

Comprehensive Management Plan and Corridor Management Plan and
Environmental Assessment

Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail and Scenic Byway

Appendix S Focus Area Studies

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Management Plan and Environmental Assessment

**Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail and
Scenic Byway**

Appendix S

Focus Area Studies

Volume 3 of 3

2012

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Introduction

As part of the CMP planning process, the NPS has established a baseline for identifying trail development and management priorities in six focus areas, including:

- Bladensburg
- North Point peninsula
- Alexandria
- District of Columbia
- Baltimore
- Upper Bay

A review of state and local plans, projects and programs, provided an inventory of trail-related actions ongoing or under development by local communities and trail partners, such as bicentennial commemoration plans. Trail partners and other stakeholders including local government agencies, non-profit organizations, for-profit organizations, historians, and interested members of the public helped identify relevant plans, projects, and programs. They also helped to identify the full range of recreation and learning opportunities under consideration and the short-, medium- and long-term priorities to achieve a regional trail identity. Many of the partners and stakeholders are already planning War of 1812-themed commemorative events and programs independently of NPS involvement, and are interested in coordinating with the trail.

Study findings for each focus area include an illustrative concept, a trail development approach, and a list of priority projects. Implementing these in each focus area could accomplish the following four principal objectives:

- make the trail immediately visible and visitor-ready for the bicentennial period (2012 to 2015)
- protect resources important to the trail for the enjoyment of the local community and visitors
- provide a variety of learning and recreation experiences
- leverage bicentennial period investments and successes to sustain the trail as a legacy of bicentennial efforts

Priority projects include new and enhanced infrastructure, water access and water-based tours, interpretative media, and programming to support guided and self-guided tours and recreation opportunities. In general, local entities through partnerships with state and local governments, bicentennial organizations, heritage areas, tourism entities and individual sites, and potentially the NPS, would lead the efforts to implement projects. NPS could provide assistance as available to leverage partner-led projects.

The Bladensburg and North Point concepts include cost estimates for the highest priority, short-term projects under consideration; for the other focal areas, additional planning could further clarify the scope and costs associated with individual projects.

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Shaping a Star-Spangled Experience
Bladensburg

Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail and Scenic Byway
2012

Vision for a Star-Spangled Experience at Bladensburg

In 2030, the Battle of Bladensburg is a focal point along the Star-Spangled Banner Trail. The Bladensburg landscape is infused with the stories and images of the historic battle that took place in and around this riverfront town more than two hundred years ago.

Tourists and students arrive from Washington and Baltimore after learning that some of the most dramatic events of the War of 1812 took place outside of these cities, calling upon inexperienced soldiers and everyday citizens to defend small towns from the British. Other people visit from within the region, surprised to discover the depth of history in their own backyards. They receive a warm welcome at the visitor center, where costumed interpreters set the stage for an adventure through time. Together they imagine the rural village of Bladensburg on a stifling August day, as more than ten thousand soldiers clashed on streets, fields, and orchards along the Anacostia River. Exhibits and dioramas draw visitors into the final hours of conflict before British troops completed their march to Washington.

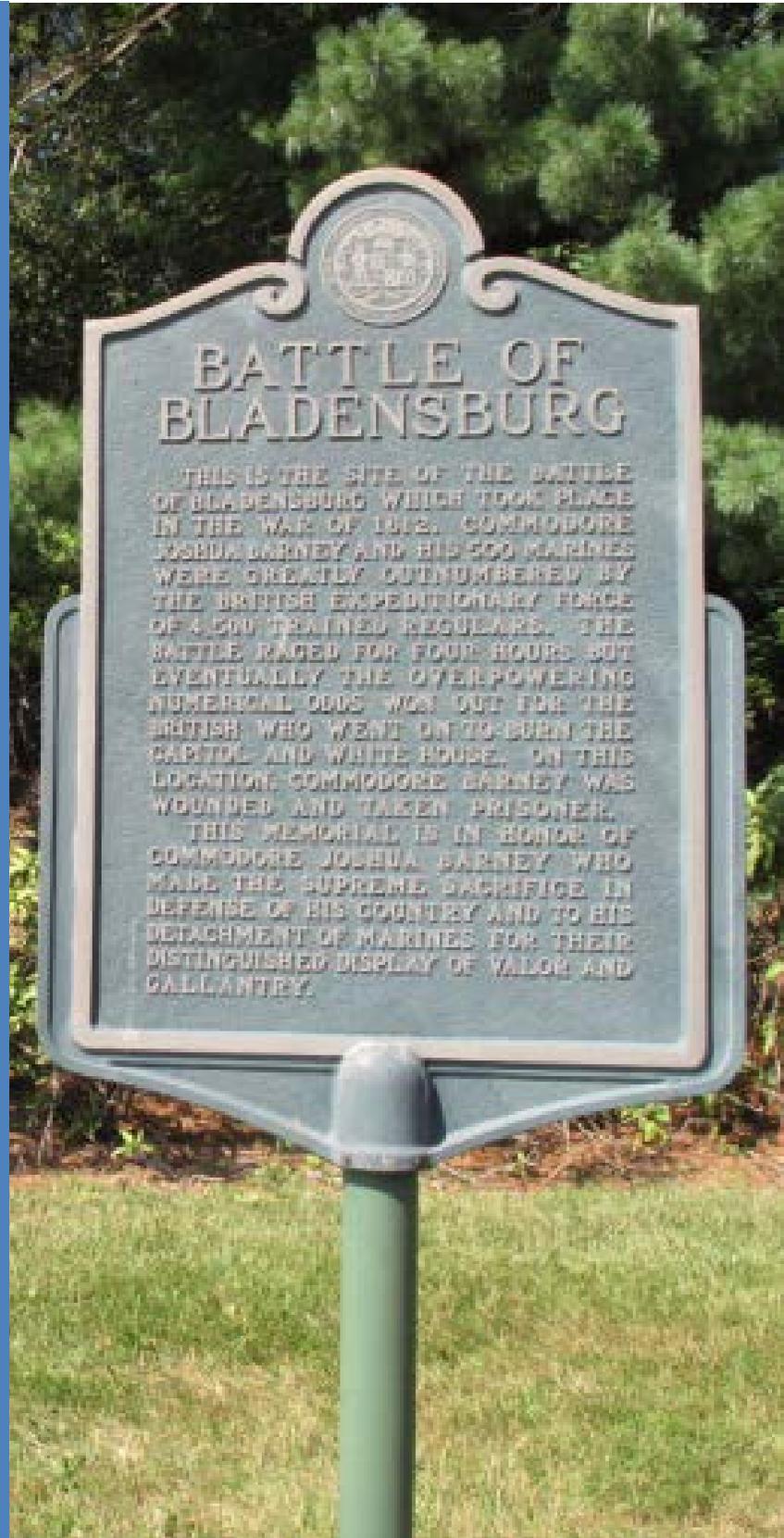
From the visitor contact facility, tourists board a colorful trolley that carries them to key sites from the battle. Some set out on foot or bike paths along tree-lined streets. They find their route easily, accented with distinctive signs and wayside panels. Outdoor murals provide vivid backdrops. Waterfront displays punctuate the importance of the river and its connection to the Chesapeake Bay. Important story-telling sites throughout the town are marked with signage and public art, promoting a unified sense of history and demonstrating the significance the battle. Visitors explore shopping and dining opportunities on the new Bladensburg “green street” and enjoy the historic architecture of communities on and around the battlefield.

Some visitors linger at the Bladensburg Waterfront Park, enjoying picnics by the river and relaxing on pontoon boat tours as docents recount the battle. Fishermen reel in their catch and heron perch at the edge of the marsh. Visitors hear the story of Commodore Joshua Barney, whose small but daring fleet of gunboats resisted the British on the Chesapeake; his men then raced inland to join the Bladensburg battle. Barney was seriously injured. Charles Ball, a freed slave who joined Barney’s ranks, fought at his commander’s side and later wrote about the experience. In town, a new monument celebrates Barney, Ball, and the contributions of American soldiers.

The battle tour brings visitors through Cottage City and Colmar Manor. A “shadow” structure that outlines the old Carlton Mill invokes the scene of battle stories. Visitors re-live the stand-off at the Bladensburg bridge, where Major William Pinkney was wounded in the same hand with which he once signed the Declaration of Independence. A tour describing the Old Port of Bladensburg captures the heritage of colonial and early American life with visits to the George Washington House, Bostwick House, Magruder House, and Market Square.

The town bustles with activity during special annual events. The popular re-enactment of the battle draws crowds every August. Foot races lead runners through the tour route and the surrounding countryside. Adventure seekers on hot air balloons, launched from the town’s “Balloon Park,” peer below to find rooftop markings depicting 1814 battle lines.

Tourists and residents alike wonder at the ways in which everyday citizens and untrained soldiers were called upon to confront the British Army in such uncertain times. Although overwhelmed by British discipline and battle tactics, local militia joined with marines and flotilla men in the final effort to protect the nation’s capital. They gained experience that was put to work just a few weeks later at the Battle of Baltimore, a success which not only repelled the British from the city but inspired the national anthem.



Shaping a Star-Spangled Experience – Bladensburg

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

Prepared by:

National Park Service
Chesapeake Bay Office

In cooperation with:

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

Maryland Department of Transportation
State Highway Administration
Maryland Scenic Byway Program

Anacostia Trails Heritage Inc.

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Shaping a Star-Spangled Experience – Bladensburg

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

- trail visitor contact facility at Bladensburg Waterfront Park
- Battle of Bladensburg walking/driving tour
- sidewalk improvements along Bladensburg walking/driving tour
- mobile application supporting trail routes
- parking, and safe pull-offs for cars and buses
- Joshua Barney Monument (Undaunted) and enhancements at the Balloon Park



Young Visitors Enjoying Bladensburg Waterfront Park

Introduction

The Star-Spangled Banner Trail

The Star-Spangled Banner Trail connects the places, people, and events that led to the birth of our National Anthem during the War of 1812. The Chesapeake Region was a center of this critical struggle between the United States and Great Britain. The trail covers 560 miles of land and water routes in Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia along which the British army and navy and the American defenders traveled and fought. The trail incorporates both the Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail and the Star-Spangled Banner Scenic Byway.

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

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

Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine (Fort McHenry NMHS), administered by the National Park Service, serves as the trail's primary visitor hub. The national park interprets the stories of the people and events of the Battle of Baltimore. The park, by Congressional order, flies the American flag 24 hours a day in honor of the flag that flew over the Fort on September 15, 1814 and inspired Francis Scott Key to pen what became America's National Anthem.

The Comprehensive Management Plan

Future visitors to the trail will enjoy a compelling unified star-spangled experience made possible by the work of many whose actions are implemented in concert with a joint

comprehensive management plan (CMP) for the trail and corridor management plan (CMP) for the byway. The *Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail and Scenic Byway Comprehensive Management Plan and Corridor Management Plan and Environmental Assessment* (CMP) is a single management plan for the Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail and for the Star-Spangled Banner Scenic Byway in the state of Maryland. Prepared by the NPS, together with its partners in Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia, the CMP provides a guide for development of the trail over the next 20 years, establishing goals, guidelines, and recommended actions. It also outlines a wide range of partnership activities that will build and maintain the trail, including strategies to increase public appreciation of related historic and natural resources.

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

Star-Spangled Experience in Bladensburg

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

The Bladensburg focus area study assembled a comprehensive inventory of planned and proposed projects and enhancements needed to support interpretive and

educational experiences and to protect trail resources. The process also focused on establishing priorities for actions. Stakeholders included potential trail partners, such as local government agencies, non-profit organizations, for-profit organizations, historians, and interested members of the public.

Planning Objectives for Bladensburg

Future development and management of the trail in the Bladensburg region should accomplish the following principal objectives:

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

Relevant Plans of the Partners

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

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

- *Access, Stewardship and Interpretation Opportunity Plan for Water Portions of the Star-Spangled*

Banner National Historic Trail in Maryland (MD DBED 2010)

- *Maryland War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission Plan of Action* (MD Bicentennial Commission 2009)
- *The Plan for the Battle of Bladensburg/War of 1812 Commemoration DRAFT 2* (War of 1812 /Battle of Bladensburg Task Force 2010)
- *Bladensburg Town Center Sector Plan and Sectional Map Amendment* (M-NCPPC 2007)
- *Anacostia Trails Heritage Area Plan* (M-NCPPC 2001)
- *Port Towns Sector Plan and Sectional Map Amendment* (M-NCPPC 2009)
- *War of 1812 Interpretive Signage Placement Plan* (NPS 2011b)
- *Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail Comprehensive Management Plan* (NPS 2010a)

Presentation of Findings

Findings from the focus area study for Bladensburg are presented below under the following three headings:

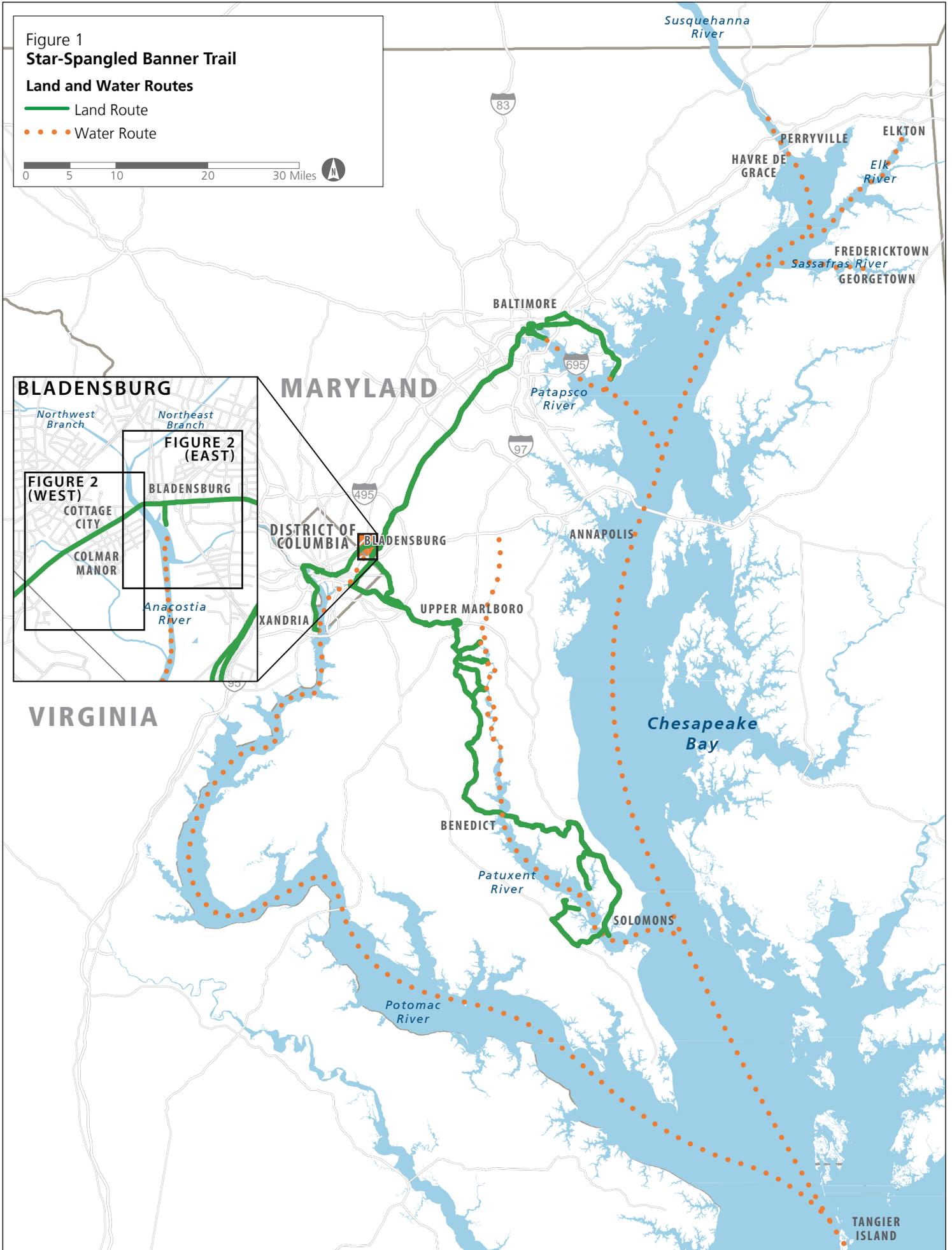
- **Foundation for Planning** – Trail Purpose, Interpretive Themes, and Historic and Archeological Resources
- **The Concept** – The Concept, Orientation to the Trail, Interpretive Media and Programming, Experiences at Historic and Archeological Resources, Recreation Opportunities
- **Implementation**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

The concept described below proposes a framework for developing a range of trail experiences along the route network, aiming to organize partners and the NPS around the highest priority short-term projects for developing and connecting trail sites in Bladensburg. It identifies short-term project and program ideas as well as priorities for developing the trail and describes funding, partnership, and collaboration efforts with the city's related history and recreation interests.

Figure 1
Star-Spangled Banner Trail

Land and Water Routes

- Land Route
- Water Route



Foundation for Planning

Purposes of the Trail

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

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

Primary Interpretive Themes

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

Historic and Archeological Resources

Several special studies document historic and archeological resources related to the War of 1812, including the *Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail Feasibility Study and EIS* (NPS 2004) and *Report to Congress on the Historic Preservation of Revolutionary War and War of 1812 Sites in the United States* (NPS 2007), and recent efforts undertaken in preparation for the upcoming bicentennial commemoration of the war. Historic resources – with the exception of interpretive locations and some cultural

Table 1. Primary Interpretive Themes

Interpretive Theme Statement	
Theme 1	Almost thirty years after gaining independence, Americans resisted a land and water invasion by Great Britain, and military events in the Chesapeake region became central to the outcomes of a broader three-year struggle that established a foundation for the United States’ economic independence and military strength.
Theme 2	During the War of 1812, individuals in the Chesapeake region endured great political, economic, and emotional upheaval and faced personal choices that profoundly impacted domestic life, influenced the evolution of U.S. government and commerce, and had ramifications far beyond the battlefield.
Theme 3	In the early 1800s, the Chesapeake region – due to its central location on the eastern seaboard, network of navigable waterways, robust natural resources and fertile agricultural lands – served as a hub for trade, industry and government, making it a prime target for the British.
Theme 4	The United States flag and “The Star-Spangled Banner” anthem – symbolizing the resiliency of the new nation and the American character – inspired a renewed sense of nationalism in U.S. citizens after the War of 1812, and endure today as potent international icons of the United States of America.

landscapes – are considered to have historic integrity and significance to the War of 1812 in the Chesapeake region.

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

- battlefields
- cultural landscapes
- historic structures
- archeological sites
- commemorative sites

Table 2 War of 1812 Historic and Archeological Resources

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

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

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

- Parthenon Site
- Bladensburg Waterfront Park
- Bladensburg Bridge Site

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



George Washington House



Grounds at Bostwick House



Market Master’s Store

Recreation Opportunities

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

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

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

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



Free Anacostia River Tour Boat Leaves at Bladensburg Waterfront Park



Biker Enjoying the Anacostia River Trail in Anacostia River Park

The Concept

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

ORIENTATION

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

INTERPRETATION

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

PLACES TO VISIT ALONG THE TRAIL

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

Bladensburg Walking and Driving Tours following the land routes used by the British and American military during the battle. Visitors would also follow the Dueling Creek Heritage Walk along Dueling Creek from Colmar Manor Park to Fort Lincoln Cemetery and the Bladensburg American Second Line site overlooking surrounding communities. Mobile applications and brochures developed for self-guided tours would describe sites along the walking and driving tours.

RECREATION

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

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

RESOURCE PROTECTION

Resource protection at Bladensburg would focus on resources from the 1812 to 1815 period and restoration of the Anacostia River. Partners would assume primary responsibility for protection and the NPS would provide technical assistance with education of landowners regarding stewardship, planning, land acquisition, and identification of potential funding sources.

PARTNERSHIPS

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

Illustrative Maps

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

Orientation to the Trail

UNIFORM WAYSIDE AND DIRECTIONAL SIGNAGE

In advance of the bicentennial commemoration, funding is in hand in Maryland to design and install interpretive signage along the trail that will tell the stories of the War of 1812 and that will mark trail sites. Three-sided, outdoor orientation kiosks at the visitor contact stations in each regional hub will offer trail-wide and local travel information.

Waysides coordinated in each region with county tourism agencies and site staff will interpret War of 1812 events at specific locations. Among the initial signs to be placed along the trail, ten would mark and interpret sites in the Bladensburg area, including:

- Market Square and Market Master’s Store
- Bostwick House
- Magruder House
- George Washington House and Balloon Park
- Bladensburg American First Line

- 40th Street and Bladensburg Road
- Dueling Grounds
- Fort Lincoln Cemetery/American Second Line

As funding becomes available, site markers at public access points along the trail’s water route and directional signs to trail sites would be a funding priority.

INTERPRETIVE COMPANION SIGNS – ANACOSTIA TRAILS HERITAGE AREA, INC. (ATHA)

Interpretive signage would identify battlefield sites that today are located within the neighborhoods of Bladensburg, Colmar Manor, and Cottage City. They would follow standard NPS signage guidelines with distinctive design elements, including but not limited to unique format, public art, or large-scale markers. They would be placed at or near War of 1812 sites to which people can drive. Waysides would tell relevant stories of the community before, during, and after the battle. Partners have identified ten marker sites (BB Task Force 2010):

- Market Square and Market Master’s Store
- Bostwick House
- Magruder House
- Bladensburg Waterfront Park
- George Washington House and Balloon Park
- Cottage City Town Hall grounds
- 40th Street and Bladensburg Road
- 48th Street and Quincy Street
- Dueling Grounds
- Fort Lincoln Cemetery

Additional special temporary signage would be installed inside the town halls to connect the residents with the history of the battle and their community.

INTERPRETIVE COMPANION SIGNS – MD SHA

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

- Market Square and Market Master’s House
- Magruder House
- George Washington House and Balloon Park
- Barney Battery site
- 48th Street and Quincy Street

VISITOR CONTACT – BLADENSBURG WATERFRONT PARK VISITOR CENTER

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

Interpretive Media and Programming

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

GUIDED BOAT TOURS

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

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

BATTLE OF BLADENSBURG WALKING /DRIVING TOUR (ATHA)

The Battle of Bladensburg Walking and Driving Tours would direct visitors to War of 1812 sites throughout Bladensburg. The walking/driving tour would guide visitors along land

routes used by the British and American military during the Battle of Bladensburg and enable visitors to imagine challenges troops and residents faced during the war. Mobile applications and brochures developed for self-guided tours would describe sites along the walking/driving tour.

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

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

DUELING CREEK HERITAGE WALK

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

MARKET SQUARE HERITAGE TRAIL

Prince George’s Heritage (PGH) in cooperation with the Aman Memorial Trust is leading the planning, design, and

Figure 3
 Shaping a Star-Spangled Experience - Bladensburg
 Opportunities for Trail Experiences

Existing Visitor Facilities

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

War of 1812 Historic Resources

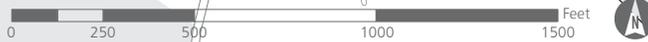
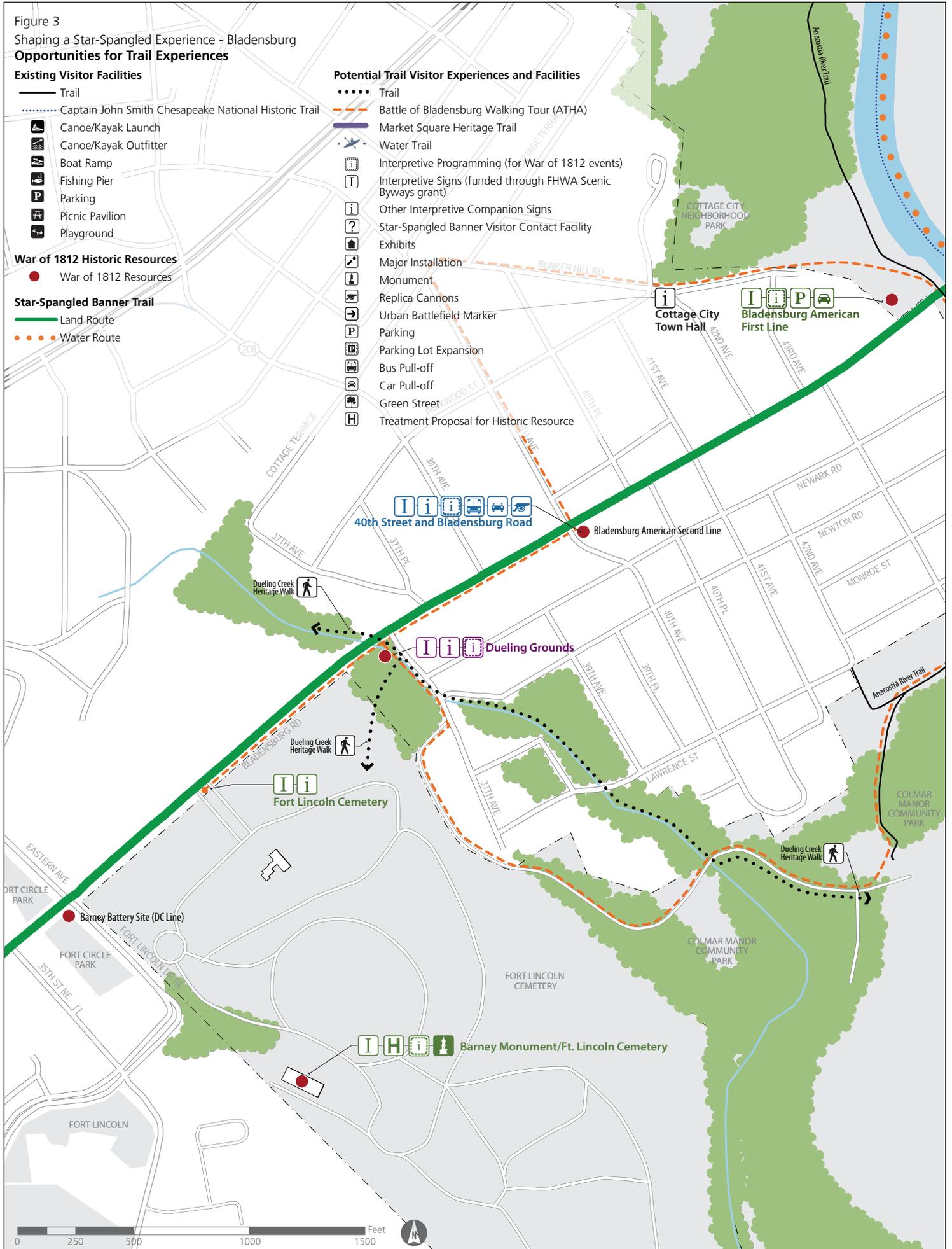
- War of 1812 Resources

Star-Spangled Banner Trail

- Land Route
- Water Route

Potential Trail Visitor Experiences and Facilities

- Trail
- Battle of Bladensburg Walking Tour (ATHA)
- Market Square Heritage Trail
- Water Trail
- Interpretive Programming (for War of 1812 events)
- Interpretive Signs (funded through FHWA Scenic Byways grant)
- Other Interpretive Companion Signs
- Star-Spangled Banner Visitor Contact Facility
- Exhibits
- Major Installation
- Monument
- Replica Cannons
- Urban Battlefield Marker
- Parking
- Parking Lot Expansion
- Bus Pull-off
- Car Pull-off
- Green Street
- Treatment Proposal for Historic Resource



construction process for an interpretive trail connecting historic sites and resources associated with the Bladensburg Market Square. In concept, this trail would include landscape improvements, sidewalk and other hardscape enhancements, interpretive signage and other products designed to provide a rich visitor experience. The trail would lead visitors from Magruder House up Annapolis Road to the Market Square, through the square site to the Market Master's Store, ending on 48th Avenue where connections to the Bostwick House are envisioned.

GUIDED HIKE OR BIKE TOURS

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

INTERPRETIVE PROGRAMS

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

SIGNATURE EVENTS

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

Experiences at Historic and Archeological Resource Sites

GEORGE WASHINGTON HOUSE AND BALLOON PARK

The George Washington House and Balloon Park would be a major attraction in the Bladensburg area. Interpretive signs would describe the nearby British artillery position during the Battle of Bladensburg. New exhibits would be developed and placed inside the George Washington House.

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

BLADENSBURG AMERICAN FIRST LINE SITE

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

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

DUELING GROUNDS

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

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

BLADENSBURG AMERICAN SECOND LINE SITE (FORT LINCOLN CEMETERY)

The American Second Line site in Fort Lincoln Cemetery would be a major attraction along the trail. The 178-acre cemetery includes a network of pathways, monuments, and interpretive signs describing the site's significance to the War of 1812 and the Civil War. At the highest point in the cemetery, visitors would find the site where the American Second Line was entrenched. There they would experience a panoramic view of Bladensburg, Cottage City, and Colmar Manor in the foreground, Hyattsville on the heights to the north, and Cheverly on the heights to the East. Looking across the landscape, they would learn about the American Second Line formed by American flotilla men and marines.

40TH STREET AND BLADENSBURG ROAD

At 40th Street and Bladensburg Road, visitors would experience the site where Americans troops once stood as the British launched rockets at them. As visitors view replica cannons and interpretive signs, they would learn how 5,000 American troops were once spread out between Bladensburg Road and Bunker Hill Road roughly along modern day 40th Street and in an orchard once on the west side of Bladensburg Road. Interpretive programming offered during special events would provide additional opportunities for visitors to learn about the Battle of Bladensburg.

MARKET SQUARE AND MARKET MASTER'S STORE

Market Square, a remnant of Colonial Bladensburg, served as a tobacco warehouse and market place during the 1700s and 1800s. Visitors would read interpretive signs and learn how Bladensburg's proximity to navigable waterways established the town as a hub for trade and industry. Reading interpretive signs, visitors would learn about recent archaeological surveys and discover what these findings reveal about Market Square and Market Master's Store in the early 1800s.

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

BOSTWICK HOUSE

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

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

LOWNDES HILL

Located along Annapolis Road, Lowndes Hill marks the site where the Americans started defensive works prior to the battle, but abandoned them when a new defensive strategy moved them to the Washington side of the Anacostia River. Later, the British briefly had an observation post on the hilltop. Lowndes Hill would be a stop along the trail during special events. Interpretive signs would describe how the British first spotted the American First Line and provide an overview of the British and American troop movements throughout Bladensburg.

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

MAGRUDER HOUSE

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

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

Recreation Opportunities

WATER TRAILS

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

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

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

HIKING/BIKING TRAILS

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

BLADENSBURG WATERFRONT PARK

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

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

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

Resource Protection

ANACOSTIA RIVER RESTORATION

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

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

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

ARCHEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS

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

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

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

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

Implementation

Partnerships

The trail would develop as partnerships are forged or enhanced with traditional and non-traditional partners who would collaborate to generally emphasize programs, media, and facilities to tell the stories of the War of 1812 in Bladensburg. Trail partners would continue to move forward with implementing the actions outlined above that would collectively create the desired Star-Spangled Banner experience along the trail in the Bladensburg area. The partners would at times work independently and at times in collaboration with one another.

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

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

- Educational and Research Institutions

Recommended Actions

To make the trail a success in Bladensburg during the bicentennial period, highest priority would be placed on implementing the following six projects (additional actions are identified in table 3):

- Trail Visitor Contact Facility at Bladensburg Waterfront Park
- Battle of Bladensburg Walking and Driving Tours
- sidewalk improvements along Battle of Bladensburg Walking and Driving Tours
- mobile application supporting trail routes
- parking and safe pull-offs for cars and buses
- Joshua Barney Monument (Undaunted) and enhancements at the Balloon Park

Table 3 summarizes these six projects, as well as others recommended in the North Point area. Projects are grouped by priority – high, moderate, and low. Project priorities were established by developing and applying criteria to evaluate how well each project would perform. Criteria considered how each project would enhance the visitor experience, how it would protect trail resources, and whether it has a sponsor with demonstrated capacity to implement the project who is ready for visitors.

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

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

Table 3. Star-Spangled Banner Trail Implementation Priorities¹

Project	Site	Lead Partner	Source Planning Document (s)	Estimated Cost	Optimum Finish Date
High Priority Projects					
Trail Visitor Contact Facility	Bladensburg Waterfront Park	MNCPPC	Maryland War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission Plan of Action	\$250,000	2012
Battle of Bladensburg Walking and Driving Tours	Battle of Bladensburg Walking and Driving Tours	Anacostia Trails Heritage Area, Inc.	Plan for the Battle of Bladensburg War of 1812 Commemoration (BB Task Force 2010)	\$15,000 - \$30,000	2012-2014
Sidewalk Improvements along Walking and Driving Tours Route on Quincy, Upshur, and 46 th Streets, US Route 1 Alt and Annapolis Road	Battle of Bladensburg Walking and Driving Tours	MD SHA	Battle of Bladensburg Task Force	\$347,500 – \$421,375	2012-2014
Mobile Application supporting Tour Routes	Battle of Bladensburg Walking and Driving Tours	Anacostia Trails Heritage Area, Inc.	Plan for the Battle of Bladensburg War of 1812 Commemoration	\$5,000 - \$100,000	2012-2014
Parking, and Safe Pull-Off for Cars and Buses	40 th and Bladensburg Road at the American First Line	Anacostia Trails Heritage Area, Inc., Development Partner	Plan for the Battle of Bladensburg War of 1812 Commemoration	TBD	2012-2014
Joshua Barney Monument (Undaunted)	Bladensburg Waterfront Park	Aman Trust	Plan for the Battle of Bladensburg War of 1812 Commemoration	\$400,000	2014
Intersection Improvements at 46 th 47 th and 48 th Streets and Annapolis Road	Battle of Bladensburg Walking and Driving Tours	MD SHA	Battle of Bladensburg Task Force	\$75,000	2012-2014
Market Square Heritage Trail	Magruder House to Market Square to Bostwick House	Prince George’s Heritage	plan under development by Prince George’s Heritage	TBD	2012-2014
Exhibits	George Washington House	Anacostia Watershed Society	Maryland War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission Plan of Action	\$250,000	2012
Bridge Art	Kenilworth Bridge Tunnel	M-NCPPC	Plan for the Battle of Bladensburg War of 1812 Commemoration	\$50,000	2012-2014
Interior and Exterior Exhibits	Magruder House	Prince George’s Heritage	Maryland War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission Plan of Action	\$300,000	2012

Table 3. Star-Spangled Banner Trail Implementation Priorities¹

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

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

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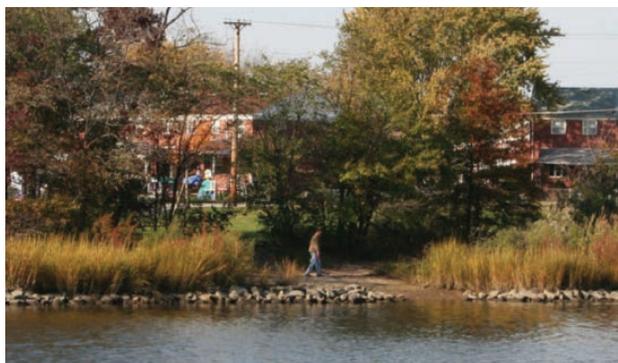
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Shaping a Star-Spangled Experience **North Point**

Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail and Scenic Byway
2012

Vision for a Star-Spangled Experience in North Point

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

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

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

Many of North Point's attractions are knit together by the North Point Heritage Greenway Trail. The trail provides safe access to parks and historic sites by foot or by bike, while connecting with local schools, several community facilities, and the Chesapeake Bay. A growing number of tourists and local residents explore the trail and frequent local businesses

along the way. Their experience of North Point deepens, strengthening local and regional stewardship of its historic and natural resources for generations to come.



Shaping a Star-Spangled Experience – North Point

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

Prepared by:

National Park Service
Chesapeake Bay Office

In cooperation with:

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

Maryland Department of Transportation
State Highway Administration
Maryland Scenic Byway Program

Maryland Department of Natural Resources
Maryland Park Service
Land Acquisition and Planning
Boating Services

Baltimore County, Maryland

2012

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Shaping a Star-Spangled Experience – North Point

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

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



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

Introduction

The Star-Spangled Banner Trail

The Star-Spangled Banner Trail connects the places, people, and events that led to the birth of our National Anthem during the War of 1812. The Chesapeake Region was a center of this critical struggle between the United States and Great Britain. The trail covers 560 miles of land and water routes in Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia along which the British army and navy and the American defenders traveled and fought. The trail incorporates both the Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail and the Star-Spangled Banner Scenic Byway.

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

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

The Comprehensive Management Plan

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

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

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

Star-Spangled Experience in North Point

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

The North Point focus area study assembled a comprehensive inventory of planned and proposed projects and enhancements needed to support interpretive and educational experiences and to protect trail resources. The process also focused on establishing priorities for actions. Stakeholders included potential trail partners, such as local government agencies, non-profit organizations, for-profit organizations, historians, and interested members of the public.

Planning Objectives for North Point

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

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

Relevant Plans of the Partners

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

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

- *Access, Stewardship and Interpretation Opportunity Plan for Water Portions of the Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail in Maryland* (MD DBED 2010)
- *Maryland War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission Plan of Action* (MD Bicentennial Commission 2009)
- *Baltimore County Capital Improvements Team – List of Priorities* (Baltimore County 2010d)
- *North Point State Park Visitor Center – War of 1812 Exhibits Concept Plan* (NPS 2011e)
- *North Point Heritage Greenway Trail* (Baltimore County and North Point Peninsula Council 2010c)

- *North Point State Battlefield Concept Plan* (NPS 2011d)
- *Battle Acre Historic Park Rehabilitation and Improvement Project Proposal and Plan* (Baltimore County 2007a)
- *North Point Peninsula Community Plan* (Baltimore County 2007b)
- *Star-Spangled Banner Hiker Biker Trail* (Donnelly 2010)
- *War of 1812 Interpretive Signage Placement Plan* (NPS 2011b)
- *Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail Comprehensive Management Plan* (NPS 2010a)

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

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

Presentation of Findings

Findings from the focus area study for North Point are presented below under the following three headings:

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

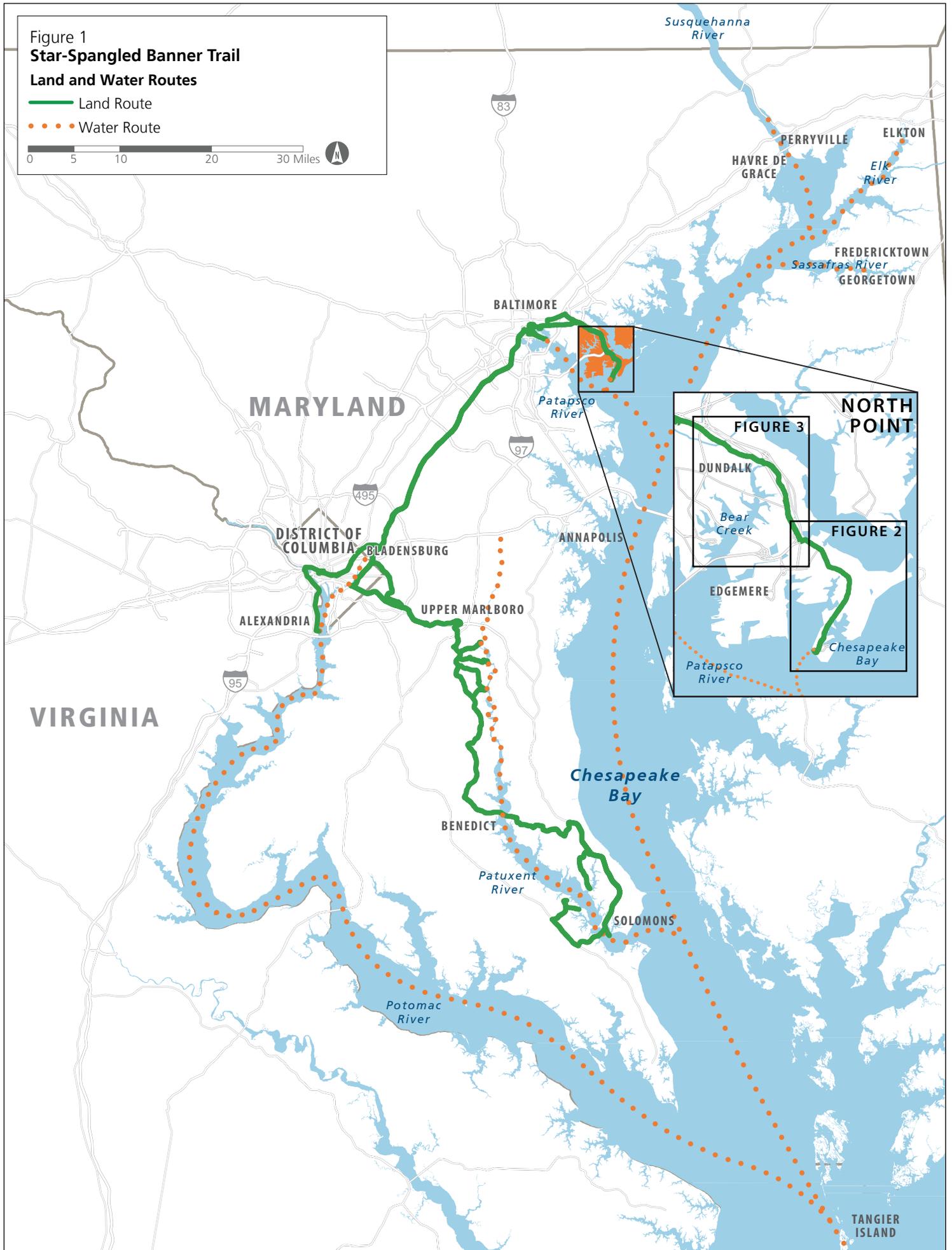
The concept described below proposes a framework for developing a range of trail experiences along the route network, aiming to organize partners and the NPS around the highest priority short-term projects for developing and connecting trail sites in North Point. It identifies short-term project and program ideas as well as priorities for developing the trail and describes funding, partnership, and collaboration efforts with the city's related history and recreation interests.

Figure 1
Star-Spangled Banner Trail

Land and Water Routes

— Land Route

••• Water Route



Foundation for Planning

Purposes of the Trail

The purposes of the Star-Spangled Banner Trail are to:

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

Primary Interpretive Themes

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

Historic and Archeological Resources

Several special studies document historic and archeological resources related to the War of 1812, including the *Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail Feasibility Study and EIS* (NPS 2004) and *Report to Congress on the Historic Preservation of Revolutionary War and War of 1812 Sites in the United States* (NPS 2007), and recent efforts undertaken in preparation for the upcoming bicentennial commemoration of the war. Historic resources – with the exception of interpretive locations and some cultural

Table 1. Primary Interpretive Themes

Interpretive Theme Statement	
Theme 1	Almost thirty years after gaining independence, Americans resisted a land and water invasion by Great Britain, and military events in the Chesapeake region became central to the outcomes of a broader three-year struggle that established a foundation for the United States’ economic independence and military strength.
Theme 2	During the War of 1812, individuals in the Chesapeake region endured great political, economic, and emotional upheaval and faced personal choices that profoundly impacted domestic life, influenced the evolution of U.S. government and commerce, and had ramifications far beyond the battlefield.
Theme 3	In the early 1800s, the Chesapeake region – due to its central location on the eastern seaboard, network of navigable waterways, robust natural resources and fertile agricultural lands – served as a hub for trade, industry and government, making it a prime target for the British.
Theme 4	The United States flag and “The Star-Spangled Banner” anthem – symbolizing the resiliency of the new nation and the American character – inspired a renewed sense of nationalism in U.S. citizens after the War of 1812, and endure today as potent international icons of the United States of America.

landscapes – are considered to have historic integrity and significance to the War of 1812 in the Chesapeake region.

Four categories of historic resources are present along the trail in North Point (table 2) (NPS 2011c):

- battlefields
- cultural landscapes
- historic structures
- commemorative sites

Table 2 War of 1812 Historic and Archeological Resources

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

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

In addition, along the trail many locations offer opportunities for interpretation that tell the stories about the places, people, and events of the war. At North Point these include:

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

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

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



Shaw Cemetery



Battle Acre Park



North Point Landing at Fort Howard

Recreation Opportunities

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

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

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

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

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



Beach at North Point State Park



Fishing at Bear Creek

The Concept

On the North Point peninsula, from Fort Howard to Dundalk, visitors would learn about the stories, places and people and untold stories of the War of 1812 with emphasis on the events of the summer of 1814 when the British landed near Fort Howard and were delayed in their march to Baltimore at the ensuing Battle of North Point.

ORIENTATION

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

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

PLACES TO VISIT ALONG THE TRAIL

Visitors would follow the trail from the visitor center to the various attractions where the events of the War of 1812 occurred or are commemorated. Interpretive media and programming would highlight Fort Howard, Todd's Inheritance, the Shaw House Foundation and Cemetery, Gorsuch Farm and the Ross Death Site, the Aquila Randall Monument, North Point State Battlefield, Battle Acre Park, and the Methodist Meeting House. New signage, itineraries, maps, and virtual media would strengthen connections among these sites. At Fort Howard, future access and interpretation would be coordinated with the site developers.

RECREATION

Visitors would enjoy enhanced opportunities for recreation at state and local parks – on both land and water. New

water trails would enable boaters to explore the waters around the North Point Peninsula and in the Bear Creek area. Water trail guides would be produced for the North Point Water Trail and the Bear Creek Water Trail. Several new canoe and kayak soft launches would be developed, along with paddlers waysides along the water trail routes where paddlers can stop, get out of their boats for a rest and where interpretive media would be available.

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

RESOURCE PROTECTION

Resource protection at North Point would focus on resources from the 1812 to 1815 period and landscapes evocative of the early 19th century that are on, or in close proximity to the land and water routes of the trail. Partners would assume primary responsibility for protection and the NPS would provide technical assistance with education of landowners regarding stewardship, planning, partner acquisition, and identification of potential funding sources.

PARTNERSHIPS

The trail would develop as partnerships are forged or enhanced with traditional and business partners who would collaborate to generally emphasize programs, media, and facilities to tell the stories of the War of 1812 time period at

North Point. Collaboration with the Captain John Smith Chesapeake NHT would support joint development of projects, programs, and facilities that provide recreational experiences and that would enhance visitor appreciation of the Chesapeake Bay.

Illustrative Maps

Figures 2 and 3 illustrate the existing and proposed visitor use facilities and interpretive media that would collectively provide the desired visitor experience along the trail in the North Point area. The projects illustrated generally represent the collective ideas of the individual partners along the trail. Added to the projects from existing plans are a number of projects identified during the concept planning process in meetings with partners and stakeholders.

Orientation to the Trail

UNIFORM WAYSIDE AND DIRECTIONAL SIGNAGE

In advance of the bicentennial commemoration, funding is in hand in Maryland to design and install interpretive signage along the trail that will tell the stories of the War of 1812 and that will mark trail sites. Three-sided, outdoor orientation kiosks at the visitor contact stations in each regional hub will offer trail-wide and local travel information.

Waysides coordinated in each region with county tourism agencies and site staff will interpret War of 1812 events at specific locations. Among the initial signs to be placed along the trail, ten will mark and interpret sites in the North Point area, including:

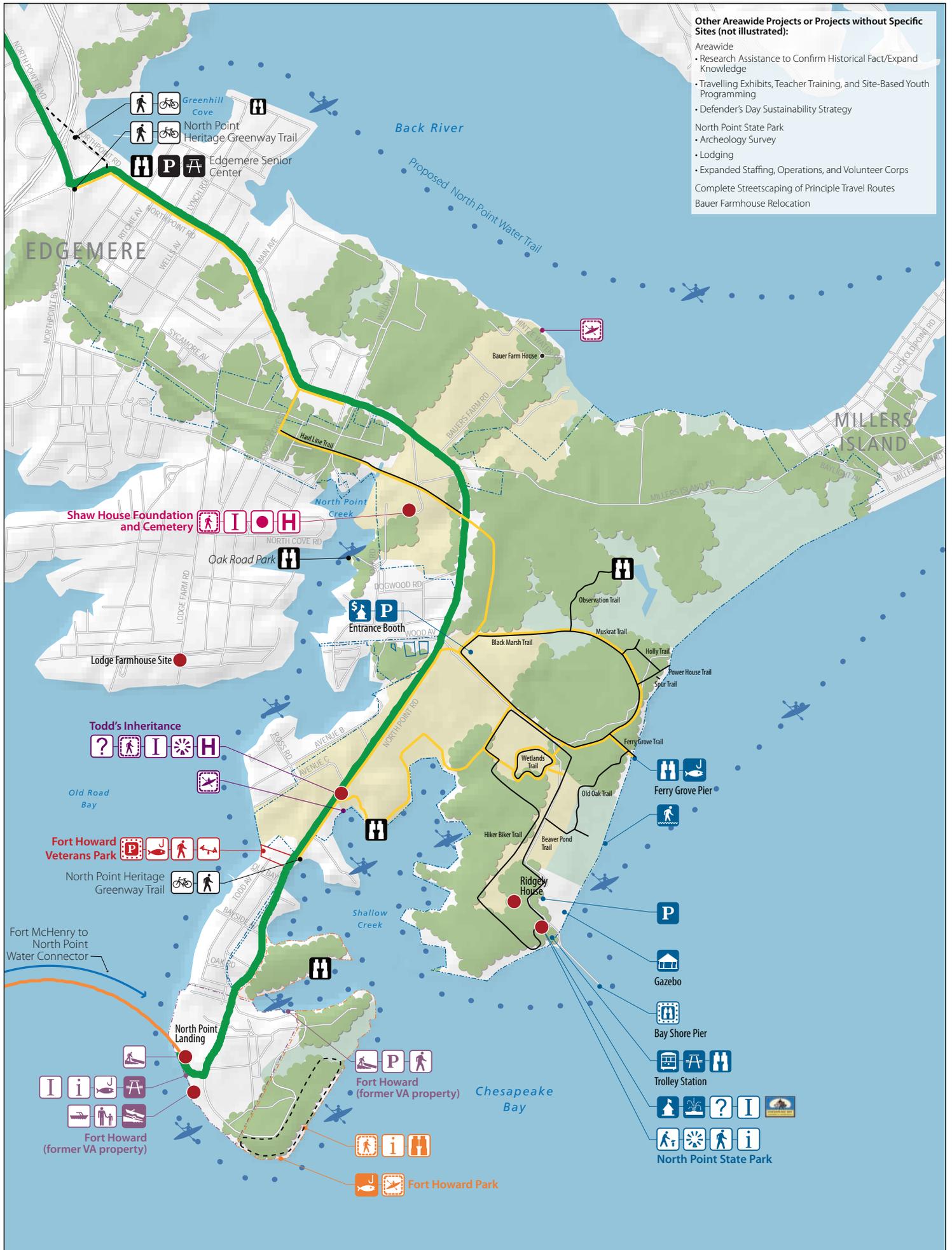
- Fort Howard
- Todd’s Inheritance
- North Point State Park
- Shaw House Foundation and Cemetery
- abandoned earthworks (near Edgemere)
- Gorsuch Farm and Ross death site
- Aquila Randall Monument
- Bear Creek Park (on the Maryland Line Trail)
- Battle Acre Park
- North Point State Battlefield

Figure 2:
Shaping a Star-Spangled Experience - North Point (southeast section)
Opportunities for Trail Experiences



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

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



As funding becomes available, site markers at public access points along the trail’s water route and directional signs to trail sites would be a funding priority.

VISITOR CONTACT – NORTH POINT STATE PARK VISITOR CENTER

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

Interpretive Media and Programming

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

GUIDED BOAT AND PADDLE TOURS

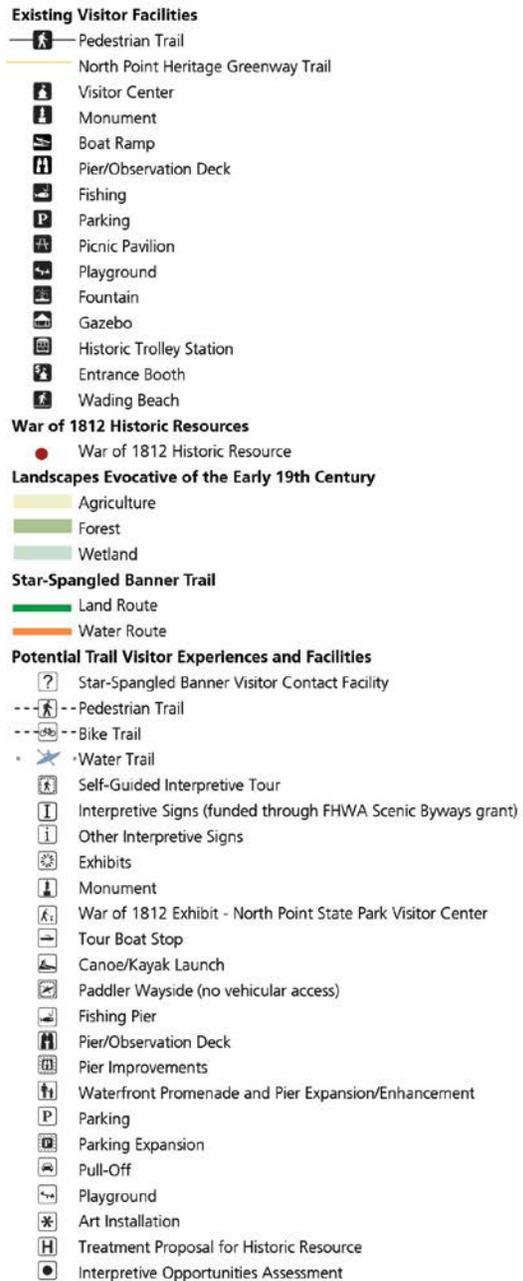
From Fort McHenry visitors would be able to take a tour boat to Fort Howard and North Point State Park. Once at North Point, a green tour bus would transport visitors to nearby historic and archeological resource sites on the trail.

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

SELF-GUIDED ITINERARIES

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

Figure 3:
Shaping a Star-Spangled Experience - North Point (northwest section)
Opportunities for Trail Experiences



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

Areawide

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



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

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

GUIDED HIKE OR BIKE TOURS

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

INTERPRETIVE PROGRAMS

Visitors would participate in interpretive programs focused on trail themes. These would be offered primarily at North Point State Park, North Point State Battlefield, and at historic and archeological resource sites that are open for visitors and that are staffed in some fashion, such as Todd's Inheritance. Other partners – such as the Dundalk-Patapsco Historical Society – would offer periodic special interpretive programs for visitors.

SIGNATURE EVENTS

Several partners already host War of 1812 related events at parks and historic and archeological resources sites at North Point. Most celebrated is the annual Defenders Day event hosted by the Dundalk-Patapsco Historical Society held at Baltimore County's Fort Howard Park. Additional events could be developed and promoted to engage visitors with the trail, such as cultural festivals, reenactments, paddling races, or bike rallies. Ideally there would be a continuing

series of events and programs designed to draw targeted audiences to the trail.

[Experiences at Partner Sites](#)

NORTH POINT STATE PARK

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

At North Point State Park visitors would experience a landscape and views across the Chesapeake representative of the early 19th century. Touring the visitor center, a new exhibit would tell the stories of the War of 1812 and the Battle of North Point, as well as stories about nature and wildlife, Native Americans and Captain John Smith, and the Bay Shore Amusement Park. Interpretive programming and informal contact with staff would build upon these stories.

FORT HOWARD PARK

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

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

FORT HOWARD VETERANS PARK

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

FORT HOWARD

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

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

NORTH POINT STATE BATTLEFIELD

North Point State Battlefield – where the Americans disrupted the British advance into Baltimore City – would be a major visitor attraction along the trail. The 9-acre site – owned by the state of Maryland and managed as a unit of North Point State Park – would offer interpretive opportunities for visitors and host educational programming. Walking along a self-guided interpretive trail, visitors would envision the American lines and British troops approaching from the east. Throughout the year, visitors would have opportunities to

participate in special events on the sites, including educational programs and possibly reenactments. Via the Maryland Line Trail, visitors would make the one block connection to Battle Acre Park. From there they could continue on to Bear Creek at either Charlesmont Park or Bear Creek Park.

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

BATTLE ACRE PARK

At Battle Acre Park visitors would experience a ceremonial landscape set aside in 1839 to commemorate the Battle of North Point. Walking along paths, they would view the monument and from a series of new waysides, learn about the defense efforts against the British. Via the Maryland Line Trail, visitors would make the one block connection to the North Point State Battlefield site and to Bear Creek at either Charlesmont Park or Bear Creek Park.

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

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

Walking along the interpretive trail at Todd's Inheritance, visitors would learn about the site's use as an American signal house, horse courier station, and headquarters during

the War of 1812. Throughout the year, the Friends of Todd's Inheritance programming and events would build upon these interpretive messages. A new paddlers wayside on Shallow Creek would enable those paddling the North Point Water Trail by canoe or kayak to stop for a rest and to visit the site.

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

SHAW HOUSE FOUNDATION AND CEMETERY

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

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

METHODIST MEETING HOUSE

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

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

AQUILA RANDALL MONUMENT

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

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

BAUER FARM

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

GORSUCH FARM SITE AND ROSS DEATH SITE

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

Land and Water Trails

HIKING/BIKING TRAILS

North Point Heritage Greenway. Residents and visitors to the southern portion of the North Point area would have the opportunity to travel from Fort Howard to Edgemere via a safe multi-modal path that connects War of 1812 sites with local schools, several community facilities, North Point State Park, and the Chesapeake Bay. The trail would follow a combination of sidewalks and paved shared-use trails. Walking or biking along the trail, visitors would learn about the Battle of North Point and the role of residents in the Chesapeake region in the early 1800s. Initial greenway trail development would occur in six segments from Edgemere to Fort Howard Veterans Park. Future development phases would include trail expansion and amenities such as benches, water fountains, restrooms, and Bear Creek Water Trail

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

War of 1812 resources and recommends trail design guidelines to ensure a consistent visitor experience. There are no specific proposed partner actions identified at this time aimed at implementing the Star-Spangled Banner Hiker/Biker Trail.

Maryland Line Trail (*proposed/subject to further study and planning*). Accessible by land and water trail, the Maryland Line Trail would connect visitors to both recreational and interpretive opportunities along Bear Creek. As visitors walk along the trails they would learn about land and water routes used by the British and American troops.

WATER TRAILS

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

North Point Water Trail. The tip of the North Point Peninsula is one of the eleven high priority areas recommended for water trail development. Following the water trail, paddlers would set out from the Edgemere Senior Center and then paddle down the Back River to the Chesapeake Bay, where they would follow the bay shore first to North Point State Park and then to Fort Howard Park. From there they would round the peninsula to arrive at Fort Howard, and then continue north up North Point Creek to Oak Road Park. At the mouth of Shallow Creek, a branch of the water trail would provide a more protected opportunity for paddling within a protected bay. New soft launches for

canoe and kayak access and paddlers waysides along the water trail are identified at several locations where interpretive media would also be installed. Associated facilities are recommended at stops along the water trail, including enhancements to the existing waterfront promenade at Fort Howard, an interpretive trail at Fort Howard Park, and a walking trail connection to Todd's Inheritance (from a new paddlers wayside on Shallow Creek).

Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail.

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

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

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

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

Implementation

Partnerships

The trail would develop as partnerships are forged or enhanced with traditional and non-traditional partners who would collaborate to generally emphasize programs, media, and facilities to tell the stories of the War of 1812 in North Point. Trail partners would continue to move forward with implementing the actions outlined above that would collectively create the desired Star-Spangled Banner experience along the trail in North Point. The partners would at times work independently and at times in collaboration with one another.

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

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

- Community Groups
 - Eastfield-Stanbrook Civic Association
 - Gray Manor and Northshire Community Assoc
 - Dundalk Heritage Fair Association
 - Dundalk Heritage Parade Committee
 - Greater Dundalk Community Council
 - Greater Dundalk Alliance
- Commercial Facilities and Services
 - marinas
 - motels and other overnight accommodations
 - guide services
 - tour operators
 - equipment sales and rental businesses
- Educational and Research Institutions

Recommended Actions

To make the trail a success in the North Point area during the Bicentennial period highest priority would be placed on implementing the following six projects:

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

Table 3 summarizes these six projects, as well as others recommended in the North Point area. Projects are grouped by priority – high, moderate, and low. Project priorities were established by developing and applying criteria to evaluate how well each project would perform. Criteria considered how each project would enhance the visitor experience, how it would protect trail resources, and whether it has a sponsor with demonstrated capacity to implement the project who is ready for visitors. Also considered was the extent to which the project would support the upcoming bicentennial of the War of 1812.

Estimated costs and optimum finish dates are taken from source planning documents, where provided. Funding for projects would come through a variety of public, private, and

non-profit sources, if and when it is available. The potential actions described in this document do not yet represent commitments by any of the potential partners listed.

Table 3. Star-Spangled Banner Trail Implementation Priorities¹

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

Table 3. Star-Spangled Banner Trail Implementation Priorities¹

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

Table 3. Star-Spangled Banner Trail Implementation Priorities¹

Project	Site	Lead Partner	Source Planning Document (s)	Estimated Cost	Optimum Finish Date
"Green" Tour Buses/Boats with service to and from Fort McHenry	North Point State Park	State and Local Tourism Agencies, private tour operators	Maryland War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission Plan of Action	TBD	2015
Fort McHenry to North Point Water Connector	Patapsco River	State and Local Tourism Agencies, private tour operators	Stakeholders	TBD	2013
Outdoor Exhibits	Todd's Inheritance	Maryland DNR, Todd's Inheritance Historic Site, Inc.	Maryland War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission Plan of Action; Capital Improvements Team Preliminary List of Priorities (2010)	\$50,000	2012
Defender's Day Sustainability Strategy	Areawide	Dundalk Patapsco Neck Historical Society; Baltimore County War of 1812 Advisory Committee	Stakeholders	TBD	2012
Research to Confirm Historical Fact/Expand Knowledge	Areawide	Dundalk Patapsco Neck Historical Society; Baltimore County War of 1812 Advisory Committee	Dundalk Patapsco Neck Historical Society	TBD	Ongoing
Low Priority Projects					
British Combatants Memorial	Methodist Meeting House	TBD	Maryland War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission Plan of Action	TBD	2014
Conservation Assessment of Granite and Appropriate Follow-Up Actions	Methodist Meeting House	TBD	Capital Improvements Team List of Priorities (2010)	TBD	Ongoing
Restoration	Todd's Inheritance	Maryland DNR/ Todd's Inheritance Historic Site, Inc.	Maryland War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission Plan of Action; Capital Improvements Team List of Priorities (2010)	\$1,000,000	2012
House Foundation Stabilization Needs Assessment and Appropriate Related Actions	Shaw House Foundation and Cemetery	Friends of North Point State Park	North Point State Park Black Marsh Wildland Master Plan	TBD	2020

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

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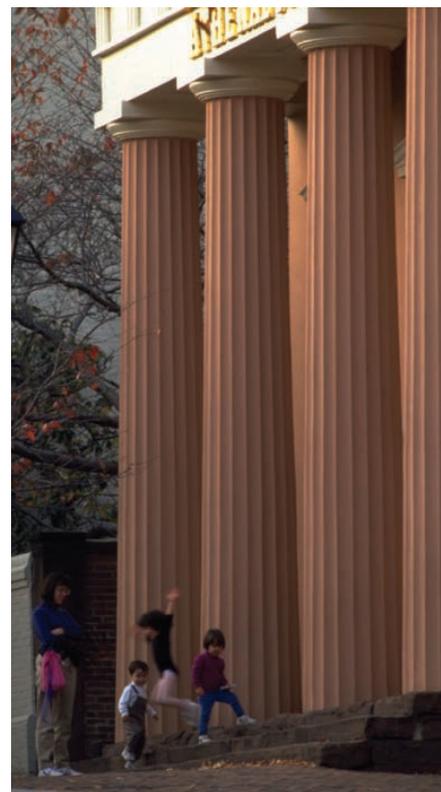
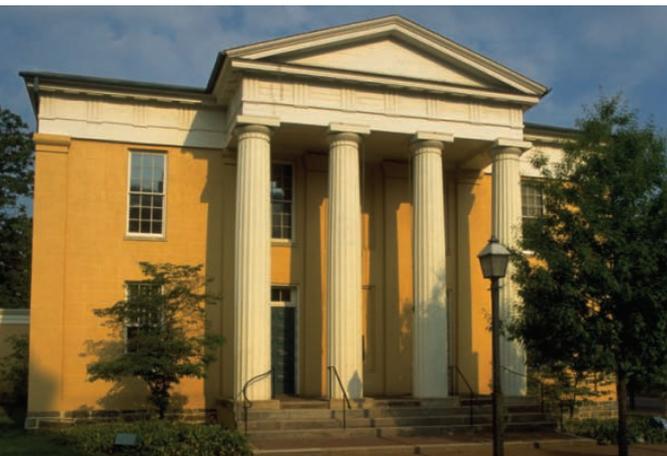
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Shaping a Star-Spangled Experience **Alexandria**

Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail and Scenic Byway
2012



Pre-Registration
N-Z

Shaping a Star-Spangled Experience – Alexandria

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

Prepared by:

National Park Service
Chesapeake Bay Office

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2012



Shaping a Star-Spangled Experience – Alexandria

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

- orientation and War of 1812 at the Alexandria waterfront
- interpretive signs (at the foot of the King Street trolley stop and the King Street waterfront)
- interpretive signs and programs at place-based trail learning experiences (King Street Waterfront, Carlyle House, Lyceum, Apothecary, and Shuter’s Hill)
- guided and self-guided walking tours (beginning at the waterfront and connecting place-based trail learning experiences)
- identification and marketing of land- and water-based recreation opportunities



Visitors at the Carlyle House

Introduction

The Star-Spangled Banner Trail

The Star-Spangled Banner Trail connects the places, people, and events that led to the birth of our National Anthem during the War of 1812. The Chesapeake Region was a center of this critical struggle between the United States and Great Britain. The trail covers 560 miles of land and water routes in Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia along which the British army and navy and the American defenders traveled and fought. The trail incorporates both the Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail and the Star-Spangled Banner Scenic Byway.

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

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

Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine (Fort McHenry NMHS), administered by the National Park Service, serves as the trail's primary visitor hub. The national park interprets the stories of the people and events of the Battle of . The park, by Congressional order, flies the American flag 24 hours a day in honor of the flag that flew over the Fort on September 15, 1814 and inspired Francis Scott Key to pen what became America's National Anthem.

The Comprehensive Management Plan

Future visitors to the trail will enjoy a compelling unified star-spangled experience made possible by the work of many whose actions are implemented in concert with a joint

comprehensive management plan (CMP) for the trail and corridor management plan (CMP) for the byway. The *Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail and Scenic Byway Comprehensive Management Plan and Corridor Management Plan and Environmental Assessment* (CMP) is a single management plan for the Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail and for the Star-Spangled Banner Scenic Byway in the state of Maryland. Prepared by the NPS, together with its partners in Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia, the CMP provides a guide for development of the trail over the next 20 years, establishing goals, guidelines, and recommended actions. It also outlines a wide range of partnership activities that will build and maintain the trail, including strategies to increase public appreciation of related historic and natural resources.

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

Star-Spangled Experience in Alexandria

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

The Alexandria focus area study assembled a comprehensive inventory of planned and proposed projects and enhancements needed to support interpretive and

educational experiences and to protect trail resources. The process also focused on establishing priorities for actions. Stakeholders included potential trail partners, such as local government agencies, non-profit organizations, for-profit organizations, historians, and interested members of the public.

Planning Objectives for Alexandria

Future development and management of the trail in the Alexandria region should accomplish the following principal objectives:

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

Relevant Plans of the Partners

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

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

- *Access, Stewardship and Interpretation Opportunity Plan for Water Portions of the Star-Spangled*

Banner National Historic Trail in Maryland (MD DBED 2010)

- *Alexandria Bikeways Map* (Alexandria 2011a)
- *Alexandria Waterfront Draft Small Area Plan* (Alexandria 2011b)
- *War of 1812 Interpretive Signage Placement Plan* (NPS 2011b)
- *Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail Comprehensive Management Plan* (NPS 2010a)

Presentation of Findings

Findings from the focus area study for Alexandria are presented below under the following three headings:

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

The concept described below proposes a framework for developing a range of trail experiences along the route network, aiming to organize partners and the NPS around the highest priority short-term projects for developing and connecting trail sites in Alexandria. It identifies short-term project and program ideas as well as priorities for developing the trail and describes funding, partnership, and collaboration efforts with the city's related history and recreation interests.

Figure 1
Star-Spangled Banner Trail
Land and Water Routes

- Land Route
- Water Route

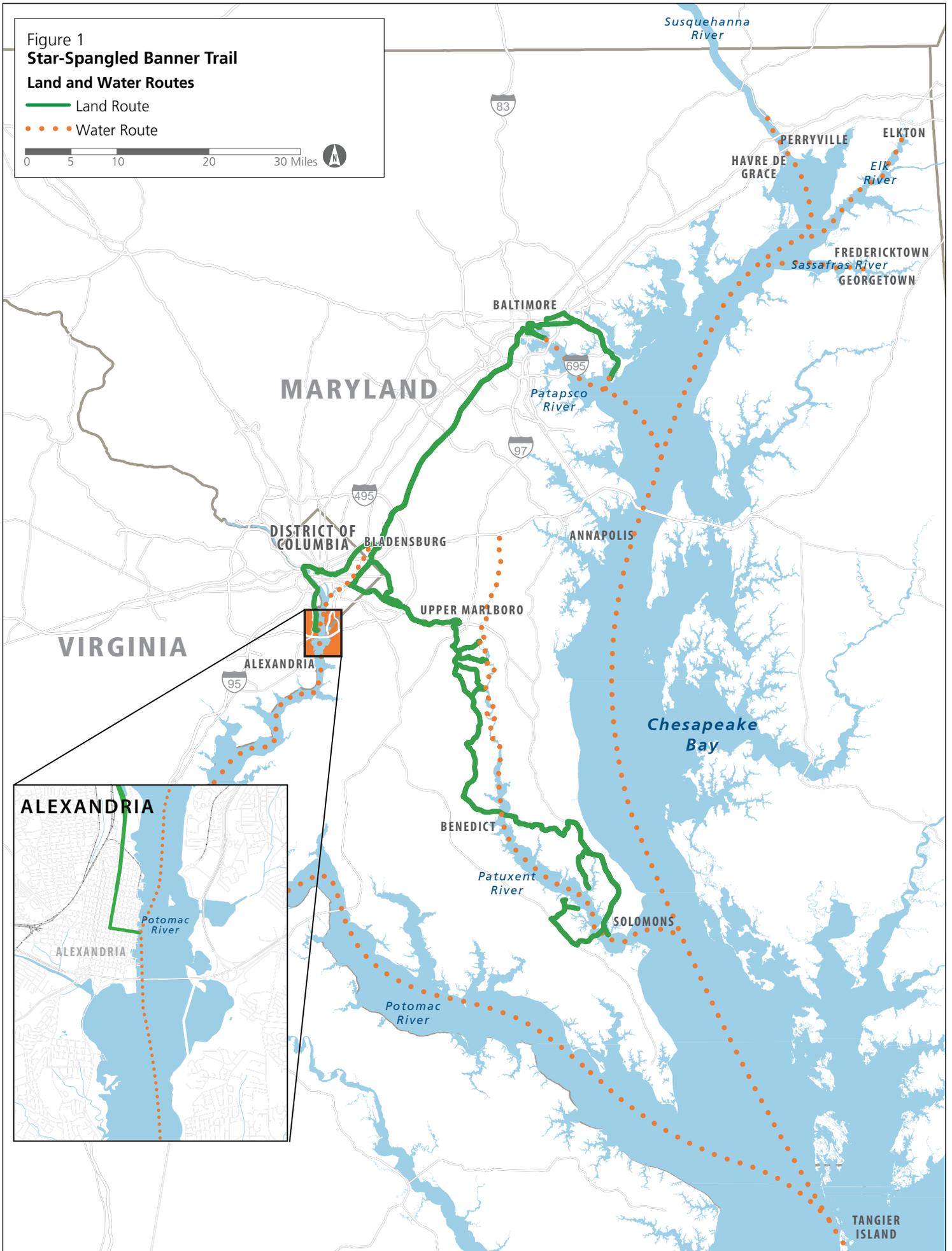
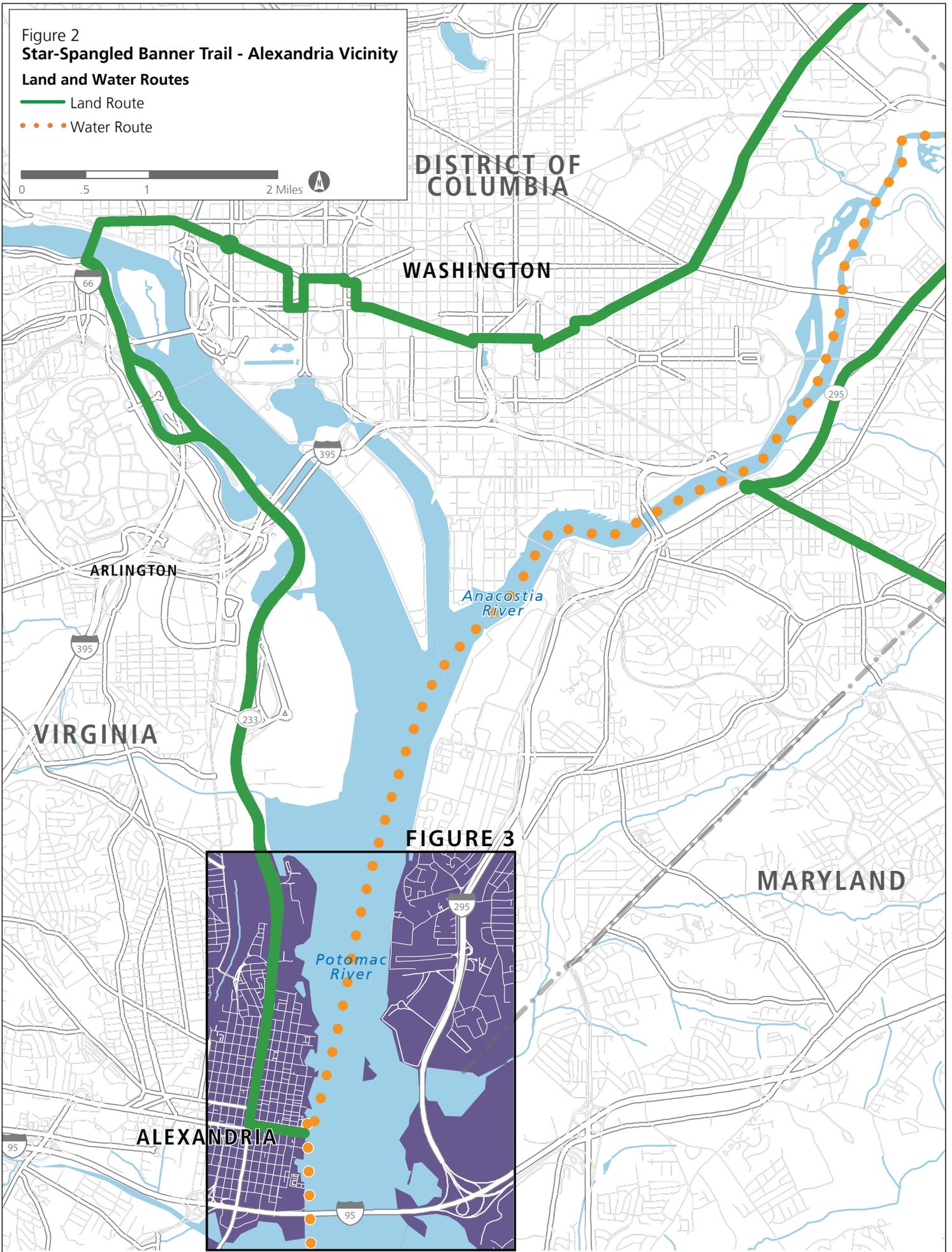


Figure 2
Star-Spangled Banner Trail - Alexandria Vicinity

Land and Water Routes

- Land Route
- Water Route



Foundation for Planning

Purposes of the Trail

The purposes of the Star-Spangled Banner Trail are to:

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

Primary Interpretive Themes

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

Historic and Archeological Resources

Several special studies document historic and archeological resources related to the War of 1812, including the *Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail Feasibility Study and EIS* (NPS 2004) and *Report to Congress on the Historic Preservation of Revolutionary War and War of 1812 Sites in the United States* (NPS 2007), and recent efforts undertaken in preparation for the upcoming bicentennial commemoration of the war. Historic resources – with the exception of interpretive locations and some cultural landscapes (evocative landscapes) – are considered to have

historic integrity and significance to the War of 1812 in the Chesapeake region.

In Alexandria there are four War of 1812 historic resources:

- Alexandria King Street Waterfront
- John Fitzgerald Warehouse
- Carlyle House
- Lyceum

While Shuter’s Hill lacks integrity due to modern development, it offers an additional opportunity for interpretation that tells the stories about the causes, events, and outcomes of the war. The Apothecary and Lee-Fendall House, extant during the War of 1812, provide additional interpretive opportunities.

Table 1. Primary Interpretive Themes

Interpretive Theme Statement	
Theme 1	Almost thirty years after gaining independence, Americans resisted a land and water invasion by Great Britain, and military events in the Chesapeake region became central to the outcomes of a broader three-year struggle that established a foundation for the United States’ economic independence and military strength.
Theme 2	During the War of 1812, individuals in the Chesapeake region endured great political, economic, and emotional upheaval and faced personal choices that profoundly impacted domestic life, influenced the evolution of U.S. government and commerce, and had ramifications far beyond the battlefield.
Theme 3	In the early 1800s, the Chesapeake region – due to its central location on the eastern seaboard, network of navigable waterways, robust natural resources and fertile agricultural lands – served as a hub for trade, industry and government, making it a prime target for the British.
Theme 4	The United States flag and “The Star-Spangled Banner” anthem – symbolizing the resiliency of the new nation and the American character – inspired a renewed sense of nationalism in U.S. citizens after the War of 1812, and endure today as potent international icons of the United States of America.

The Concept

The concept for the trail in Alexandria is “orient and disperse.” The existing visitor orientation center and proposed facility for the city’s historical attractions are both at the waterfront. They are a significant draw for visitors to Alexandria, easily accessible on public transportation via trolley and water taxi, and a base for orientation, interpretive media, tour departures, and information on outfitters and related trail programs.

Over the long-term, Alexandria could utilize the “trail town” model originally piloted along the Great Allegheny Trail in Pennsylvania (trailtowns.org) to capitalize on its location at the confluence of four national historic and scenic trails. Projects supporting marking, interpretation, stewardship, and local economic development at the intersection of these four national trails might include a national trails visitor contact facility, joint marking and marketing, annual celebrations on National Trails Day, and coordination of visitor services for long-distance trail users, including bicycle services and bicycle-friendly accommodations.

ORIENTATION

The existing Alexandria Visitor Center at Ramsay House [221 King Street] would become the primary visitor contact facility for trail information and orientation. The Archaeology Museum and History Center and Museum Store on North Union Street could direct visitors who begin their visit at the Alexandria waterfront to the Ramsey House. For visitors starting at the waterfront, the trail website and new directional signage in the area would direct visitors between the waterfront and sites along the trail. As waterfront revitalization efforts progress, the proposed Waterfront History Center could be explored as the primary location for trail information and orientation.

PLACES TO VISIT ALONG THE TRAIL

Visitors would follow the trail from the visitor center to the various attractions along the trail where the events of the War of 1812 occurred or are commemorated. Interpretive media and programming would be focused at the Alexandria

Waterfront, the Lyceum, Carlyle House, the Apothecary, and Shuter’s Hill. New signage, itineraries, maps, and virtual media would strengthen connections among these sites.

LAND AND WATER TRAVEL

Armed with information, visitors could experience a taste of the Star-Spangled Banner and early 19th century history while taking part in related land and water-based excursions and activities through:

- Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail
- Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail
- Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route National Historic Trail
- Water taxi service to National Harbor
- Bicycle and boat rental outfitters
- Commercial tour boat operators

RESOURCE PROTECTION

While resource protection would likely be the focus of other historic preservation efforts, continued preservation of trail-related historic resources would support a quality visitor experience.

PARTNERSHIPS

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

Illustrative Map

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

Orientation to the Trail

UNIFORM WAYSIDE AND DIRECTIONAL SIGNAGE

In advance of the bicentennial commemoration, plans are underway in Maryland to design and install wayside signage along the trail that will tell the stories of the War of 1812 and that will direct visitors to those places. As funding becomes available, signage could be provided in Alexandria at or in the vicinity of the following locations:

- Alexandria King Street Waterfront
- John Fitzgerald Warehouse
- Carlyle House
- Lyceum
- Shuter's Hill

VISITOR CONTACT – HISTORIC ALEXANDRIA CENTER & MUSEUM SHOP

The Historic Alexandria History Center & Museum Shop would become the primary visitor contact facility for the trail in the city of Alexandria. The trail website and new directional signage in the area would direct visitors to the History Center for orientation to the trail. There visitors would obtain information about the opportunities for learning and recreation in the Alexandria area. New exhibits at the visitor center would tell stories of Alexandria from Native Americans and Captain John Smith, to the colonial era, to the War of 1812 and what has happened since.

Over the long-term, the primary visitor contact facility for the trail would be relocated to the proposed history center on The Strand near Prince Street, if and when it is developed by

the city of Alexandria as described in the *Alexandria Waterfront Draft Small Area Plan* (Alexandria 2011b).

Places to Visit

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

SELF-GUIDED ITINERARIES

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

Self-guided itineraries would take visitors to locations where trail learning experiences would be offered through interpretive signs and programming, primarily including:

- Alexandria Waterfront
- Lyceum
- Carlyle House
- Apothecary
- Shuter's Hill

INTERPRETIVE PROGRAMS

Visitors would participate in interpretive programs focused on trail themes and stories told at the five trail learning locations (see above).

WATER-BASED SIGHTSEEING TOURS AND GUIDED BOAT TOURS

Visitors would be able to take a water-based sightseeing tour or engage a guide for a motorized or non-motorized boat tour. Tours would depart from the Alexandria City Dock, offering opportunities to explore the Potomac River enroute to Oxon Hill Farm, National Harbor, Mount Vernon, and the Georgetown Dock. Interpretive programming on the tours would be expanded to tell the stories of the War of 1812.

GUIDED HIKE OR BIKE TOURS

From the History Center, visitors could join guided or interpreted walking or biking tours along the waterfront and up King Street, taking them to historic and archeological sites and local parks along the way.

SIGNATURE EVENTS

Signature events have been identified during the bicentennial period that could, with sufficient resources and local interest, continue beyond the bicentennial to targeted trail audiences. Potential signature events would include:

- Lecture Series (rotating hosts and speakers) including April Salon event
- Annual National Trails Day event
- Annual commemoration of the surrender (and preservation) of Alexandria

Travelling Land and Water Routes

Travelers could follow the land and water routes of the trail using self-guided tour materials, or experience Alexandria's rich history through the lens of intersecting land and water routes.

INTERSECTING HIKING/BIKING TRAILS

Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route National Historic Trail. The trail (shown in Figure 2) closely follows the 650 miles of historic routes of George Washington and General Rochambeau as they marched between Newport, RI and the last major military action of the Revolutionary War in Yorktown, Virginia.

Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail. This trail (shown in Figure 2) commemorates the contributions of the people and places of the Potomac River corridor to the origins and continuing evolution of the Nation's Capital along recreation routes between the Chesapeake Bay and Pittsburgh. The trail traverses a dedicated bicycle land on the Woodrow Wilson Bridge over the Potomac, linking bicyclists with Oxon Hill Farm in Maryland.

OVERLAPPING WATER TRAILS

Some visitors would choose to explore the Potomac River and its tributaries in the vicinity of Alexandria via motorized and non-motorized boats, following one or more of the water trails in the area. Water trail interpretive media would be expanded to enable visitors to learn about the role of the Potomac River in the War of 1812 as they explore its waters and shoreline areas.

Potomac River Water Trail. Maps available through the Department of Conservation and Recreation provide public access sites and historical information on both shores of the Potomac River from the Chesapeake Bay to Washington, DC.

Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail. The John Smith Trail links the upper reaches of the Potomac River Water Trail with the start of the Anacostia Kingfisher Water Trail as it follows and commemorates the 1607-1609 Chesapeake voyages of John Smith. Interpretive materials and new water trail facilities would be developed jointly to support both trails.

Anacostia Kingfisher Water Trail. Visitors in larger boats would explore the Potomac River above Alexandria and the lower reach of the Anacostia River as they follow the water trail from Alexandria to Kingman Island and to other sites further upstream. Enroute to Kingman Island they would stop at Anacostia Park, where there are a variety of recreation facilities. On Kingman Island they would explore natural areas via the Kingman Island Trail and the Heritage Island Trail.

Alexandria-National Harbor Water Taxi. Visitors travelling the Potomac between Alexandria and National Harbor would gain perspective on the dangers of crossing the middle Potomac as the British and American vessels plied these waters in summer 1814.

Oxon Hill Farm Water Trail. Visitors in smaller non-motorized boats would paddle from National Harbor via the Potomac River to Oxon Cove. There they would explore Oxon Cove and Oxon Run. At a paddlers wayside in Oxon Cove, they would leave their boats and follow a network of land trails to visit Oxon Hill Farm and Mount Welby or use recreation facilities at Oxon Cove Park.



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

- Develop walking tour and guide departing from Historic Alexandria History Center & Museum Store
- Develop self-guided audio tour
- Expand interpretation through walking, biking or segway tours and interpretation between sites
- Identify and market recreation opportunities through outfitters and tour providers
- Conduct and support further research – newspapers, journals and letters, etc.
- Explore opportunities for new curricula and place-based learning with NPS; link new education lesson plans and programs to Virtual Resource Center
- Develop travelling display for empty storefront windows
- Develop multi-trail contact station or orientation center for Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail, Star-Spangled Banner Trail, Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail, and Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route National Historic Trail
- Identify appropriate locations for one or a few interpretive and directional signs in new Alexandria wayfinding plan
- Partner with NPS on annual National Trails Day events
- Strengthen bicycle linkages with Oxon Hill through safety enhancements and coordination

Figure 3
Shaping a Star-Spangled Experience - Alexandria
Opportunities for Trail Experiences

Existing Visitor Facilities

- Visitor Center
- Walking Trails
- Bike Routes
- King Street Trolley
- Piers/Observation Decks
- Picnic Areas
- Public Boat Ramps
- Marinas
- Water-Based Sightseeing Tours
- Water Taxis
- Upper Potomac Chesapeake Bay Interpretive Buoy

War of 1812 Historic Resources

- War of 1812 Historic Resources

Star-Spangled Banner Trail

- Land Route
- Water Route

Other National Trails

- Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail
- Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail
- Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route National Historic Trail

Potential Trail Visitor Experiences and Facilities

- Star-Spangled Banner Visitor Contact Facility
- Exhibits
- Placed-Based Learning Experiences
- Lectures and Special Events
- Interpretive Signs (funded through FHWA Scenic Byways Grant)
- Other Interpretive Signs or Media
- Virginia Historical Markers
- Bicycle Tours
- Kayak Tours
- Water Taxis
- Water Trails
- Public Boat Ramps
- Public Paddlers Waysides
- Piers/Observation Decks



Implementation

Partnerships

The trail would develop as partnerships are forged or enhanced with traditional and non-traditional partners who would collaborate to generally emphasize programs, media, and facilities to tell the stories of the War of 1812 in Alexandria. Trail partners would continue to move forward with implementing the actions outlined above that would collectively create the desired Star-Spangled Banner experience along the trail in Alexandria. The partners would at times work independently and at times in collaboration with one another.

Some of the partners who could help make the trail a reality in Alexandria include:

- Federal Partners
 - National Park Service, Chesapeake Bay Office
 - George Washington Memorial Parkway
 - Oxon Hill Farm Unit, National Capital Parks – East
 - Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail Office
 - Washington-Rochambeau National Historic Trail Office
- Public and Nonprofit Organizations
 - Office of Historic Alexandria (OHA)
 - Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority (including Carlyle House)
 - City of Alexandria
 - Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation
- Tourism Organizations
 - Alexandria Convention and Visitor Association
- Public and Private Charitable Organizations
 - Alexandria Historical Society
 - Alexandria Seaport Foundation
 - Black History Museum

- Virginia Trust for Historic Preservation (Lee-Fendall House)
- Commercial Facilities and Services
 - hotels and other overnight accommodations
 - land tour operators
 - tour boat and water taxi operators
 - outfitters (including equipment sales and rental businesses)
- Educational and Research Institutions

Recommended Actions

To make the trail a success in Alexandria during the bicentennial period, highest priority would be placed on implementing the following five projects (additional actions are identified in table 3):

- orientation and War of 1812 at the Alexandria waterfront
- interpretive signs (at the foot of the King Street trolley stop and the King Street waterfront)
- interpretive signs and programs at place-based trail learning experiences (King Street Waterfront, Carlyle House, Lyceum, Apothecary, and Shuter’s Hill)
- guided and self-guided walking tours (beginning at the waterfront and connecting place-based trail learning experiences)
- identification and marketing of land- and water-based recreation opportunities

Table 3 summarizes these five projects, as well as others recommended in Alexandria.

Funding for projects would come through a variety of public, private, and non-profit sources, if and when it is available. The potential actions described in this document do not yet represent commitments by any of the potential partners listed.

Table 3. Star-Spangled Banner Trail Implementation Priorities¹

Project	Site	Lead Partner
Trail Orientation, War of 1812 Exhibit, and Window Displays	Historic Alexandria History Center & Museum Store	Office of Historic Alexandria
Interpretive Signs	Foot of King Street trolley stop and future King Street Waterfront	Office of Historic Alexandria
Interpretive Programs	Alexandria Waterfront, Carlyle House, Lyceum, Apothecary, Shuter’s Hill	
Walking Tour and Guide	War of 1812 interpreted sites (beginning at Historic Alexandria History Center & Museum Store)	Office of Historic Alexandria
Identification and Marketing of Recreation Opportunities		Alexandria Convention and Visitor Association
Themed Lectures	Carlyle House, Lyceum	Alexandria Historical Society, Carlyle House, Lyceum, Black History Museum
Special Events	Carlyle House, Lyceum	Alexandria Historical Society, Carlyle House, Lyceum, Black History Museum
Research	Areawide	
Virginia Historical Markers	Christ Church, First Presbyterian Church, Trinity United Methodist Church	VA DHR
Interpretive Media and/or Programs	Alexandria to National Harbor Water Taxis, Water-Based Sightseeing Tours	
Oxon Run Water Trail	National Harbor to Potomac River to Oxon Cove	MD DNR
Timeline Update	Torpedo Factory Art Center	Alexandria
Orientation Information and Interpretative Programming	Upper Potomac Chesapeake Bay Interpretive Buoy	NPS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
New Curricula and Place-Based Learning	Areawide	
Self-Guided Audio Tour	Areawide	
Interpretive Media	King Street Trolley	
Traveling Displays	Vacant Storefront Windows	
Orientation Information and Interpretive Media	Taxi Center at King Street Metro Station	
Enhanced Bicycle Linkages	Bicycle Routes from Historic Alexandria to Oxon Hill Park and Broad Creek Historic District	NPS, Prince George’s County, and Oxon Hill Bicycle Club,
Interpretive and Directional Signage (part of the new wayfinding plan for Alexandria)	Areawide	Alexandria
Trail Orientation and Interpretive Media	Proposed History Center	Alexandria
Visitor Contact Station for Coordinated Orientation to National Trails		National Park Service
National Trails Day Event		National Park Service
War of 1812 Component for Existing City of Alexandria Mobil Application	Alexandria	Office of Historic Alexandria

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

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