservation strategies for these sites and attractions are discussed in chapter 2 of the CMP. More detailed land protection strategies are provided in appendix N. Appendix M includes more detailed information about maintaining the character-defining features of the trail and its corridor through design guidance.

2. Visitor Readiness of War of 1812 Historic and Archeological Resources

According to the FHWA Interim Policy guiding the nomination and designation of National Scenic Byways and All-American Roads, a route must develop a "plan to encourage the accommodation of increased tourism, if this is projected. Some demonstration that the roadway, lodging and dining facilities, roadside rest areas, and other tourist necessities will be adequate for the number of visitors induced by the trail's designation as an All-American Road."

More recent guidance on submitting nominations for such designation indicates that a travel route must be "ready for visitors" (see <http://www.bywaysonline.org/nominations/2008/guide/>). Nominated byways must demonstrate that they are ready for travelers the day designations are announced by the U.S. Secretary of Transportation.

As a first step in documenting visitor readiness, an inventory was conducted of existing War of 1812 historic and archeological resource sites and attractions along the travel route (see CMP section 2.2 and figures 2.1a, 2.1b, 2.1c, and 2.1d). The sites identified meet the initial requirements of visitor readiness in that they help tell the story of the War of 1812 through either active or passive interpretation.

The analysis further reviewed each site's availability to the public (operating hours, whether it is visible from the travel route, whether it is part of a walking tour, etc.), and the degree to which it provides visitor services and facilities, such as restrooms, universal accessibility, facilities for foreign visitors and group tours.

Based on this analysis, each site that is directly related to the War of 1812 was classified as one of four types:

- **Full service attractions** are currently ready for all types of visitors. They are open during regular hours and days of operation; they provide visitor services (restrooms, accessibility, visitor information, etc.); and they offer professional interpretive programming.
- **Limited service sites** can accommodate visitors but have limited hours, interpretation, and visitor facilities.
- **Self-guided sites** are publicly-accessible sites where self-guided interpretive exhibits or materials are available but where no staffing or visitor services are present, or where a site is visible from a public street or sidewalk, without interpretation.
- **Future sites** are sites that have great potential for visitors under any of the three categories noted above but must implement plans to develop facilities and/or increase hours of operation, interpretation, and visitor facilities.

2.1 Full Service Historic Sites and Attractions

The following sites meet the qualification for full service attractions providing both visitor services and interpretation directly related to the War of 1812 themes (except those identified as “future sites” indicating that they are identified as a high priority for near term improvements that would make them function as full service attractions).¹

St. Mary’s County

Sotterley Plantation (Setting)

44300 Sotterley Lane
Hollywood, MD 20636
www.sotterley.org

Site Open: Tuesday – Saturday 10 am - 4 pm, Sunday Noon - 4 pm

Sotterley was the mustering site for the U.S. Army on June 10, 1814. The home was also raided by the British on June 14, 1814. Visitor attractions include museums and tours.

Myrtle Point Park (Cultural Landscape)

24050 Patuxent Blvd
California, MD 20619
<http://www.co.saint-marys.md.us/recreate/myrtlepointpark.asp>

Site Open: The Myrtle Point Park is generally open from dawn until dusk, year round. The park main gate opens at 7 am and closes between 8-9 pm. During January, February & March the park gate is closed to vehicles but open to walk-in patrons.

Myrtle Point Park is a culturally rich site that offers abundant Bay-related natural, historic and recreational resources. The 192-acre natural park is located on the western shore of the Patuxent River and is about 5 miles from the confluence of the river with the Chesapeake Bay. The park is distinguished by its nearly two miles of pristine shoreline, tidal wetlands, salt ponds, mature forests, network of nature trails and documented archeological sites. From Myrtle Point Park, visitors can view landscapes along the Patuxent River that are evocative of the early 19th century. The park offers full visitor services, and Star-Spangled Banner Trail interpretive and orientation signage is planned for installation by the summer of 2012.

Calvert County, MD

¹ Descriptions for the full service sites and attractions were adapted from the Star Spangled 200 web site (<http://starspangled200.org/1812Sites/Pages/One1812Site.aspx?starid=36>)

Calvert County Visitors Information — information about sites and attractions within Calvert County can be found at Solomons Information Center, 14175 Solomons Island Road South, Solomons.

First Battle of St. Leonard Creek/Second Battle of St. Leonard Creek (Jefferson Patterson Park & Museum) (Battlefield)

Jefferson Patterson Park & Museum
10515 Mackall Road
St. Leonard, MD 20685
<http://www.jefpat.org/>

Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum interprets the site where British ships, boats, and rocket barges fought against the war barges of the U.S. Chesapeake Flotilla. Commanded by Barney, the flotilla withdrew into the protection of St. Leonard Creek on the Patuxent River. During June 8, 9, and 10, 1814, British naval forces attacked Barney’s flotilla without success. On June 26, 1814, in a coordinated land and naval attack, the Americans engaged the blockading British force. In this Second Battle of St. Leonard Creek, Barney was able to flee the creek and sail up the Patuxent. The battle is considered the largest naval engagement in the history of Maryland and took place where the Patuxent River meets the mouth of St. Leonard Creek, right off the shore of JPPM.

Interpretive panels for the First and Second Battles of St. Leonard Creek are found at the Jefferson Patterson Park & Museum. The park also hosts archaeological surveys of St. Leonard Creek and curates some of the artifacts found there. The Visitor Center offers educational activities, museum information, waysides, tours, and other events.

Calvert Marine Museum (collections, diorama)

14200 Solomons Island Road
Solomons, MD 20688
Site Open: daily 10 am - 5 pm

The museum exhibits artifacts recovered from the scuttled U.S. Chesapeake Flotilla as well as a fiber optic map that illustrates the story of the British invasion of Maryland. The museum offers full visitor services.



Calvert Marine Museum

Battle Creek Cypress Swamp (cultural landscapes)

2880 Gray's Road

Prince Frederick, MD 20678

<http://www.calvertparks.org/Parks/CypressSwamp>

Site Open: Tuesday-Saturday - 10:00 to 5:00, Sunday - 1:00 to 5:00 - April through October. Closes at 4:30 during the rest of the year.

Battle Creek Cypress Swamp is a 100-acre nature sanctuary at the northernmost limits in the United States for the natural range of bald cypress trees. The site offers landscapes that are evocative of landscapes that British soldiers and American defenders would have experienced in the early 19th century. Designated as a National Natural Landmark through the National Park Service, the Battle Creek cypress stand is presumed to have established itself sometime in the last 10,000 years. A full-service attraction, the Battle Creek Cypress Swamp provides visitors interpretive information and recreational opportunities.

King's Landing Park (cultural landscapes)

3255 Kings Landing Road

Huntingtown, MD 20639

www.calvertparks.org

Site Open: Memorial Day through Labor Day: Open daily 8:30 am - 8:00 pm. Remainder of the year: Monday - Friday 8:30 am - 4:30 pm; Saturday and Sunday 8:30 am - 6:00 pm

Situated along the Patuxent River and Cocktown Creek, King's Landing Park features 260 acres of hardwood bottom forest, river shoreline and wetlands. Formerly a YMCA camp, the site was converted to a park to preserve its many natural resources and create public

recreation opportunities. The site offers landscapes that are evocative of those from the early 19th century, which visitors can explore along the Marsh Trail to Cocktown Creek. A 200-foot fishing pier and canoe and kayak launches provide public access to the bounty and beauty of the Patuxent River.

Solomons Visitor Information Center (Interpretive Location)

175 Main Street

Solomons, MD 20678

<http://www.sba.solomons.md.us>

Site Open: Jan 2 - Mar 15: Thursday - Sunday, 9 am - 5 pm.
Mar 15 - Oct 30: daily, 9 am - 5 pm; Nov 1 - Dec 31: Thursday - Sunday, 9 am - 5 pm

The Solomons Regional Information Center will help you find your way to Chesapeake Gateways in southern Maryland and to this beautiful town's other attractions. Solomons is a quiet 128-year old waterfront village located in Calvert County where the Patuxent River meets the Chesapeake Bay. Settled comfortably around a deep, protected harbor rimmed with busy marinas, the area has become a major visitor destination in historic Southern Maryland. The Visitor Information Center is a full service orientation site for the Star-Spangled Banner Trail and will feature interpretive signage and orientation maps for visitors to learn about the Trail.

Charles County, MD

Benedict (Future Site) (Setting)

Benedict Avenue

Benedict, MD 20637

Over 4,300 British troops landed at this small Patuxent River town on August 19-20, 1814. British pickets occupied the crest of the ridge to the west while the troops were encamped below it on the north side of the road. This invading army defeated the Americans at the Battle of Bladensburg and burned Washington D.C., retreating to Benedict to re-embark their ships on August 29-30, 1814. While in Benedict visitors can enjoy scenic views and several restaurant options.



Benedict

Prince George's County, MD

Bladensburg American First Line (Bladensburg Waterfront Park) **(Battlefield)**

4601 Annapolis Road
Bladensburg, MD 20710

http://www.pg parks.com/Things_To_Do/Nature/Bladensburg_Waterfront_Park.htm

Site Open: Sunrise to sunset daily; Visitor's Center: 9 am - 4 pm

Bladensburg Waterfront Park provides a good view of the bridge site where the British forces crossed the Anacostia River and attacked the first line of the American defenses during the Battle of Bladensburg on August 24, 1814. The park also features a 4/5 scale model of Joshua Barney's Barge and interpretative waysides about the battle.

Bladensburg American Second Line (Dueling Grounds) **(Battlefield, Setting, Future Site)**

37th Avenue (off Bladensburg Road)
Colmar Manor
Bladensburg, MD 20722

The Dueling Grounds, near the location of the American second line of defense during the Battle of Bladensburg, was also the site of over 50 duels during the first half of the 19th century. One famous duel that occurred here was between Commodores Stephen Decatur (a Maryland native) and James Barron as a result of events stemming from the Chesapeake-Leopard affair in 1807. Francis Scott Key's son, Daniel, was also killed here during a duel in 1836.

Bladensburg American Second Line (Fort Lincoln Cemetery) **(Battlefield, Future Site)**

Fort Lincoln Cemetery
3401 Bladensburg Road
Brentwood, 20722

Fort Lincoln Cemetery is the site of the second line of American defense during the Battle of Bladensburg. Here, Commodore Joshua Barney led the U.S. Flotillamen, and U.S. Marines until Barney was wounded and captured by the British. He was released on the spot due to the respect the British officers had for him. A historical marker and tabular monument to Barney and his men are located near the cemetery's mausoleum.



Fort Lincoln Cemetery

Mount Calvert (Setting)

6801 Mount Calvert Road
Upper Marlboro, MD 20772
Lincoln Cemetery

http://www.pg parks.com/Things_To_Do/Nature/Mount_Calvert_Historical_and_Archaeological_Park.htm

Site Open: April - October, Saturdays 10 am - 4 pm Sundays, 12 noon - 4 pm, Weekdays by appointment

Finding the U.S. Chesapeake Flotilla had been scuttled just up river, Rear Admiral George Cockburn, Commander of the British naval forces on the Chesapeake, disembarked his seamen here to join the expeditionary forces marching on Washington D.C. The house was also occupied by Royal Navy and British Army forces. Visitors to the park can enjoy interpretive waysides, archaeology exhibits, picnic areas, and water access from the Patuxent River.



Mount Calvert

Nottingham (Setting, Future Site)

Intersection of Nottingham and Tanyard Roads
Upper Marlboro, MD 20772

Nottingham was the naval base for the Chesapeake Flotilla during the summer of 1814. In August of that same year, Nottingham served as an encampment site for British troops marching to Washington, DC. Interpretive waysides describe the historic events that occurred at this site.

Baltimore County, MD

North Point State Park (planned interpretation/exhibits)

8700 North Point Road
Edgemere, MD 21219

www.dnr.state.md.us/publiclands/central/northpoint.html

Site Open: Park hours- 8 am to sunset; Takos Visitor Center hours are Memorial Day through Labor Day, Wednesday-Sunday, 11 am to 4 pm

Near North Point State Park, at about 3:00 am on September 12, 1814, the British disembarked approximately 4,500 troops to attack Baltimore in concert with the naval attack on Fort McHenry. After defeating the Americans at the Battle of North Point, but failing to outflank the city defenses at Hampstead Hill, the troops withdrew and re-embarked here on September 15, 1814. The Park is also home to Todd's Inheritance where an American signal/horse courier was stationed to report British movements to Baltimore. In retaliation for these activities, the British burned the house during the Battle of North Point on September 12, 1814. The present 1816 house replaces the original.



North Point State Park

Baltimore City, MD

Baltimore Visitor Center – information about sites and attractions within the Baltimore City limits can be obtained at the visitor center located at 401 Light Street directly adjacent to the trail at Baltimore's Inner Harbor.

Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine (Battlefield)

2400 East Fort Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21230-5393

<http://www.nps.gov/fomc/index.htm>

Site Open: Regular Hours- Park: 8 am - 5 pm

Star Fort: 8 am - 4:45 pm,

Visitor Center: 8 am - 4:45 pm

Extended Summer Hours- May 28-September 5, 2011

Park: 8 am-8 pm, Star Fort: 8 am - 7:45pm

Visitor Center: 8 am - 7:45 pm

Closed: Thanksgiving Day, December 25 and January 1

On September 13, 1814, British Vice-Admiral Sir Alexander Cochrane ordered the Royal Navy to attack Fort McHenry. The fort, commanded by Major George Armistead, defended the entrance to Baltimore's harbor. The British planned to pound the fort into submission and then assist their army in an assault on the well-prepared American entrenchments east of the city. In a 25-hour barrage, the British fired more than 1,500 mortar bombs and Congreve rockets at the fort, but were unable to drive the men off or silence the guns. A final naval effort to attack the fort from the west with twenty longboats packed with 1,200 Royal Marines was also stopped by the men and guns of Battery Babcock, Fort Lookout and Fort Covington. Having been repulsed in these three



Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine

separate attacks, the British commander ordered a withdrawal early on the morning of September 14, 1814. The Battle of Baltimore was over. As the British retreated from the harbor, the garrison flag, now known as the Star-Spangled Banner flag, was raised over Fort McHenry. As witness to the “rockets red glare” of this fateful battle at Fort McHenry, Francis Scott Key, onboard an American truce vessel was inspired to write the words to the Star-Spangled Banner.

The Star-Spangled Banner Flag House and Museum (Site)

844 E. Pratt St.
Baltimore, MD 21202

www.flaghouse.org

Site Open: Tuesday through Saturday 10 am to 4 pm

Here, Mary Young Pickersgill, at the request of Major George Armistead, sewed Fort McHenry’s large garrison flag and the smaller storm flag, which probably flew over the fort during the famous bombardment. The Museum displays artifacts from the Battle of North Point and plays host to several living history events. The Flag House was built in 1793.

Hampstead Hill Fortification/ Rodgers Bastion (Patterson Park) (Setting, Planned Interpretation)

200 S. Linwood Avenue (South Patterson Ave and Eastern Ave)
Baltimore, MD 21224

This is the site of the Baltimore Gin Riot (1808) and Hampstead Hill/Rodgers Bastion (September 13, 1814) where a line of earthworks was erected to defend Baltimore. On September 13, 1814, the British were stopped in their



Patterson Park

tracks as they approached Baltimore. When British Col. Brook realized that the Royal Navy could not help take Hampstead Hill, he and his forces marched back to North Point where they re-embarked on their ships. Recreational resources and activities at this site include bird watching, community gardening, ice skating, picnicking, playgrounds, a recreation center, a swimming pool, and tennis courts.

Armistead Monument at Federal Hill Park (Markers and Monuments)

Key Highway and Battery Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21230

During the War of 1812, Federal Hill served as a military observation post, signal station, and one gun battery. On the night of August 24, 1814, the glow from the burning of Washington, DC is reputed to have been seen from here. This park features monuments to Lt. Col. George Armistead and Major Gen. Samuel Smith. The park offers a picnic area and great views of Baltimore’s Inner Harbor.

Maryland Historical Society (collections)

201 West Monument St.
Baltimore, MD 21201
<http://www.mdhs.org/>

The Maryland Historical Society is home to paintings, prints, and artifacts from the Battle for Baltimore, including Francis Scott Key’s original manuscript that later became the words of our National Anthem.

Baltimore Visitor Center (interpretive location)

401 Light Street
 Baltimore, MD 21202
<http://baltimore.org/>

Site Open: 7 days a week - 9:30 am to 4:30 pm

The Baltimore Visitor Center is located in the Inner Harbor, an inlet of the Patapsco River off of the Chesapeake Bay. As a starting point for visitors to Baltimore, the center is the perfect way to discover and explore areas of the region's sites, history, events, accommodations, maritime activities, attractions and restaurants. Trained information specialists provide interpretive materials and information as well as sell tickets to area sites. Additionally, brochures and thematic displays assist in interpreting a variety of activities and experiences available in and around the City of Baltimore.

The Baltimore Visitor Center carries NPS brochures for the Star-Spangled Banner Trail and is a location where visitors can get a Star-Spangled Banner NHT NPS passport stamp. Star-Spangled Banner Trail interpretive and orientation signage is planned for installation by the summer of 2012.

Frederick Douglass – Isaac Myers Maritime Park (Interpretive Location)

1417 Thames Street
 Baltimore, MD 21231
www.douglassmyers.org

Site Open: Monday - Friday, 10 am - 4:30 pm, year-round.

The Maritime Park is a national heritage site that highlights the Chesapeake region's history, which is deeply connected to its maritime past. Located near the historic locations of Baltimore shipyards, the Maritime Park provides visitors an opportunity to learn about shipbuilding traditions in the Chesapeake Bay and the establishment of the African American community in Baltimore during the 19th century. The Maritime Park offers full visitor services and serves as a point of connection between other Star-Spangled Banner sites in Baltimore.

USS Constellation (Interpretive Location)

Pier 1, 301 E. Pratt Street
 Baltimore, MD 21202
www.constellation.org

Site Open: The following hours with the exception of Thanksgiving, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day: March - October 10 am - 5:30 pm; November - February 10 am - 4:30 pm.

Launched in 1854 from the Chesapeake Bay's Gosport Navy Yard at Portsmouth, Virginia, USS Constellation served for 100 years before decommissioning in 1955. Today, the USS Constellation offers a wide range of activities and demonstrations which provide visitors with opportunities to experience life on a 19th century man-of-war. The USS Constellation is located near the original location of the McElderry Wharf, the site of a War of 1812 ammunition laboratory, and many other historic resources that are associated with the Star-Spangled Banner Trail. As a full service attraction, the USS Constellation will provide visitors with an opportunity to learn about the maritime industry in Baltimore and the defense of Baltimore during the War of 1812.

Fells Point Visitor Center (Interpretive Location)

1724 Thames Street
 Baltimore, MD 21231
www.preservationsociety.com/PS2006visitorcenter.html
 Site Open: Open daily except Monday.

The site provides visitor orientation to the many nearby historic sites, restaurants, and attractions and is a good starting point for walking tours.

2.2 Limited Service Sites

The following locations are noted as significant War of 1812 resources. However, the sites are only open to the public for limited hours, or they do not have any interpretation for War of 1812 resources. Many of these sites may have interpretive facilities for natural resources or for other periods of history.

- Battle Creek Cyprus Swamp, Calvert County
- King's Landing Park, Calvert County
- Serenity Farm, Charles County
- Maxwell Park and House, Charles County
- Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary, Anne Arundel County
- Poplar Hill on His Lordship's Kindness, Prince George's County
- Darnell's Chance, Upper Marlboro
- Billingsley House Museum, Prince George's County
- Trinity Church, Upper Marlboro
- Patuxent Research Refuge National Wildlife Visitor Center, Prince George's and Anne Arundel County

- Indian Queen Tavern/George Washington House, Bladensburg
- Riversdale Mansion, Riverdale Park, Prince George's County
- Fells Point—Thames Street and Waterfront, Baltimore City
- Frederick Douglas-Isaac Myers Museum and Park, Baltimore City
- Pride of Baltimore II, Baltimore City

2.3 Self-Guided Sites

These sites have significant War of 1812 resources but do not have any formal interpretation. Information about these sites is typically found in guide books, or on War of 1812 websites. The sites are visible from a public road or street and can be viewed from the trail. However, the site is generally not open to the public.

- Benedict, Charles County (setting and water access)
- Town of Nottingham, Prince George's County
- St. Thomas Church, Croom, MD
- Dr. William Beanes Grave, Upper Marlboro
- Melwood Park, Upper Marlboro
- Mount Pleasant, Upper Marlboro
- Mt. Lubentia, Upper Marlboro
- Addison Chapel, Prince George's County
- Magruder House, Bladensburg
- Market Master's House, Bladensburg
- Fort Lincoln Cemetery, Prince George's County
- Bostwick House, Bladensburg
- Battle Acre Monument, Baltimore County
- Aquila Randall Monument, Baltimore County
- Fort Armistead Park, Baltimore County (setting and water access)
- Fort Howard Park, Baltimore County (setting and water access)
- Todd's Inheritance, Baltimore County (setting)
- North Point Methodist Meeting House Site (monument), Baltimore County

2.4 Future Sites or Attractions

The following sites have planned or programmed projects that will improve its accessibility to the public, including

planned interpretive facilities. The site may also be listed as a limited or self-guided site.

- North Point Heritage Greenway Trail, Baltimore County
- Courthouse and Jail, Calvert County
- Benedict, Charles County
- North Point State Battlefield, Baltimore County
- Town of Nottingham, Prince George's County

3. Visitor Readiness of Recreation Opportunities

The Star-Spangled Banner Trail offers nationally significant recreational opportunities "that are directly associated with and dependent upon the natural and cultural elements of the landscape" (FHWA, 1995). The land and water based recreational opportunities along the trail also provide an alternative means of exploring the landscapes and routes that are significant to understanding the people, events, and ideas associated with the War of 1812 and the Star-Spangled Banner itself. One of the primary purposes of the National Historic Trail as designated by the U.S. Congress is to foster improved land and water based recreation, public access, and heritage tourism.

In addition to its designation as a national historic trail by Congress, the route links a number of sites that are part of the Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Watertrails Network (CBGN) (see CMP, chapter 1). Through this program, the National Park Service is working to improve public water access to the Chesapeake Bay.

The result of these and other long-term efforts to protect natural and cultural resources and to promote land and water based recreational opportunities along the major tributaries to the Chesapeake Bay is a trail corridor that provides land and water based recreational access to each of the major tributaries associated with the Chesapeake Campaign of the War of 1812.

Recreation opportunities along the land route in Maryland are concentrated in seven areas: the Lower Patuxent River Corridor; the Middle Patuxent River Corridor; the Anacostia River/Indian Creek corridor; the Upper Patuxent River

Corridor; the Patapsco River Corridor; the Baltimore Inner Harbor; and the North Point Peninsula (figures K.1a, K.1b, K.1c, and K.1d). These generally coincide with the water trail branches and segments described in Maryland's *Opportunity Plan for Water Portions of the Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail* (MD DBED 2010a) and include many of the opportunity areas identified in that plan.

These major recreational corridors are destinations unto themselves that provide an exceptional traveling experience for visitors, attracting people from throughout the region across the country.

3.1 Lower Reach of the Patuxent River Corridor

Extending from Calvert County to St. Mary's County, this segment is accessible to the trail route at its southernmost terminus in Solomons. As a peninsula surrounded by the waters of the Chesapeake Bay to the east and the Patuxent River to the west, Calvert County is rich with opportunities for water based recreation along its southern shores.

In Solomons, visitors can access the Patuxent River at Solomons Boat Ramp and Fishing Pier, located adjacent to the MD 4 bridge and at the docks under the Governor Thomas Johnson Bridge. The community of Solomons is anchored by a boardwalk offering scenic views of the Patuxent River and interpretation of the War of 1812. Boats can be chartered at Solomons that provide opportunities for visitors to experience both the land and waterscapes associated with this important reach of the Patuxent River and its nearby War of 1812 sites.

Located at the mouth of the Patuxent River, Solomons played a critical role during the Chesapeake Campaign. It was at Drum Point, near Solomons, that Joshua Barney, commander of the U.S. Chesapeake Flotilla, launched an attack on the British at Tangier Island. This resulted in a British blockade across the mouth of the Patuxent, near Solomons – a strategy that led to the raid on Washington, D.C.

The First and Second Battles of St. Leonard Creek occurred on the shores of Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum (JPPM), where St. Leonard Creek flows into the Patuxent River. These events of the Chesapeake Campaign of 1814 are

interpreted at JPPM. A beach launch for canoes and kayaks is located one mile north offering additional water access for paddlers. A future water only access point for recreational boaters is planned for JPPM.

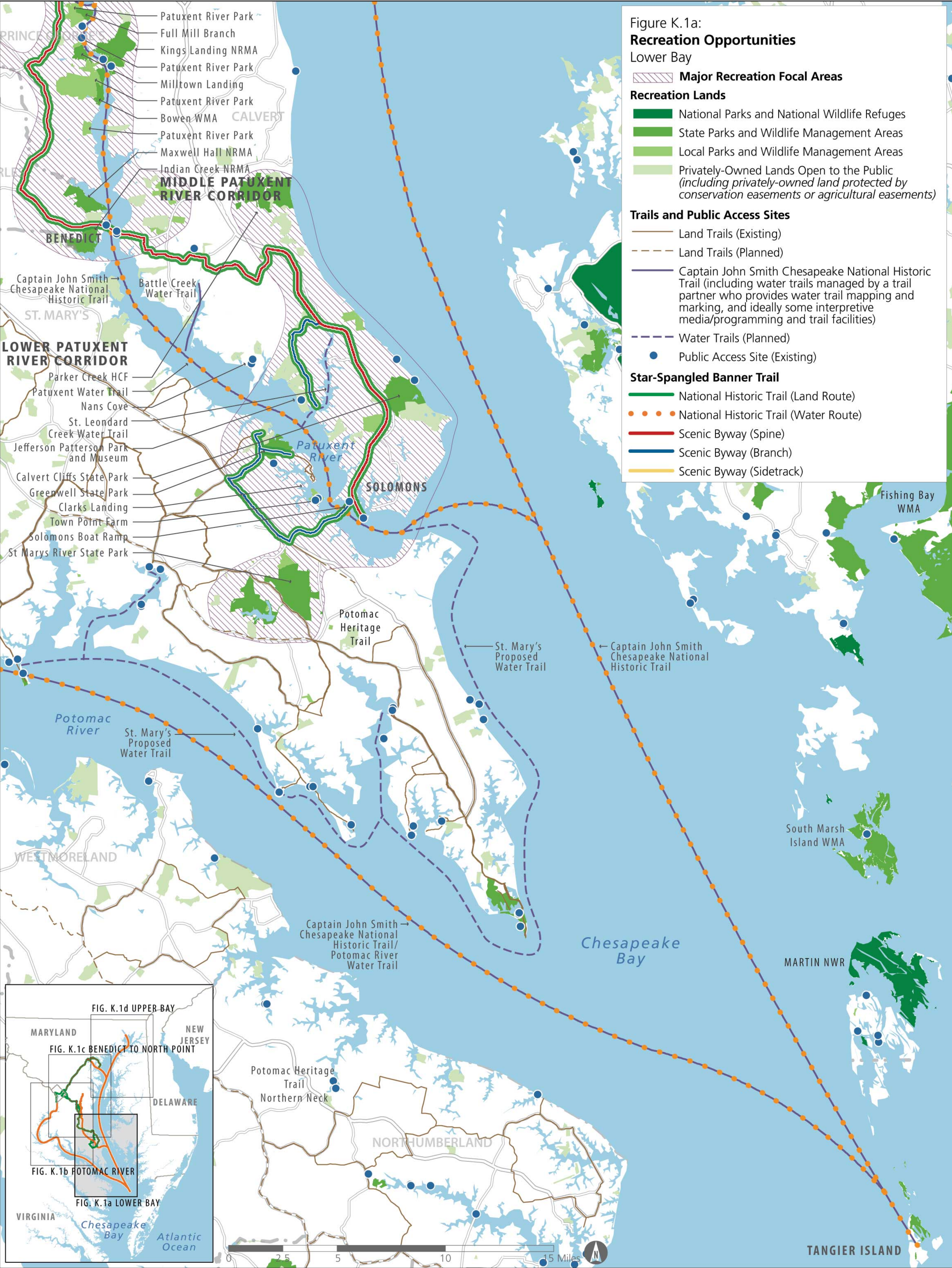
Several water based CBGN sites are located in this area, including Sotterley Plantation, Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum, and Greenwell State Park. A variety of recreational opportunities are also available at the following significant sites and trails within the Lower Patuxent River corridor.

3.1.1 CAPTAIN JOHN SMITH CHESAPEAKE NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL

The Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail extends within this corridor from the Chesapeake Bay at the mouth of the Patuxent River to the Middle Patuxent River Corridor (see CMP, chapter 1).

In 2006 the U.S. Congress designated the historic Chesapeake Bay exploration routes traveled by Captain John Smith 400 years ago as the first national water trail. Smith mapped and recorded his travels of almost 3,000 miles within the Bay and its tributaries. The Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail celebrates this voyage and recognizes the Bay as a highly significant natural, cultural, and recreational resource. The trail includes almost 3,000 miles of Smith's route from two main voyages on the Bay in 1608 and his voyages on the York, James, and other rivers from 1607 to 1609.

While the trail is still in development stages, there are existing water trails where visitors can follow portions of Smith's historic route. There are already many places where visitors can learn about the 17th-century Chesapeake Bay region and the Native American peoples who inhabited the area for thousands of years before the English arrived. These existing places are part of the Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Watertrails Network, with more than 160 water trails, parks, museums, wildlife refuges, and other sites that are partners in the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail. Recreational activities include canoeing, kayaking, sailing, hiking, swimming, bird-watching, and fishing.



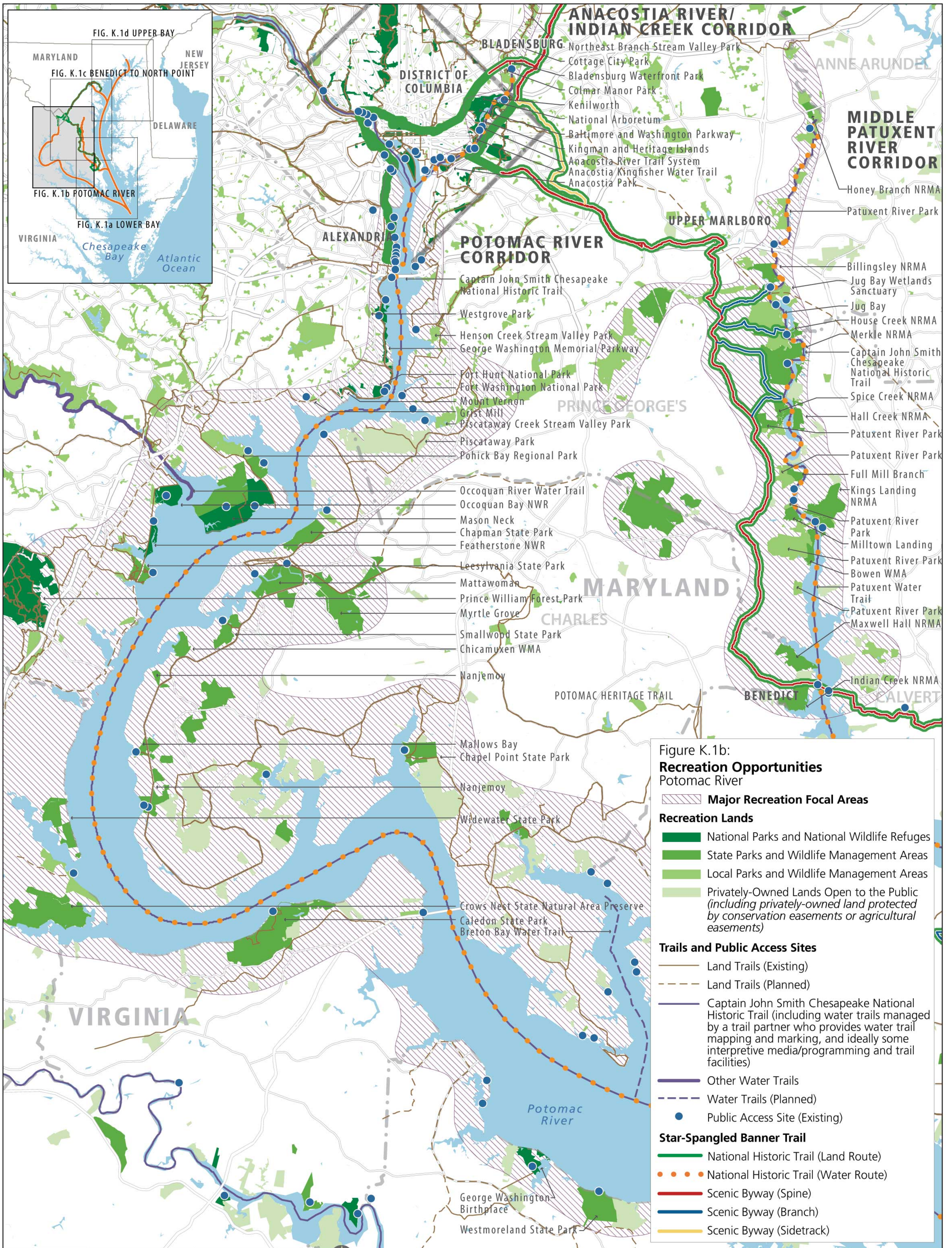



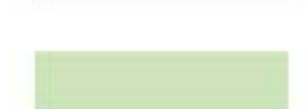


Figure K.1c:






Recreation Opportunities
Benedict to North Point

 **Major Recreation Focal Areas**






Recreation Lands

-  National Parks and National Wildlife Refuges
-  State Parks and Wildlife Management Areas
-  Local Parks and Wildlife Management Areas
-  Privately-Owned Lands Open to the Public
(including privately-owned land protected by conservation easements or agricultural easements)

Trails and Public Access Sites

-  Land Trails (Existing)
-  Land Trails (Planned)
-  Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail (including water trails managed by a trail partner who provides water trail mapping and marking, and ideally some interpretive media/programming and trail facilities)
-  Water Trails (Planned)
-  Public Access Site (Existing)

Star-Spangled Banner Trail

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

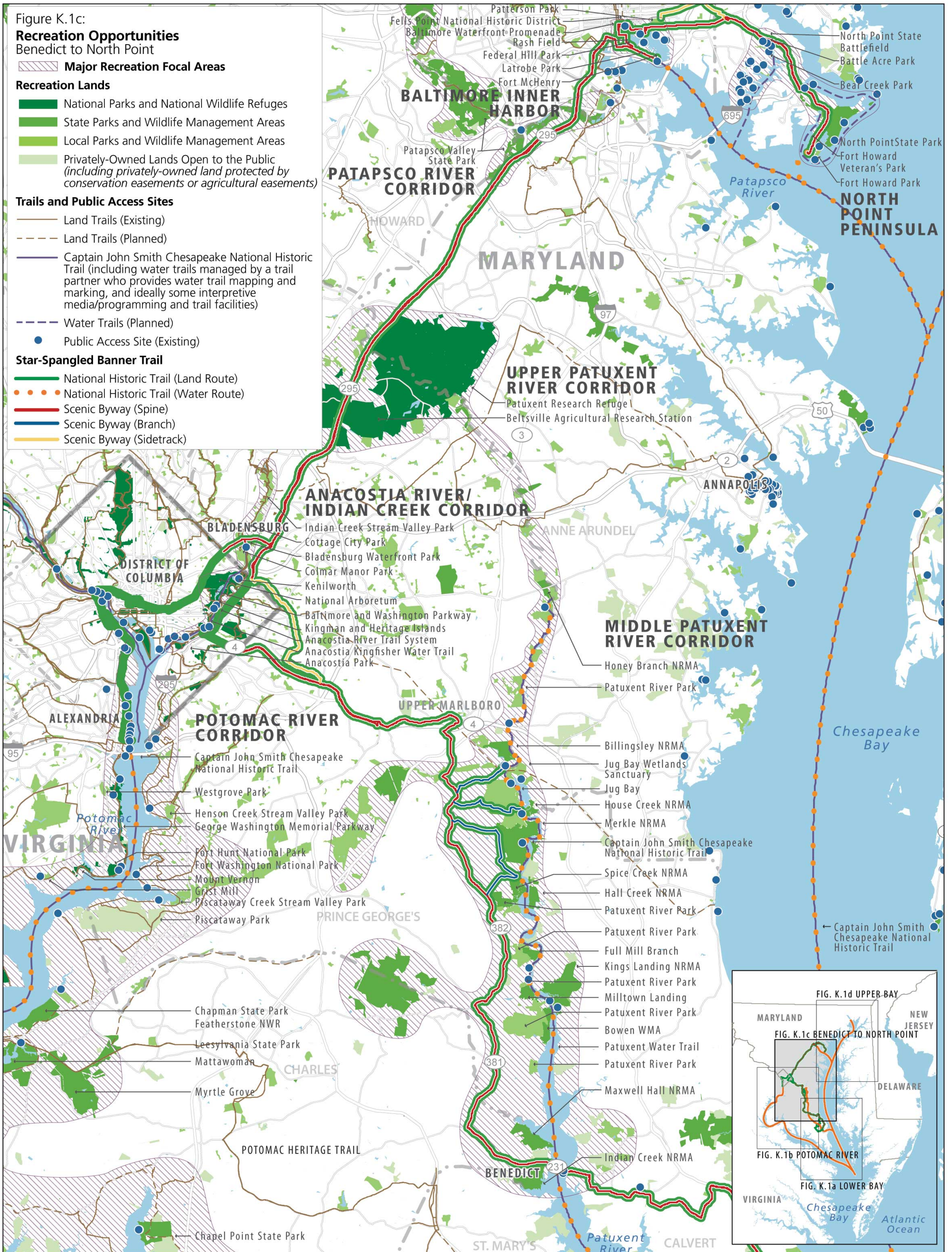







Figure K.1d:
Recreation Opportunities
Upper Bay

 **Major Recreation Focal Areas**





Recreation Lands

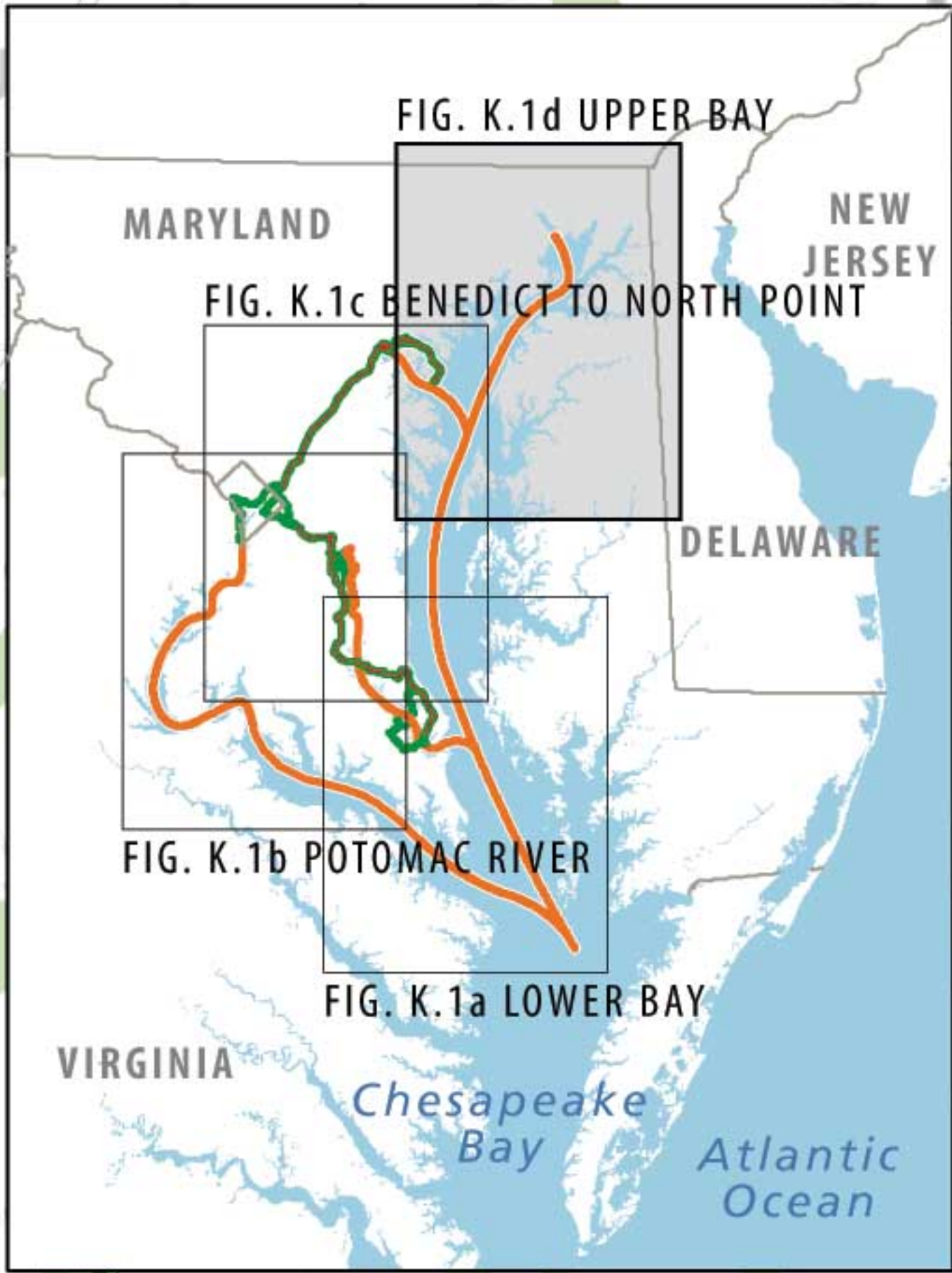
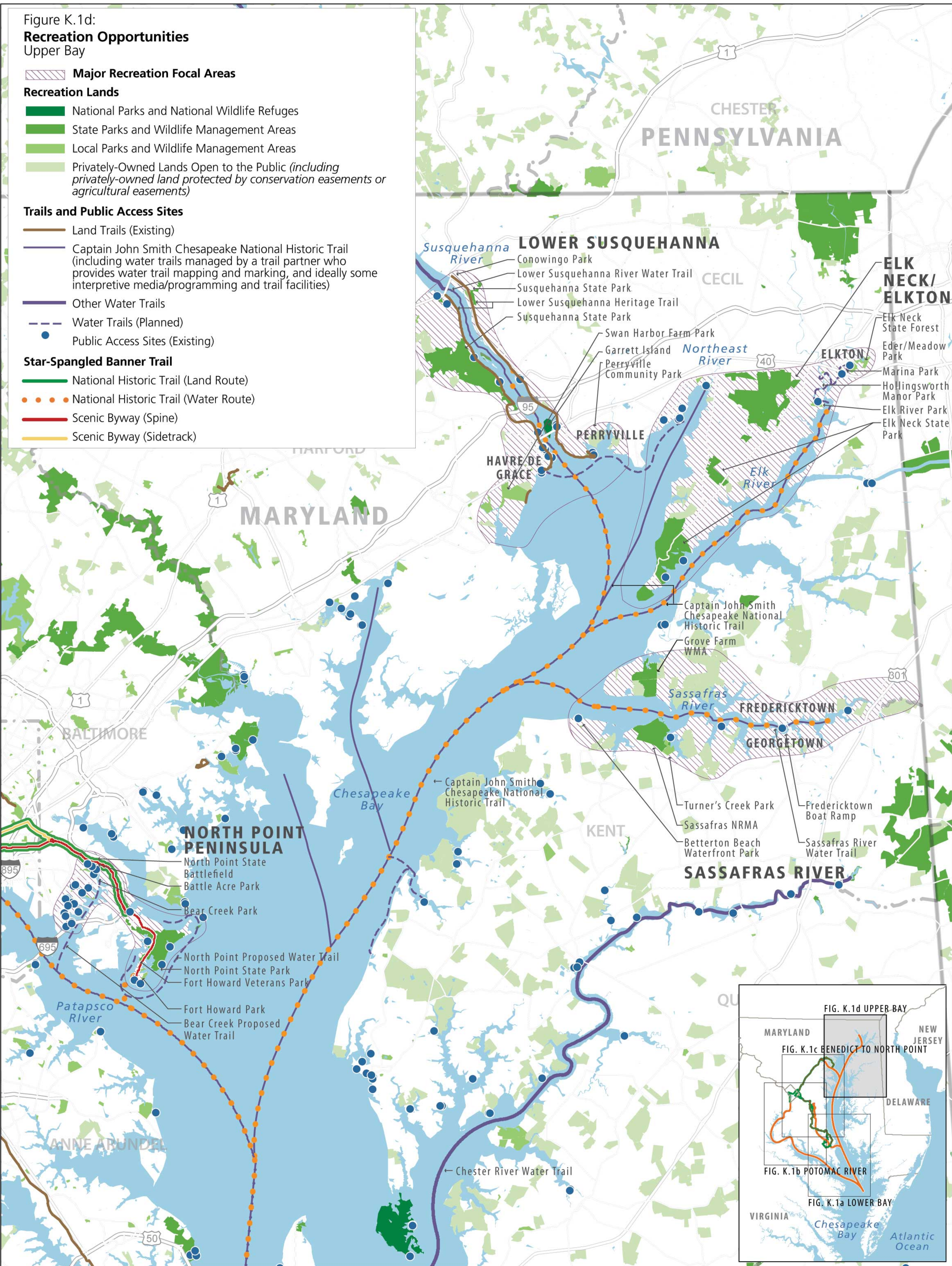
-  National Parks and National Wildlife Refuges
-  State Parks and Wildlife Management Areas
-  Local Parks and Wildlife Management Areas
-  Privately-Owned Lands Open to the Public (including privately-owned land protected by conservation easements or agricultural easements)

Trails and Public Access Sites

-  Land Trails (Existing)
-  Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail (including water trails managed by a trail partner who provides water trail mapping and marking, and ideally some interpretive media/programming and trail facilities)
-  Other Water Trails
-  Water Trails (Planned)
-  Public Access Sites (Existing)

Star-Spangled Banner Trail

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





Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail

3.1.2 SOLOMONS BOAT RAMP

14195 Solomons Island Road
Solomons, MD 20688
Site open: at all hours
Solomons Boat Ramp

Solomons Boat Ramp is located at the southern terminus of the route in Solomons. Facilities include a ramp, launch, and restrooms. The Calvert County Visitors Center is within walking distance for those arriving by boat.

3.1.3 GREENWELL STATE PARK

25420 Rosedale Manor Lane
Hollywood, MD 20636
Site open: sunrise to sunset

The 596-acre Greenwell State Park is located on the Patuxent River in St. Mary's County. The state manages the park in partnership with the Greenwell Foundation, a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing outdoor accessible recreation.

Hiking, horseback riding, biking, fishing, picnicking, hunting, canoeing, kayaking, and swimming are activities available at the site, but it is best known for its universally accessible therapeutic riding programs, camps, and kayak lessons. Incorporating War of 1812 educational and interpretive programs into the camp and kayak experiences would be a natural partnership opportunity.



Solomons Boat Ramp

3.1.4 JEFFERSON PATTERSON PARK AND MUSEUM

10515 Mackall Road
St. Leonard, MD 20685
Site open: visitor center, Wednesday through Sunday,
mid-April - mid-October, 10:00 am to 5:00 pm

Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum (JPPM) is located at the end of Mackall Road, a branch of the trail. The 560-acre site is located directly on the Patuxent River. JPPM interprets the First and Second Battles of St. Leonard Creek and offers a visitor center with museum and archeological exhibits which are of interest to War of 1812 visitors.



Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum

As a recreational site along the Patuxent River, the site also offers water access from two boat ramps, kayaking and canoeing opportunities. The site also provides opportunities for hiking, wildlife observation, and picnicking, among other activities that would be of interest to War of 1812 visitors.

3.1.5 PATUXENT WATER TRAIL

This water trail is a nationally significant recreational resource that represents a one-of-a-kind opportunity to experience the natural heritage of the Patuxent River along with new opportunities to learn about the War of 1812.

The route extends from the mouth of the Patuxent River, just south of Solomons in Calvert County, upstream to the middle reaches of the Patuxent River, a Maryland Scenic River. M-NCPPC owns more than 7,000 acres of parkland in Prince George's County that protects and preserves the natural resources and scenic qualities of the river.

Public access points along the river vary from docks to hard and soft landings, with as many as sixteen public access points along the trail. Additional information on launches, camping, resources, navigation, and river monitoring are available at the official website <http://www.patuxentwatertrail.org/>.

In addition to the sites within the trail corridor in Calvert County, a nearby site that is worthy of a visit for its unique geological interest is Calvert Cliffs State Park.



Patuxent Water Trail at Merkle Wildlife Sanctuary

3.1.6 CALVERT CLIFFS STATE PARK

9500 H.G. Trueman Road
Lusby, MD 20657

Site open: sunrise to sunset daily, year-round; donation of \$5 per car; those planning a visit should contact the park office for details

Although located along the western shore of the Chesapeake Bay, Calvert Cliffs State Park is a nearby destination that provides an opportunity to experience and learn about this unique geological feature. Of particular note is the opportunity to search for fossils, one of the few such sites open to the public. The cliffs often reveal the remains of prehistoric species including sharks, whales, rays, and seabirds that were the size of small airplanes (MD DNR 2011c).

There is also an extensive hiking trail system offering the opportunity to explore the natural heritage of the bay's western shore.

3.2 Middle Reach of the Patuxent River Corridor

The Middle Reach of the Patuxent River extends from Hallowing Point in Calvert County; to Benedict in Charles County; to Upper Marlboro in Prince George's County; and finally following the Patuxent River upstream into Anne Arundel County, just south of MD 2. Nine public access points are located within this corridor.

Views from the southernmost access point at Hallowing Point offer landscape vistas in Benedict, which looks much as it did when British forces landed there in 1814. Benedict was the northernmost point at which large vessels in the British fleet could navigate, and therefore was a landing point.

Additional boat launch sites include the paddlers' launch at Benedict Community Park and the ramp launch at the end of De Soto Lane in Benedict. Water trails overlapping in this corridor include the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail and the Patuxent Water Trail.

Ten NRMAs are identified within this corridor. Resources supporting water-based recreational activities include the Mount Calvert Jackson's Landing site, Jug Bay Natural Area, Selby's Landing, and Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary Wetlands Center. Patuxent River Park, a CBGN site, is located in about

five areas intermittently along the Patuxent River in this corridor.

In addition to the water-based activities mentioned above, a variety of recreational opportunities are available at the following significant sites and supporting sites within the Middle Reach Patuxent River Corridor.

3.2.1 INDIAN CREEK NRMA

Access road across from Serenity Farms Road on MD 231 (Prince Frederick Road), Hughesville, MD 20637

Site open: sunrise to sunset (legal times for hunting are ½ hour before sunrise and ½ hour after sunset)

This 660-acre site forms a green belt around the town of Benedict and is currently frequented by hunters, fishers, naturalists, and bird watchers (US ACE 1996). Opportunities are being explored to determine if interpretive walking trails or other elements can be developed to help tell the War of 1812 story at Benedict.

In addition to providing a vital role in preserving the setting at Benedict, the site offers opportunities for hunting, fishing, and bird watching.

3.2.2 MAXWELL HALL PARK, CHARLES COUNTY PARKS

6680 Maxwell Hall Drive
Hughesville, MD 20637

Site open: daily 8 am until dusk (weather permitting; members only)

This is a membership-only resource for equestrians, although the 14.2 miles of trails are open to hikers and nature enthusiasts. There is parking available to hikers at the equestrian area entrance and at a separate location on Teagues Point Road.

3.2.3 MAXWELL HALL STATE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

Maryland DNR manages this paddling campsite upstream from Benedict that is available by reservation through Charles County Parks. It offers an opportunity for an overnight water trail experience along the Patuxent River.

There is a picnic area, a sandy beach and a walking trail through the adjacent fields.

3.2.4 PATUXENT RIVER PARK

16000 Croom Airport Road
Upper Marlboro, MD 20772
Site open: daily 8 am until dusk

M-NCPPC owns more than 7,000 acres of parkland in Prince George's County that protects and preserves the natural resources and scenic qualities of the Patuxent River.

The park offers canoe and kayak rentals to visitors – an important resource to visitors who may have come from out of town without their own water craft, allowing them to explore portions of the trail from the water. Camping and picnicking are also available for both land and water based visitors.

The park offers interpretation of both natural and cultural resources in addition to a wide range of outdoor recreational opportunities: camping, hiking, bicycling, horseback riding, fishing, hunting, boating, kayaking, canoeing, and archeology and nature study.

Guided educational programs and special programs are available for people of all ages. Although not currently interpreting the War of 1812, the Patuxent Rural Life Museum has a collection of late 19th century and early 20th century buildings and historic structures dedicated to preserving the rural heritage of southern Prince George's County.

The park is typically open from dawn to dusk. Reservations are required for most of the programs and events, including rentals and camping.

3.2.5 MILLTOWN LANDING NRMA

Site open: sunrise to sunset (legal times for hunting are ½ hour before sunrise and ½ hour after sunset)

This 250-acre site is located on the Patuxent River in Prince George's County just off Milltown Landing Road. It is a secluded site where hunting and camping are permitted by

reservation. Fishing opportunities are also available for those seeking a secluded recreational experience.

3.2.6 MERKLE WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

As described under Natural Qualities in Section 2.3 of this Appendix, this sanctuary offers one of the Patuxent River Corridor's most unique recreational experiences, the four-mile Chesapeake Bay Critical Area Driving Tour (CADT).

On Sundays throughout the year, it provides tremendous opportunities for bird watching and scenery, especially for those who may not be able to walk or ride a bicycle along the park road. The CADT is open for biking, hiking and horseback riding daily from 7 am to sunset, January through September (closed at other times).



Merkle Wildlife Sanctuary

3.2.7 JUG BAY NATURAL AREA

16000 Croom Airport Road
Upper Marlboro, MD 20772
Site open: daily 8 am to dusk

A CBGN site and also as described under Natural Qualities in Section 2.3 of this Appendix, Jug Bay is a 2,000-acre natural area along the Patuxent River. It is considered critical to the river's functions as one of Maryland's premier river greenways and one of the most important freshwater tidal estuaries in the Chesapeake region. Jug Bay Natural Area is part of the National Estuarine Research Reserve. The National Audubon Society has designated Jug Bay Natural Area as an Important Birding Area.

Jug Bay provides direct access to the Patuxent River and offers guided trips and daily and hourly canoe and kayak rental. The site is also part of the four-mile Chesapeake Bay Critical Area Driving Tour connecting the park with Merkle Wildlife Sanctuary. Camping and picnicking are also available as part of the overall trail experience. Guided educational programs, including river wetland ecology tours on a pontoon boat and hiking tours with a naturalist, are also available to link the natural and cultural resource heritage with the trail travel experience.

In addition to the natural areas noted above, the trail is used extensively for bicycle touring. Bicyclists appreciate the rustic character of the roadways and the destinations associated with the War of 1812 sites. These conditions present a major opportunity to connect the interpretation of the War of 1812 to recreational values associated with cycling the travel route.

3.2.8 OXON HILL BICYCLE AND TRAIL CLUB ROUTES

The Oxon Hill Bicycle and Trail Club creates maps, provides travel information, and advocates for bicycle use of a series of routes weaving throughout the Middle Patuxent River Corridor on Croom Road and the trail branches east of Croom Road. Routes include Accokeek to Merkle (47 mi); Brandywine to Merkle (24 mi); Brandywine Firehouse to Merkle Meander (27 mi); Brandywine Fire Station to Mount Calvert (33 mi); Brandywine, Candy, and Mudd (42 mi); and Merkle Meander from Gwynn Park High School (44.5 mi).



Oxon Hill Bicycle Route to Merkle Wildlife Sanctuary

3.2.9 PATUXENT WATER TRAIL

(See section 3.1 Lower Reach of the Patuxent River Corridor.)

3.2.10 CAPTAIN JOHN SMITH CHESAPEAKE NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL

(See section 3.1 Lower Reach of the Patuxent River Corridor.)

3.3 Anacostia River/Indian Creek Corridor

The major focal area of this corridor surrounds the confluence of the Anacostia River and Indian Creek near Bladensburg. American troops defended Bladensburg in three different locations on the western shore of the Anacostia, attempting to block the British forces from attacking Washington DC in August of 1814. Trail visitors can follow Annapolis Road westbound to Bladensburg Waterfront Park (a CBGN site), where the American First Line met British attack, and where there is presently public water access and resources for paddlers. The following resources offer recreational opportunities within the protected lands along the Anacostia River and Indian Creek corridor.

3.3.1 KINGFISHER CANOE TRAIL

Bladensburg Waterfront Park to Anacostia Park Boat Ramp (Washington, DC)

One of the best ways to experience War of 1812 resources in the Bladensburg vicinity is to take the Kingfisher Canoe Trail. This urban water trail, the full length of which is accessible at high tide only, starts at Bladensburg Waterfront Park and ends at the Anacostia Park Boat Ramp. The water trail also connects with Colmar Manor Park (see below) and Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens, a unit of the National Park Service, further south past the side-by-side bridges carrying US Route 50 and the railroad. Known as an area of secret beauty, Kenilworth Marsh and Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens are rich with wetland habitat where otter, beaver, and colorful birds are often spotted. Lotuses, lilies, and collections of other water plants can be enjoyed at the Aquatic Gardens. The route continues south past Kingman Lake, which is home to numerous birds, fish species, reptiles, and mammals. The water trail also flows beside such other urban sites as RFK Stadium, golf courses, railroad tracks, bridges, and public recreation areas.

There are three parks in the vicinity of Bladensburg that played a critical role in the Battle of Bladensburg during the War of 1812. All three provide interpretive signage and public access opportunities to view the Anacostia River and War of 1812 sites. Each also hosts portions of the Anacostia River Trail.

3.3.2 BLADENSBURG WATERFRONT PARK

4601 Annapolis Road

Bladensburg, MD 20710

Site open: sunrise to sunset daily; visitor center, 9 am to 4 pm

Bladensburg, Colmar Manor, and Cottage City along the Anacostia River are branded as Port Towns. As discussed in chapter 1, the lands that comprise Bladensburg Waterfront Park played a pivotal role in the Battle of Bladensburg.

The park offers an interpretive glimpse at its War of 1812 history. The park's visitor center has extensive programming and activities that include educational programs on natural and cultural heritage. The park is also a major destination on the Anacostia Trail system, and upon the completion of the District of Columbia section of the Anacostia River Trail, will be accessible from Washington, DC.



Bladensburg Waterfront Park

The park also offers canoe, kayak, and rowboat rentals during the summer and early fall, providing access for visitors to the trail who may have arrived by car or bus. Free guided tours by pontoon boat are also offered.

In addition, the park features a fishing pier, a picnic pavilion, and a public boat ramp allowing a put-in location for the Kingfisher Canoe Trail (see above).

3.3.3 COLMAR MANOR PARK

3508 38th Ave.
Colmar Manor, MD 20722
Site open: dawn to dusk, year round

Colmar Manor Park was the scene of the Battle of Bladensburg on August 24, 1814. Located on the western bank of the Anacostia River just north of the Bladensburg Road bridge, the park provides opportunities for wildlife viewing, hiking, and biking, as well as being a battleground of the War of 1812. Colmar Manor Park includes the historic “dueling grounds” where more than 50 duels were fought in the first half of the 19th century. The Colmar Park Natural Areas is an extensive wetland habitat within the park that features a trail network where osprey and green-backed herons can be seen.

3.3.4 COTTAGE CITY PARK

Cottage City Park is located just north of Colmar Manor Park. The Anacostia Tributary Trail System travels through this partially wooded, riverside landscape, offering opportunities for pedestrian and bicycle access to the Anacostia River and an opportunity for future interpretation of the War of 1812 and the Battle of Bladensburg.

There are additional hiking and biking trails extending out from the Anacostia Tributary Trail System.

3.3.5 INDIAN CREEK STREAM VALLEY PARK

Indian Creek originates south of Laurel and flows through the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center, Greenbelt, and Berwyn Heights. Linkages occur with both Beavercreek and Paint Branch. M-NCPPC and the U.S. Department of Agriculture own a majority of the Indian Creek stream corridor. A multi-use trail is located in the southern section of the greenway. This path, part of the Anacostia Tributary Trail System, links with the Paint Branch and Northeast Branch trails and Lake Artemesia.

3.4 Upper Reach of the Patuxent River Corridor

The Upper Patuxent River Corridor primarily encompasses the protected lands north of Bladensburg and just east and west of the trail route on the Baltimore-Washington Parkway in Prince George’s and Anne Arundel counties. These protected lands include the Patuxent Research Refuge and Beltsville Agricultural Research Center.

3.4.1 BELTSVILLE AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH STATION

10300 Baltimore Avenue
Beltsville, MD 20705
Site open: 8 am to 4:30 pm, Monday through Friday

Although not a recreational opportunity in the strictest sense, the USDA’s Agricultural Research Service (ARS) property at the Beltsville Agricultural Research Station is one of the largest pieces of open space so close to Washington, DC. The site serves an important function in helping to preserve the enclosed feeling and park-like character of the Baltimore-Washington Parkway section of the trail.

The roads that are open and accessible to the public make for outstanding bicycling and running routes.

3.4.2 PATUXENT RESEARCH REFUGE

10901 Scarlet Tanager Loop
Laurel, MD 20708-4027
Site open: visitor center, 9:00 am to 4:30 pm daily, except closed on federal holidays; trails and grounds – sunrise to 4:30 pm daily (extended hours in the summer); walking trails open sunrise to 7:00 pm; closed on federal holidays

This nationally recognized refuge is managed under the National Wildlife Refuge program of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Its management is focused on its mission of wildlife conservation, as described under Natural Qualities in Section 2.3 of this Appendix. In addition to serving its important function in helping to preserve the enclosed feeling of the park-like character of the Baltimore-Washington Parkway section of the trail, the site offers extensive walking trails and wildlife viewing opportunities. A visitor center offers educational and interpretive opportunities for learning about the natural heritage of the Patuxent River Valley.

3.5 Patapsco River Corridor

The Patapsco River Corridor extends from southwest Baltimore along the Patapsco River in Howard, Baltimore, and Anne Arundel counties. Patapsco Valley State Park is the primary recreational resource in the corridor. The Middle Branch Park and the Masonville Cove Environmental Education Center are additional resources at the mouth of the Patapsco.

3.5.1 PATAPSCO VALLEY STATE PARK

8020 Baltimore National Pike
Ellicott City, MD 21043
Site open: daily 9 am to sunset

Patapsco Valley State Park extends along 32 miles of the Patapsco River, encompassing 16,043 acres and eight developed recreational areas. The park provides an important function in preserving the setting of the Baltimore-Washington Parkway. The park is nationally known for its trail opportunities and scenery. It has 170 miles of trails, including 70 miles of maintained trails. There are hiker-only trails and multi-use trails accessible from many areas of Patapsco Valley. The Avalon Visitor Center houses exhibits spanning 300 years of history along the Patapsco River.

3.6 Baltimore Inner Harbor

The Baltimore Inner Harbor Corridor encompasses the Baltimore Inner Harbor as well as Fort McHenry, Fells Point National Historic District, and Patterson Park. The corridor is a vital urban environment that encompasses many important War of 1812 resources, such as Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine, the Star-Spangled Banner Flag House, Federal Hill, Riverside Park, Battery Park, the National Aquarium's new environmental center, Fells Point, and Hampstead Hill at Patterson Park. A number of resources support the water based visitor experience at the Inner Harbor, such as the Baltimore Visitor Center, Canton Kayak Club, Spirit Cruises, and Ed Kane's Water Taxi. The Inner Harbor Promenade is a walkway that generally follows the water's edge and connects the city's greenways to provide walking and biking linkages to attractions throughout the waterfront.

The Southeast Baltimore Bike Route links the Flag House, Fells Point, and Hampstead Hill and other locations in the Downtown Baltimore area. Light Street Bicycles provides visitors with bikes to enjoy the trails and sites of the Inner Harbor.

The Jones Falls Greenway Trail, currently under construction, will guide visitors around the Inner Harbor and north to Penn Station when it is completed in 2013. Gwynns Falls Trail and Greenway (a CBGN site) is a significant recreational resource within the corridor.

The Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail extends up the Patapsco River (see section 3.1).

The following resources support recreational activities throughout the Baltimore Inner Harbor corridor.

3.6.1 FORT MCHENRY NATIONAL MONUMENT AND HISTORIC SHRINE

2400 East Fort Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21230-5393
Site open: regular hours: park, 8 am to 5 pm; Star Fort, 8 am to 4:45 pm; visitor center, 8 am to 4:45 pm; extended summer hours are May 28 - September 5, 2011: park, 8 am to 8 pm; Star Fort, 8 am to 7:45 pm; visitor center, 8 am - 7:45 pm; closed winter holidays

Fort McHenry (a CBGN site) is the place of the fateful battle that inspired Francis Scott Key to pen the National Anthem. A commemorative buoy is located at the spot where the truce ship HMS Tonnant carrying Francis Scott Key was anchored in the Patapsco River. Fort McHenry supports recreational resources such as a nature trail, public water access, and interpretive tours.

There are a series of smaller local parks that provide opportunities along the trail connecting Fort McHenry with the Inner Harbor.

3.6.2 FEDERAL HILL PARK

Key Highway and Battery Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21230

During the War of 1812, Federal Hill served as a military observation post, signal station, and one-gun battery. On the

night of August 24, 1814, the glow from the burning of Washington, DC is reputed to have been seen from Federal Hill Park. The park features monuments to Lt. Col. George Armistead and Major Gen. Samuel Smith (Maryland Bicentennial Commission 2010). The site provides recreational opportunities for trail visitors looking for a place to get out and walk, have a picnic, or just soak in the great views of Baltimore's Inner Harbor.

3.6.3 RASH FIELD

201 Key Highway
Baltimore, MD 21230

This park is located just north of Federal Hill Park and boasts great views of the Inner Harbor.

3.6.4 BALTIMORE WATERFRONT PROMENADE

Inner Harbor, Canton, Fells Point, Federal Hill
Baltimore, MD

Covering seven miles of shoreline on one of America's premier urban bodies of water, this boardwalk connects historic communities, such as Fells Point and Federal Hill, to modern downtown and Harborplace. As a major Baltimore destination, the Inner Harbor provides an opportunity to learn about and understand multiple layers of Baltimore's urban character. A wealth of interpretive signage covers many historical, cultural, architectural, environmental, and social histories. The Inner Harbor is one of America's great urban planning success stories; it was a site destined for a freeway, transformed into a people-oriented place for



Baltimore Waterfront Promenade

sight-seeing and walking from the green spaces of Canton to Fort McHenry.

The route can be taken by land on the Waterfront Promenade or by water transportation. Providing these transportation links by land and by water helps to create a world class heritage tourism and recreation destination in the heart of Baltimore (Waterfront Partnership of Baltimore 2006).

3.6.5 FELLS POINT NATIONAL HISTORIC DISTRICT

Thames Street
Baltimore, MD

Another great place for trail visitors to get out of their cars and stretch is the Fells Point National Historic District. See chapter 1 of the CMP for a complete description of its War of 1812 context.



Fells Point National Historic District

3.6.6 PATTERSON PARK

200 S. Linwood Avenue (South Patterson Avenue and Eastern Avenue)

Baltimore, MD 21224

Site open: dawn to dusk

This is another critical War of 1812 site with outstanding recreational opportunities. Hampstead Hill/Rodgers Bastion is where a line of earthworks was erected to defend Baltimore. On September 13, 1814, the British were stopped as they approached Baltimore. When British Col. Brook realized that the Royal Navy could not help take Hampstead Hill, he and his forces marched back to North Point where they re-embarked on their ships (Maryland Bicentennial Commission 2009). A pagoda stands at the park summit where visitors can enjoy scenic views of the park and surrounding cityscape. The park offers another good place for visitors to get out and enjoy the trails and other opportunities for active recreation.



Patterson Park

3.6.7 CAPTAIN JOHN SMITH CHESAPEAKE NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL

(See section 3.1 Lower Reach of the Patuxent River Corridor.)

3.7 North Point Peninsula

The North Point Peninsula encompasses the corridor from North Point State Battlefield in Dundalk to North Point State Park and Fort Howard (at the southernmost tip of the North Point Peninsula). The corridor is historically significant as the

landing and staging ground for the British land attack on Baltimore (see chapter 1, CMP).

North Point State Park (CBGN site) offers numerous recreational resources ranging from canoe rentals in the summer to a six-mile shoreline with highly evocative landscape views along the Chesapeake Bay. Numerous water based opportunities are proposed for the peninsula, including a Battle of North Point water trail concept which would connect Greenhill Cove and North Point Creek, providing several soft landings/paddlers' waysides (MD DBED 2010a).

There are a series of public parks and recreational resources that support recreational activities within the North Point Peninsula.

3.7.1 NORTH POINT STATE BATTLEFIELD

Site open: sunrise to sunset

This nine-acre site was the location of the Battle of North Point on September 12, 1814. It is located on North Point Road between Pinewood Road and Kimberly Road, across the street from Battle Acre Park in Dundalk. Currently, there are no developed visitor facilities, but it is open for walking.

3.7.2 BATTLE ACRE PARK

3115 Old Northpoint Road

Dundalk, MD 21222

Site open: sunrise to sunset

Battle Acre Park is a one-acre site dedicated in 1839 to commemorate those who fought in the Battle of North Point on September 12, 1814. On September 14, 1914, 100 years after the battle, a cannon-topped monument was erected to honor those who fought in the Battle of North Point. Currently, the site has a network of paths with benches.



North Point State Park

3.7.3 NORTH POINT STATE PARK

8700 North Point Road

Edgemere, MD 21219

Site open: park hours, 8 am to sunset; visitor center hours, 11 am to 4 pm, Wed-Sun, Memorial Day through Labor Day

Near North Point State Park at about 3:00 am on September 12, 1814, the British disembarked approximately 4,500 troops to attack Baltimore in concert with the naval attack on Fort McHenry. (See chapter 1 of the CMP for historic context).

North Point State Park offers hiking and biking trails, tidal fishing, flatwater paddling, birding, sites of historic interest, picnicking, and a visitor center.

3.7.4 FORT HOWARD VETERANS PARK

9400 North Point Road

Edgemere, MD 21219

Site open: daily from dawn to dusk

This scenic park overlooking the Chesapeake Bay is home to a World War II memorial and contains a baseball and soccer field. It also has a small beach.

3.7.5 FORT HOWARD PARK

9500 North Point Road

Edgemere, MD 21219

Site open: sunrise to sunset

This 92.6-acre park is significant for its connection with the largest invasion of the United States in history on the



Fort Howard Park

morning of September 12, 1814 (See chapter 1, CMP).

Facilities include trails, a playground, picnic facilities, a fishing pier, and historic interpretation. Recreational activities include picnicking, playground activities, and fishing.

4. Visitor Enjoyment of Scenic and Natural Qualities

4.1 Scenic Qualities

The land and water routes of the trail connect visitors with diverse scenic experiences – some quite spectacular. The scenic qualities of the trail include the evocative landscapes as described in chapter 2, and additional scenic views which contribute to the overall positive quality of the travel experience. Scenic views may include high quality urban vistas in the northern part of the corridor, as well as the more rural and agricultural views found in the southern part of the corridor. The landscapes that can be seen from these views are identified in figures K.2a, K.2b, K.2c, and K.2d.

Table K.1 Cultural Landscapes – Summary of Evocative Landscape Views along Land Routes**Settings and Viewpoints with High Quality Views****Calvert County**

- views to the Patuxent River, looking west, at Back Creek; and The Narrows, looking east, from the trail terminus on Solomons Island Road in Solomons
- views to forested and agricultural lands and intermittent wetlands along Solomons Island Road, from Dowell Road to Broomes Island Road
- views from Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum to the Patuxent River and forested and agricultural land (First and Second Battles of St. Leonards Creek)
- extensive views to forested and agricultural lands and glimpses of the Patuxent River along Parran and Mackall Roads
- views to St. Leonard Creek from Solomons Island Road; the St. Leonard Creek original town site is just south of where the trail passes St. Leonard Creek (approximately 1,500 feet south of the trail)
- intermittent forested and agricultural lands on Broomes Island Road
- views to agricultural and forested lands and wetlands on Sixes Road between Grays Road and Hallowing Point Road; views to Battle Creek Cypress Swamp are just to the north of Sixes Road between Grays Road and Harvest Grove Lane
- agricultural land and wetland views along Hallowing Point Road between Sixes Road and Hallowing Point
- views toward Benedict and Benedict Community Park from Hallowing Point in Calvert County

*Views from Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum to the Patuxent River***Charles County**

- views of agricultural land, wetlands, and the Patuxent River from the Benedict Encampment Area and Benedict Community Park on Prince Frederick Road
- intermittent forested and agricultural lands along Prince Frederick Road
- intermittent wetlands and forested and agricultural land along Brandywine Road between Prince Frederick Road and the Charles/Prince George's County boundary

*Views from Benedict vicinity***Prince George's County**

- intermittent wetlands and forested and agricultural land along Aquasco Road between the Charles/Prince George's County boundary and Croom Road
- forested land, wetlands, and agricultural land on Croom Road between Aquasco Road and White's Landing Road
- forested land, wetlands, and agricultural land along Tanyard Road
- views of forested land, wetlands, and agricultural land along Croom Road between River Airport Road and Molly Berry Road
- Nottingham Road from historic site Nottingham and the intersection with Fenno Road
- scenic Fenno Road, British route through Merkle Wildlife Sanctuary NRMA
- glimpses of forested and agricultural lands on St. Thomas Church Road
- views of forested and agricultural lands through Croom Natural Resource Management Area and Patuxent River Park on Croom Airport Road

Table K.1 (cont) Cultural Landscapes – Summary of Evocative Landscape Views along Land Routes


Settings and Viewpoints with High Quality Views	
<p>Prince George’s County (continued)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">– views of forested and agricultural land on Croom Road between the intersection with Mt. Calvert Road and Croom Station Road– views from Mount Calvert at the end of Mount Calvert Road– views of forested and agricultural land along Croom Station Road just south of Charles Branch Stream Valley Park and just north of the intersection with Crain Highway– views from Fort Lincoln near the Fort Lincoln historical marker and the Old Spring House– view to wetlands and forest approximately 2.5 miles south and one mile north of Laurel Fort Meade Road on I-295– view to Patapsco Valley State Park from I-295 crossing from Prince George’s County into Baltimore County	 <p><i>Views from route through Merkle Wildlife Sanctuary NRMA</i></p>
<p>Baltimore City</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">– views looking south from the Pagoda summit at Patterson Park (Hampstead Hill)	
<p>Baltimore County</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">– views of agricultural lands and forest along portions of North Point Road (at North Point State Park) between Lodge Forest Drive and Denton Avenue– views to the Chesapeake Bay and Patapsco River from points on the North Point Peninsula south of Edgemere	

Table K.2 High Quality Scenic Views along Land Routes**Settings and Viewpoints with High Quality Views¹****Calvert County**

- views to the Patuxent River from the trail terminus at the southern tip of Solomons on Solomons Island Road
- Patuxent River views from Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum (First and Second Battles of St. Leonard Creek)
- Patuxent River views from Mackall Road
- views across the Patuxent River toward Benedict and Benedict Community Park

*View from Solomons waterfront***Charles County**

- Patuxent River views from Prince Frederick Road and Benedict

Prince George's County

- views through forested land on Croom Road
- views to agricultural land and tobacco barns on Croom Road
- view of the Capitol and the Washington Monument heading westbound on Annapolis Road in Bladensburg
- view toward the Anacostia River from Fort Lincoln Cemetery (Bladensburg American Third Line site)
- Anacostia River views from Bladensburg Waterfront Park (Bladensburg American First Line site)

*View from Croom Road***Baltimore City**

- views toward the Chesapeake Bay from Fort McHenry
- views from on top of the summit of Federal Hill Park
- views of Baltimore's Inner Harbor and from Fells Point
- Baltimore landscape vista from the Pagoda summit at Patterson Park
- cityscape view from Eastern Avenue westbound entering Baltimore
- views from Francis Scott Key Bridge to Fort McHenry
- views from Fort Armistead Park in the Patapsco River and North Point

*View from Fort Armistead Park*

¹ These views meet at least one of the three following criteria (as defined by FHWA practices for viewshed analysis) (FHWA 1980) which are considered reliable indicators of public judgments of visual quality:

- *vividness* – the memorability of landscape components as they combine in striking and distinctive visual patterns
- *intactness* – the visual integrity of the natural and man-built landscape, and its freedom from encroaching elements
- *unity* – the visual coherence and compositional harmony of the landscape considered as a whole

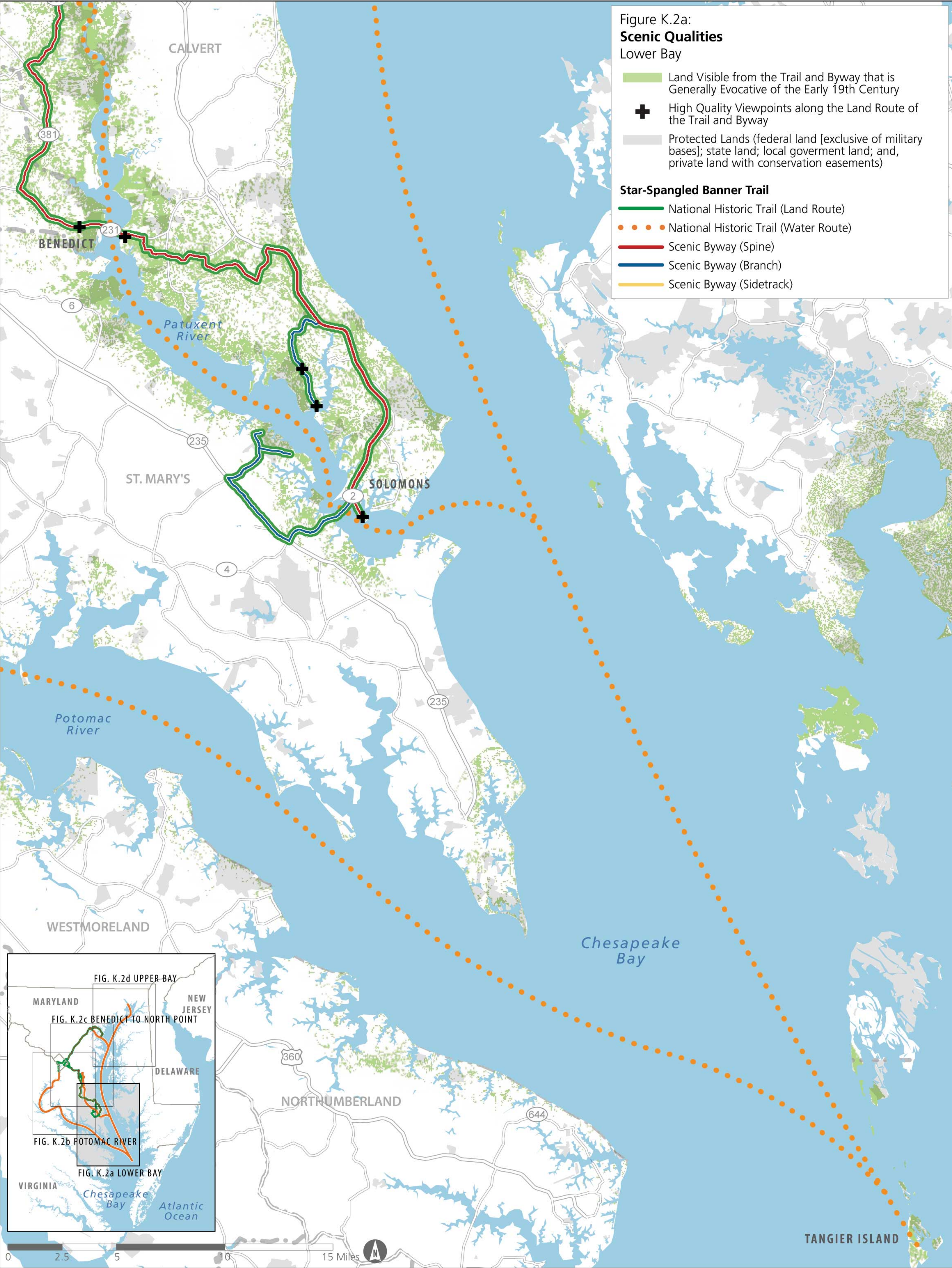


Figure K.2b:
Scenic Qualities
Potomac River

- Land Visible from the Trail and Byway that is Generally Evocative of the Early 19th Century
- High Quality Viewpoints along the Land Route of the Trail and Byway
- Protected Lands (federal land [exclusive of military bases]; state land; local government land; and, private land with conservation easements)

Star-Spangled Banner Trail

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

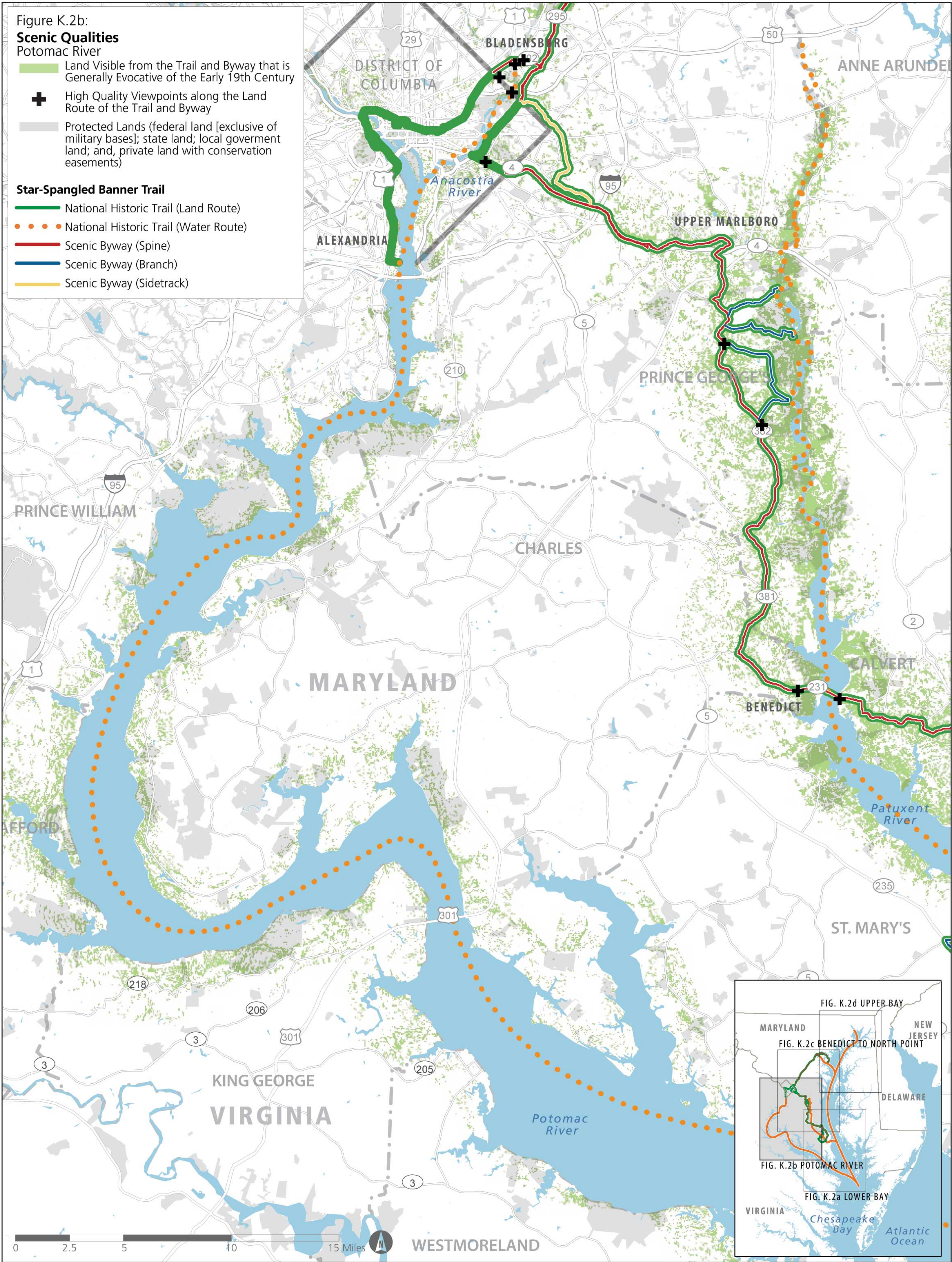


Figure K.2c:

Scenic Qualities

Benedict to North Point

- Land Visible from the Trail and Byway that is Generally Evocative of the Early 19th Century
- High Quality Viewpoints along the Land Route of the Trail and Byway
- Protected Lands (federal land [exclusive of military bases]; state land; local government land; and, private land with conservation easements)

Star-Spangled Banner Trail

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

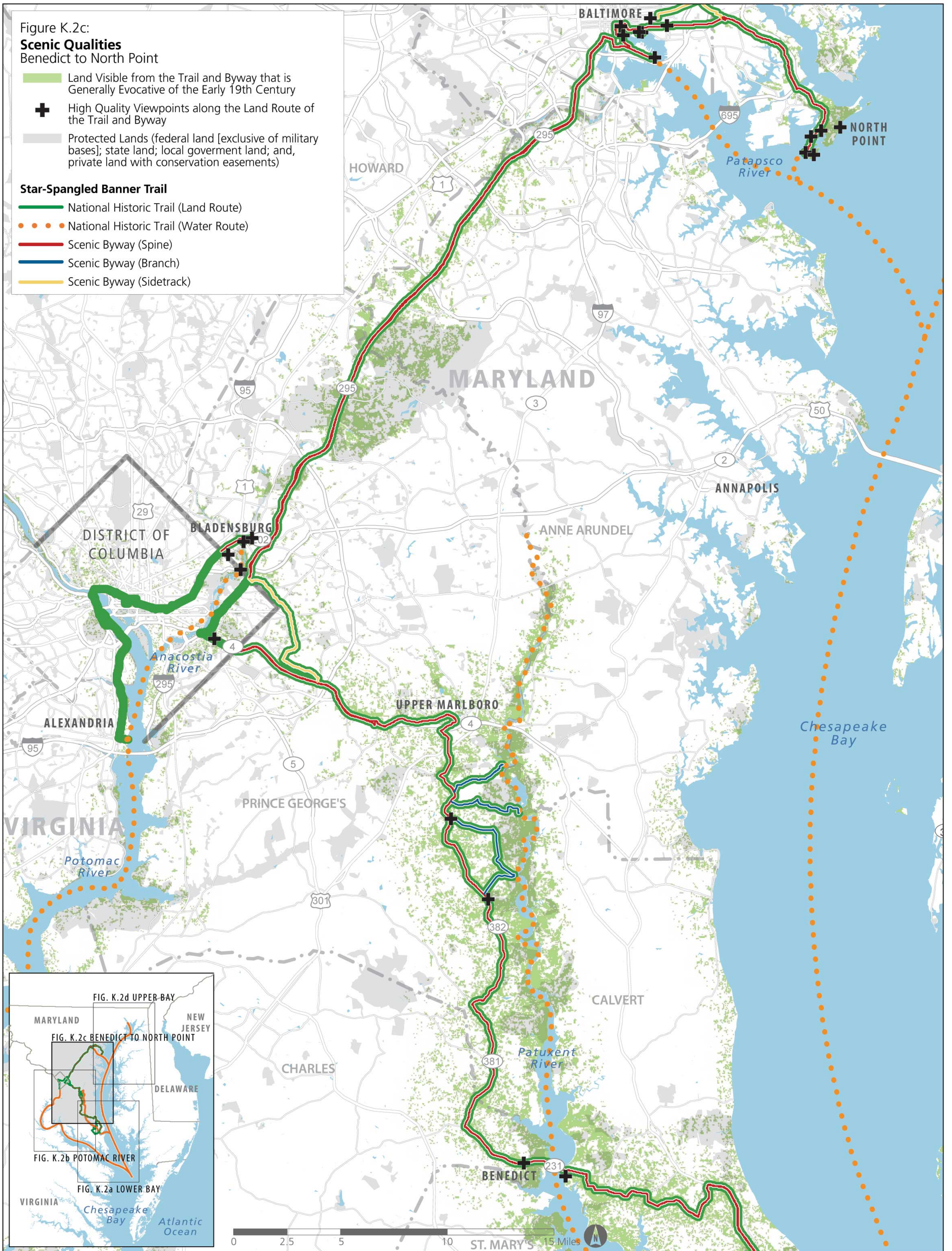
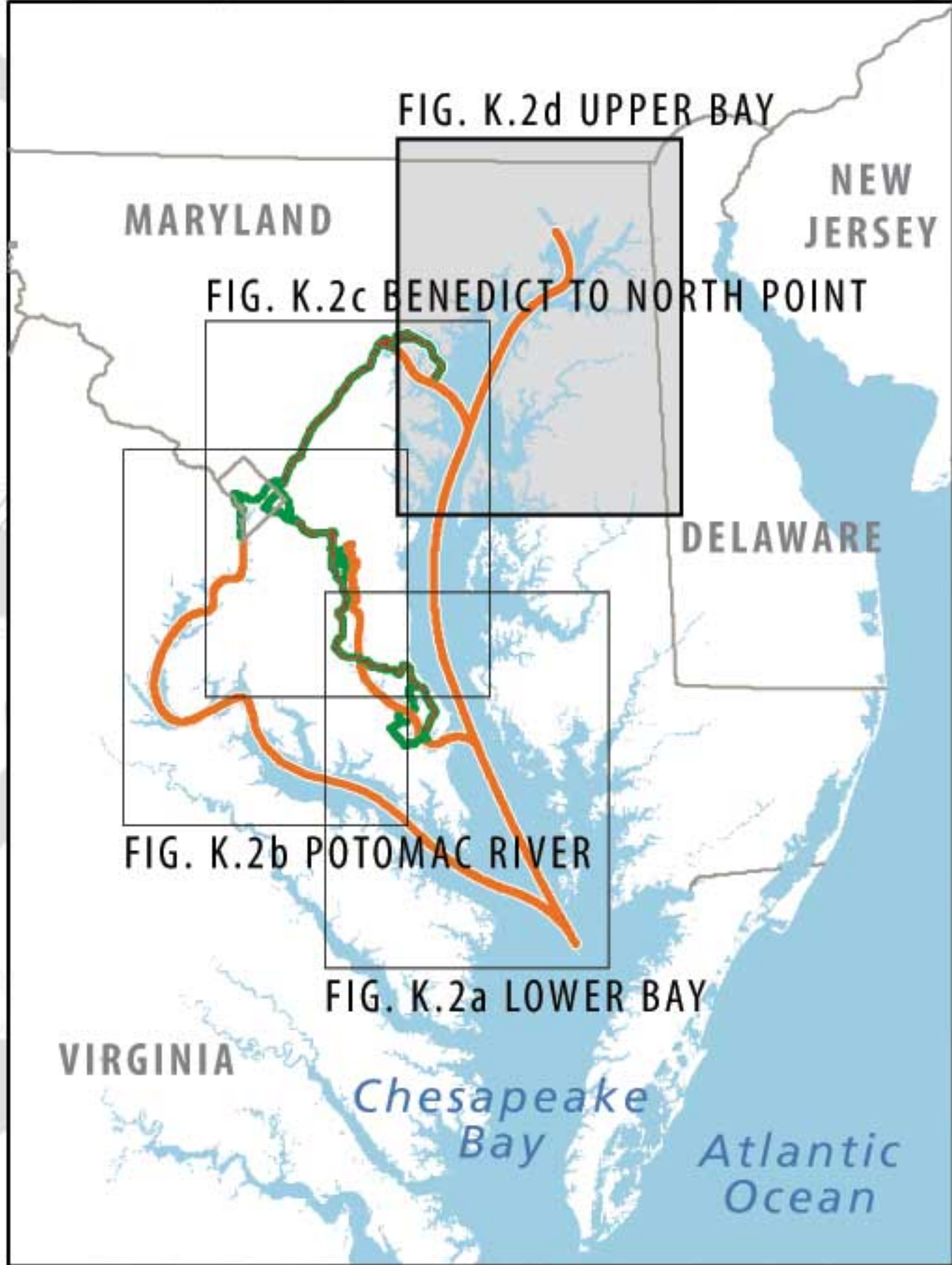
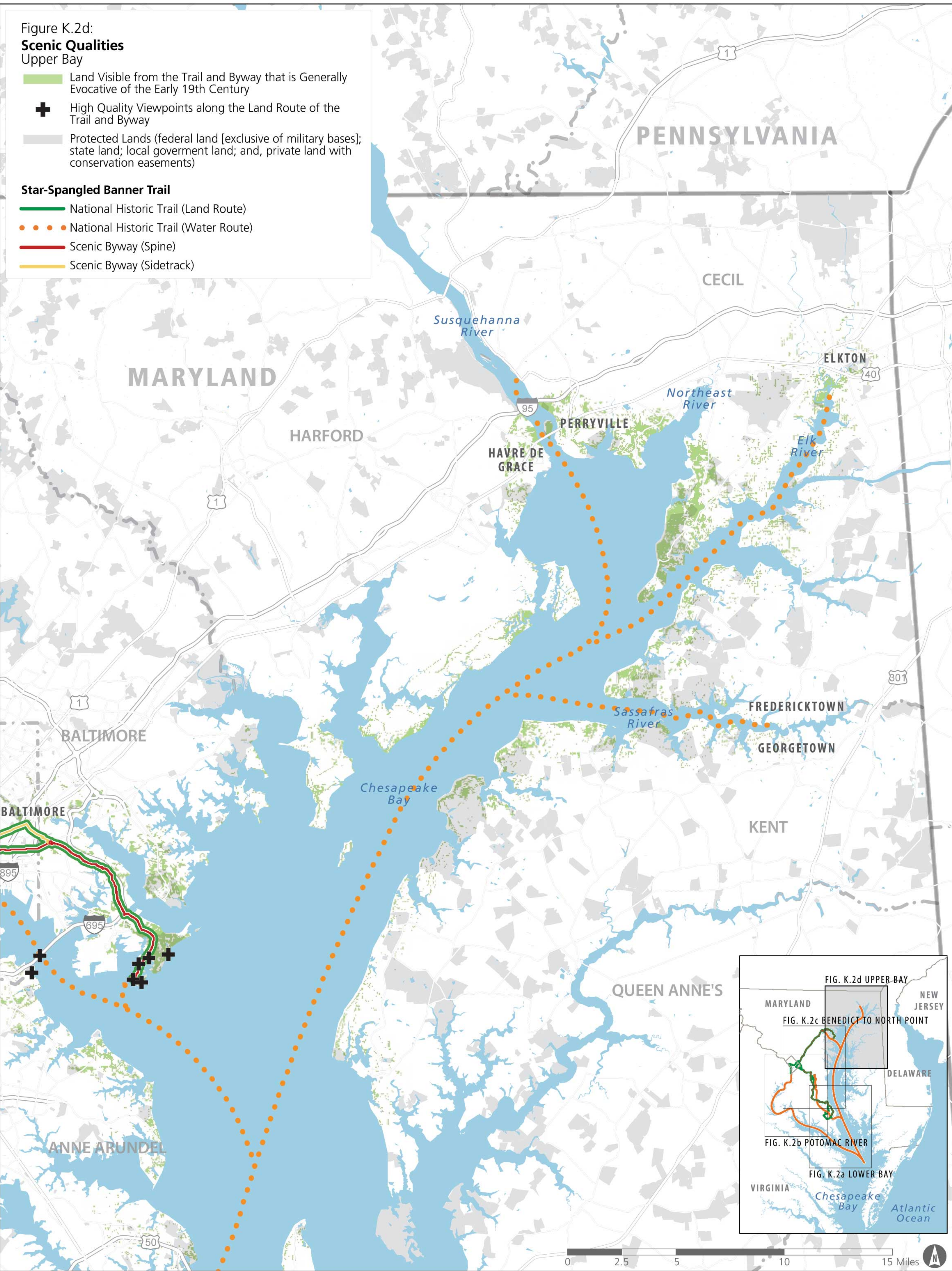


Figure K.2d:
Scenic Qualities
Upper Bay

- Land Visible from the Trail and Byway that is Generally Evocative of the Early 19th Century
- High Quality Viewpoints along the Land Route of the Trail and Byway
- Protected Lands (federal land [exclusive of military bases]; state land; local government land; and, private land with conservation easements)

Star-Spangled Banner Trail

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



4.2 Natural Qualities

While much of the travel route north of Upper Marlboro falls within the Baltimore-Washington metropolitan area, the natural qualities associated with its setting along the tributaries of the Chesapeake Bay play an important role in providing surroundings that contribute in a positive way to the experience of its more significant historic and recreational qualities. The trail corridor falls along the upland limits of the Coastal Plain, often referred to as the Tidewater region, where salty and brackish tides rise and fall along the generally flat shorelines of the Chesapeake Bay and its inland tributaries.

Significant natural resources within the trail corridor are discussed in the following section and mapped in figures K.3a, K.3b, K.3c, and K.3d.

4.2.1 CHESAPEAKE BAY

The Chesapeake Bay was one of the primary venues associated with the War of 1812. From a natural resource perspective, the Bay is

“nationally significant in part because it is an outstanding example of... an estuary in its natural sense, and of a unique historic and modern human development pattern that is profoundly influenced by the estuary’s natural resources” (NPS 2004a).

The Bay is the nation’s largest estuary, with a surface area of 2,500 square miles and an average water depth of 21 feet. The fresh waters of the lower tidal portions of the Susquehanna, Patapsco, Patuxent, and Potomac rivers and other smaller tributaries flow into the Bay’s shallow open salt and brackish waters, making the Bay waters 10 percent less salty than the ocean (NPS 2004b). The shallowness of the Bay makes it a prime habitat for a variety of biological resources, evidenced by the facts that the Bay supports:

- 295 species of fish and shellfish at various times of the year, with 32 being year-round inhabitants
- 90 percent of the Atlantic striped bass (rockfish) population
- nearly 40 percent of the nation’s commercial harvest of blue crabs
- approximately 2,700 species of plants

- a major rest and feeding stop along the Atlantic Flyway for millions of migratory birds
- a winter home to more than 35 percent of all the waterfowl using the Atlantic Flyway

The natural resources of the Chesapeake Bay have been nationally recognized through the following sequence of federal, state, and local government actions.

- The Chesapeake Bay was the first estuary in the United States chosen for a broadly targeted restoration effort to stop widespread water pollution, beginning in the early 1970s.
- In 1983 and 1987, Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, New York, the District of Columbia, the Chesapeake Bay Commission, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (representing the federal government) signed historic agreements establishing the Chesapeake Bay Program partnership to protect and restore the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem.
- In 1998 Congress passed the Chesapeake Bay Initiative Act (P.L. 105-312), the purpose of which is to:
 - create a linked network of Chesapeake Bay gateways and water trails
 - provide financial and technical assistance to state and local governments, local communities, nonprofit organizations, and the private sector for conserving important natural, cultural, historical, and recreational resources within the watershed

In 2000 Congress enacted the Chesapeake Bay Restoration Act, reauthorizing the continuance of the Chesapeake Bay Program to implement the comprehensive cooperative restoration program.

In 2009 President Obama signed the Chesapeake Bay Protection and Restoration Executive Order (E.O. 13508), recognizing the Chesapeake Bay as a national treasure and calling for the federal government to lead a renewed effort to restore and protect the nation’s largest estuary and its watershed.

4.2.2 MAJOR TRIBUTARIES TO THE BAY

The following major water bodies sustain an abundance of natural resources that ultimately supported the establishment of various communities and distinct cultures within the trail corridor of the Bay watershed.

■ PATUXENT RIVER

The Patuxent River composed of the Western Branch, Little Patuxent, and Middle Patuxent and including two large reservoirs north of Laurel, drains 930 square miles entirely within Maryland. With the Patuxent River Watershed Act of 1961, the state of Maryland recognized that the river is a valuable natural resource and that “flood prevention, land conservation, erosion control and protection from urban development within the watershed is a public benefit and conducive to the public health, safety and welfare.” In 1968, the Patuxent was officially designated a Maryland Scenic River. The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) owns more than 7,000 acres of parkland in Prince George’s County that protects and preserves the natural resources and scenic qualities of the river (M-NCPPC 2011). Of these resources, there are more than 100 species of fish supported in the basin’s freshwater streams and brackish waters. Fish species include largemouth bass, chain pickerel, catfish, weakfish, and bluefish, along with blue crabs that are sustained within an important commercial and recreational fishery (NPS 2004b).

■ ANACOSTIA RIVER

The Anacostia River, a major tributary of the Middle Potomac tributary basin, extends 8.4 miles from the confluence of its upstream branches in Bladensburg to its union with the Potomac River at Hains Point in Washington, DC. According to Maryland DNR, the 170 square miles of the Anacostia watershed is one of the most urbanized watersheds in the United States, as more than 800,000 residents live within its boundaries. In Prince George’s and Montgomery counties, 120 square miles are encompassed by the watershed and approximately 495,000 people are estimated to potentially impact the Anacostia on a daily basis. Approximately 43 percent of the watershed is consumed by residential development; forests and parkland account for 31 percent.

The watershed’s tidal wetlands continue to decline, with almost 2,500 acres of tidal emergent wetlands lost between Bladensburg and Hains Point (MD DNR 2002). Approximately 180 acres of wetlands remain, so that today more than 90 percent of the wetlands once witnessed by Captain John Smith are now gone (MD DNR 2002). Bladensburg – once a thriving colonial port town – now is accessible only by small watercraft due to centuries of sedimentation that has significantly reduced the river’s depths. While many agencies and organizations have joined efforts and spent millions of dollars to improve the watershed, there is a significant amount of work ahead to improve water quality. Of the 100 fish species supported by this river system’s fresh water streams and brackish waters, white and yellow perch, largemouth bass, and catfish are most common (NPS 2004b).

■ PATAPSCO RIVER

The Patapsco/Back Rivers Basin drains approximately 630 square miles of Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, and Howard counties, and all of Baltimore City. The Patapsco River flows for almost 35 miles in Maryland from Elkridge to the Baltimore Harbor and then into the Chesapeake Bay. Other water bodies within the basin include the Back River, Gwynns Falls, Jones Falls, the North and South Branches of the Patapsco River, Lake Roland, Piney Run Reservoir, Liberty Reservoir, and the Baltimore Harbor. The Patapsco supports more than 40 species of fish, including white and yellow perch and large and small mouth bass.

The Patapsco Valley State Park, an “oasis in the middle of a metropolitan area,” as described by Maryland DNR, extends for 32 miles along the river and encompasses approximately 16,000 acres. Visitors enjoy the river and adjoining riparian habitat and woodlands from an extensive network of over 170 miles of hiking/biking trails (MD DNR 2011g). According to American Rivers, the Patapsco Valley State Park “is one of the Baltimore area’s hidden jewels, providing the people of Maryland with a favorite fishing hole, trails to wander, segments to canoe and kayak with class I and II rapids, and respite from the summer heat” (American Rivers 2011).

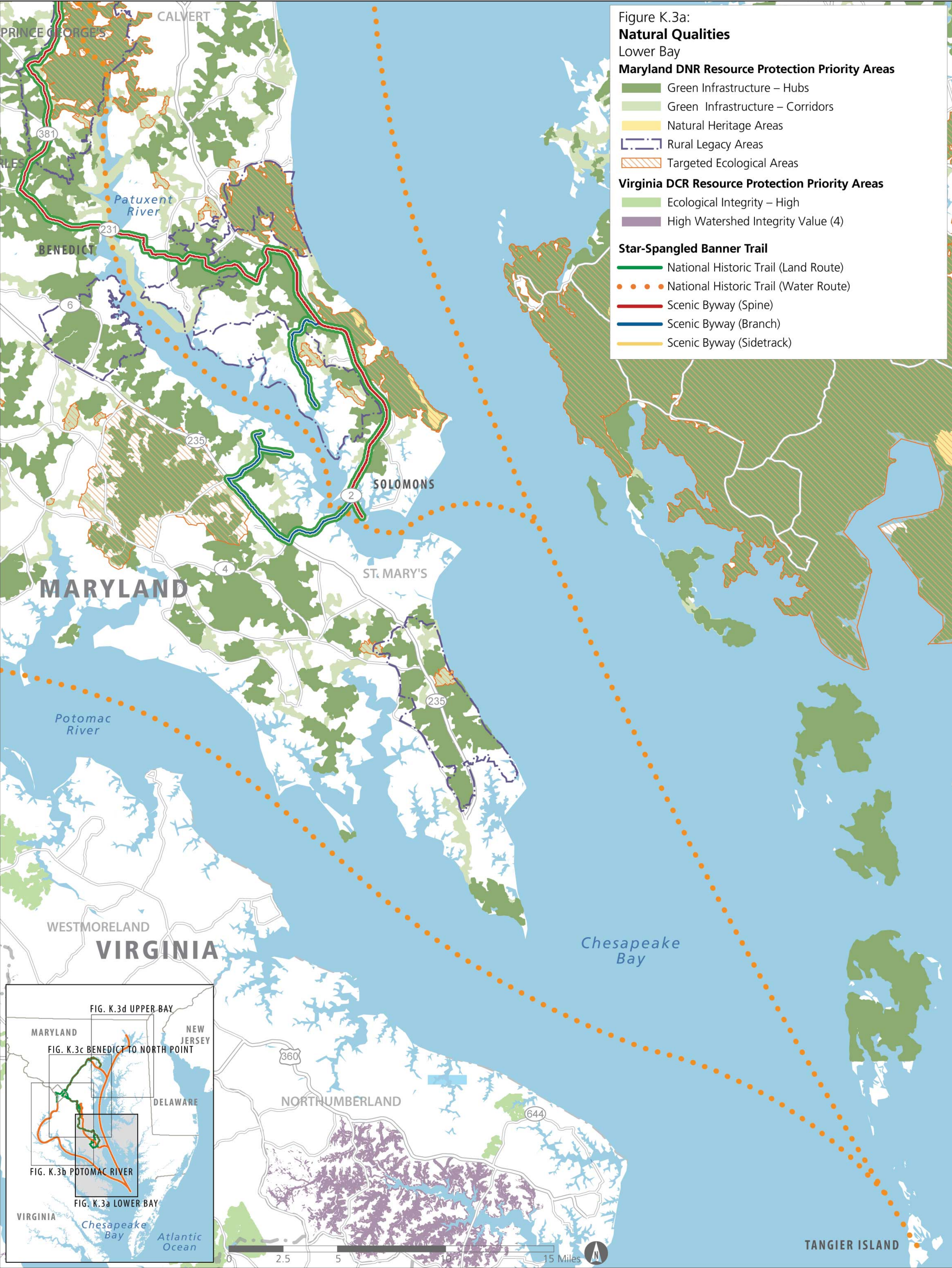


Figure K.3b:
Natural Qualities
Potomac River

Maryland DNR Resource Protection Priority Areas

- Green Infrastructure – Hubs
- Green Infrastructure – Corridors
- Natural Heritage Areas
- Rural Legacy Areas
- Targeted Ecological Areas

Virginia DCR Resource Protection Priority Areas

- Ecological Integrity – Outstanding
- Ecological Integrity – Very High
- Ecological Integrity – High
- High Watershed Integrity Value (5)
- High Watershed Integrity Value (4)

Star-Spangled Banner Trail

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



Figure K.3c:
Natural Qualities
Benedict to North Point

Maryland DNR Resource Protection Priority Areas

- Green Infrastructure – Hubs
- Green Infrastructure – Corridors
- Natural Heritage Areas
- Rural Legacy Areas
- Targeted Ecological Areas

Virginia DCR Resource Protection Priority Areas

- Ecological Integrity – Very High
- Ecological Integrity – High

Star-Spangled Banner Trail

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

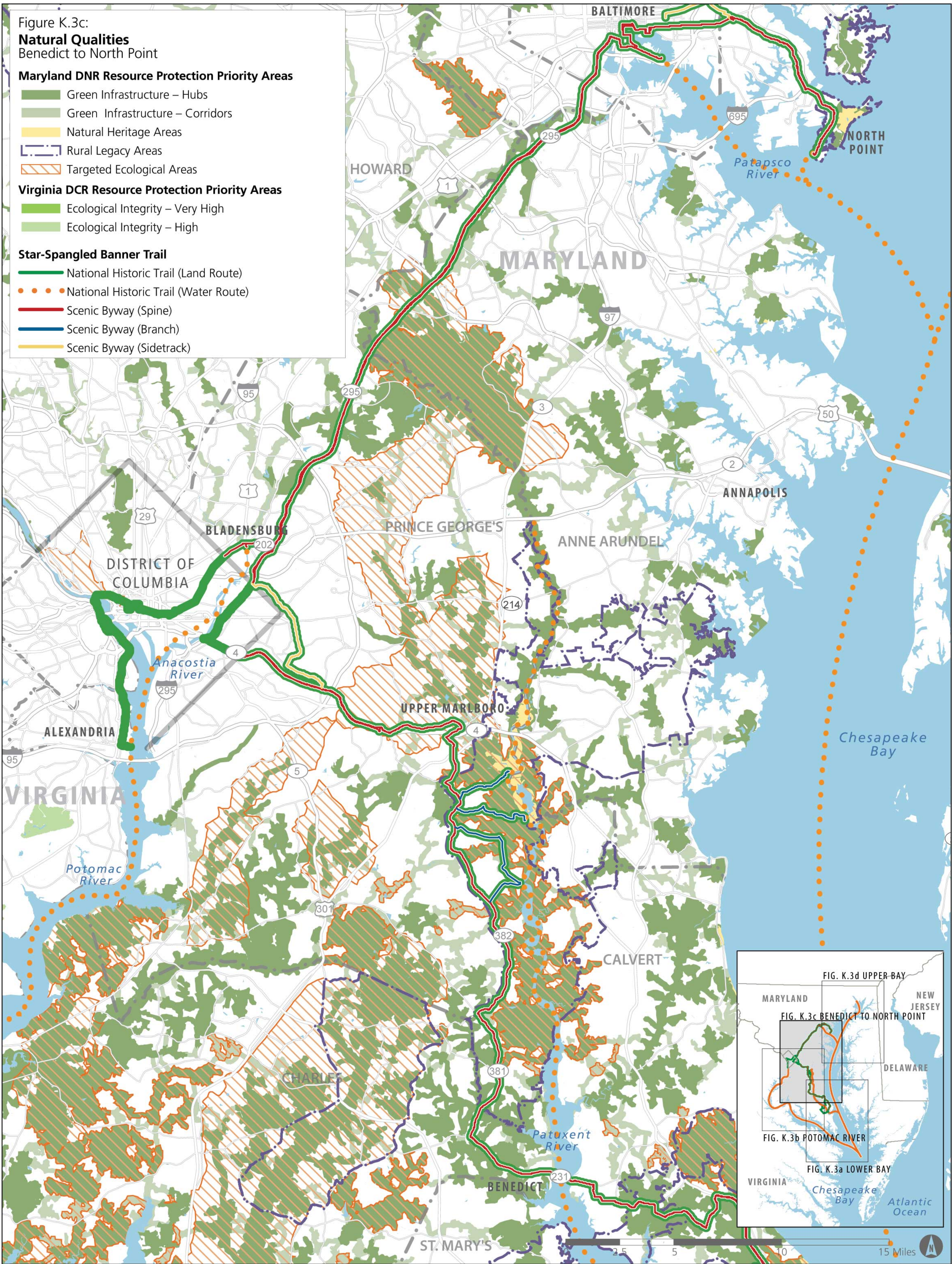


Figure K.3d:

Natural Qualities
Upper Bay

Maryland DNR Resource Protection Priority Areas

- Green Infrastructure – Hubs
- Green Infrastructure – Corridors
- Natural Heritage Areas
- Rural Legacy Areas
- Targeted Ecological Areas

Star-Spangled Banner Trail

- National Historic Trail (Land Route)
- National Historic Trail (Water Route)
- Scenic Byway (Spine)
- Scenic Byway (Side-track)



4.2.3 NATIONAL NATURAL LANDMARKS

As further evidence of the significance of the natural qualities associated with the rural portions of the travel route, Battle Creek Cypress Swamp and Belt Woods are recognized as National Natural Landmarks.

■ BATTLE CREEK CYPRESS SWAMP

Located in Calvert County directly on the trail on Grays Road, just south of its intersection with Sixes Road, is this 100-acre National Natural Landmark that is the northernmost limit for the natural range of bald cypress in the United States.

A boardwalk provides visitors with an opportunity learn about and appreciate the 100-foot cypresses and other unique plant communities associated with the natural heritage of the trail.

Battle Creek Cypress Swamp is open to the public most days year-round.

■ BELT WOODS

Belt Woods, one of the last remaining tracts of virgin forest in the eastern United States, is located in Prince George's County, about 15 miles east of Washington, DC, and several miles north of the trail along Central Avenue near MD 4 (Pennsylvania Avenue). Although it is not open to the general public, the site provides researchers with the opportunity to better understand the ecology of the forest as it might have appeared pre-settlement.

4.2.4 NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS

A system of national and state wildlife refuges and wildlife management areas along the Patuxent River plays an important role in preserving the setting of War of 1812 resources along the trail. The following refuges and management areas are found along the trail.

■ PATUXENT RESEARCH REFUGE

Patuxent Research Refuge, established in 1936 by executive order of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, is the nation's only national wildlife refuge established to support wildlife

research. It is located along the trail on the Patuxent and Little Patuxent Rivers between Washington, DC and Baltimore. The refuge has grown from its original 2,670 acres to 12,841 acres, encompassing land formerly managed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the U.S. Department of Defense. The refuge's mission of conserving and protecting the nation's wildlife and habitat through research and wildlife management techniques has remained virtually unchanged since its founding.

The National Wildlife Visitor Center, located on the refuge's south tract, and the north tract are open to the public. The north tract offers hunting, fishing, wildlife observation, trails, and many interpretive programs where visitors can learn about the natural heritage of the region. The central tract is home to the offices and study sites of the many research biologists located at the USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center.

■ JUG BAY WETLANDS SANCTUARY

The sanctuary, established in 1985, boasts one of the largest freshwater tidal wetlands on the East Coast. This estuarine wetlands sanctuary is part of the National Estuarine Research Reserve, a nationwide network of coastal estuaries that serve as laboratories for scientific research, education, and monitoring. It is composed of 1,600 acres of tidal freshwater wetlands, forests, meadows, and fields along the Patuxent River, and is operated by the Anne Arundel County Department of Recreation and Parks. The National Audubon Society has designated the sanctuary as an Important Bird Area, a designation that is part of a global effort to identify and conserve areas that are vital to birds and other biodiversity. The Patuxent River Water Trail has two stops at the sanctuary, making it easier for canoeists and kayakers to explore this part of the river and to access put-ins and campsites along the way. Jug Bay is described further under recreational resources.

■ BILLINGSLEY NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AREA

Maryland's Billingsley NRMA is located on the Patuxent River in Prince George's County. It serves as an important conservation area that preserves the setting associated with

views of multiple War of 1812 sites, including Mt. Calvert, Nottingham, and Billingsley. The site is exclusively managed for resource protection and only deer hunting is permitted.

■ **BOWEN WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA**

This 300-acre river tidal marsh is located on the Patuxent River just east of Aquasco Road (the trail). Tidal marsh covers more than 90 percent of the WMA. This Maryland refuge is a stop-over point for migrating and wintering waterfowl, including black ducks, mallards, American widgeon, canvasbacks, lesser scaup, buffleheads, and wood ducks. As part of the water trail and byway's water route, the site provides a glimpse into the experience of what those traveling up the Patuxent during the Chesapeake Campaign might have encountered in the way of wildlife, water, and wetlands. The closest public boat ramp is available at Magruder's Ferry Landing.

■ **MERKLE WILDLIFE SANCTUARY**

The 1,670 acres of wetlands and adjoining upland of the Merkle Wildlife Sanctuary, the only wildlife sanctuary operated by Maryland DNR, are the wintering ground for the largest concentration of Canada geese on the Chesapeake Bay's western shore. During the peak of the season (mid-October to late February or early March), more than 5,000 geese may be present; flocks of around 100 resident geese typically are seen year-round.

The sanctuary provides another opportunity to experience a landscape and waterscape that may have been more typical of the early 19th century. In summer, ospreys nest close to the visitor center and hummingbirds, finches, and purple martins are abundant. Bird watching, hiking, biking, and fishing are possible at various times of the year.

The sanctuary is open most days year-round. The site offers interpretive and educational programs, many of which are free or reasonably priced.

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