

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
Women's Rights National Historical Park



# The Votes for Women History Trail Route

Introductory Meeting  
July 24, 2012

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

# A History and timeline

- FY 1999 \$100,000 appropriated to develop a trail study
- March 2002 Votes for Women History Trail Act of 2002 introduced but not enacted
- June 2002 Women's Rights History Trail Feasibility Study released
- March/April 2003 Votes for Women History Trail Act introduced but not enacted

# Timeline

- January 2004 Women's Rights History Trail Feasibility Study transmitted to Congress
- September 2005 National Women's Rights History Project Act of 2005 introduced but not enacted
- July 2007 National Women's Rights History Project Act of 2005 introduced but not enacted

# March 2009

- Omnibus Public Lands Management Act of 2009 (P.L. 111-11)- Title VII- Section 7111
- Language in the act fundamentally the same as the bills filed in 2005 and 2007.
- Legislation includes the trail but also introduced the inventory/ documentation and network concepts.
- This legislation was signed into law by President Obama on March 30, 2009.

# Omnibus Public Lands Management Act of 2009 (P.L. 111-11)- Title VII- Section 7111

- Three provisions:
  - Votes for Women Trail Act
  - National Women's Rights History Project National Registry
  - National Women's Rights History Project Partnerships Network

# Omnibus Public Lands Management Act of 2009 (P.L. 111-11)- Title VII- Section 7111

- Votes for Women Trail
  - Establishment of Trail Route
    - The Secretary, with concurrence of the agency having jurisdiction over the relevant roads, may designate a vehicular tour route, to be known as the ‘Votes for Women History Trail Route’, to link properties in the State [NY] that are historically and thematically associated with the struggle for women’s suffrage in the United States”

# Omnibus Public Lands Management Act of 2009 (P.L. 111-11)- Title VII- Section 7111

## ■ Activities

- To facilitate establishment of the trail and dissemination of information regarding the Trail, the Secretary shall
  - 1) Produce and disseminate appropriate educational materials regarding the Trail, such as handbooks, maps, exhibits, signs, interpretive guides, and electronic information
  - 2) Coordinate the management, planning, and standards of the Trail in partnership with participating properties, other Federal Agencies, and State and local governments;
  - 3) Create and adopt an official, uniform symbol or device to mark the Trail
  - 4) issue guidelines for the use of the symbol or device adopted under paragraph (3)

# Omnibus Public Lands Management Act of 2009 (P.L. 111-11)- Title VII- Section 7111

## ■ Elements of Trail Route

- Subject to the consent of the owner of the property, the Secretary may designate as an official stop on the trail -
  - 1) all units and programs of the Park relating to the struggle for women's suffrage
  - 2) other federal, state, local, and privately owned properties that the Secretary determines to have a verifiable connection to the struggle for women's suffrage; and
  - 3) other governmental and nongovernmental facilities and programs of an educational, commemorative, research or interpretive nature that the Secretary determines to be directly related to the struggle for women's suffrage.

# Omnibus Public Lands Management Act of 2009 (P.L. 111-11)- Title VII- Section 7111

- Authorization of Appropriations
  - There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary such sums as are necessary for the periods of fiscal years 2009 through 2013 to provide financial assistance to cooperating entities pursuant to agreements or memoranda entered into
- Status of Appropriations
  - Since 2009, funds have been **AUTHORIZED** but not **APPROPRIATED**
  - New legislation was introduced by U.S. Representatives Hanna and Slaughter in July 2012 to extend the period of authorization for funding through FY2018

# Women's History: A DOI Priority

- At a town hall meeting, Secretary of Interior Ken Salazar stated “Interior has the unique responsibility and privilege to ensure that America’s full story is told to current and future generations. This means celebrating the contributions of women throughout history- not just in textbooks, but through the places that belong to all of us, like our national parks and landmarks.”

# Efforts to begin the Votes for Women Trail

- Establish Foundation Documents for the Park and Trail
- Develop criteria
- Define the selection process

# Efforts to begin the Votes for Women Trail

- Establish Foundation Documents for the Park and Trail
  - A Foundation Document describes the core mission and underpinning of a park unit by identifying its:
    - Purpose
    - Significance
    - Fundamental Resources & Values
    - Primary Interpretive Themes

# Efforts to begin the Votes for Women Trail

- Develop Criteria for Trail Participation
  - Consistent with the trail legislation, criteria will be established that will guide the selection of sites for participation on the Votes for Women Trail.

# Efforts to begin the Votes for Women Trail

- Define the Selection Process
  - A clear nomination and selection process will be defined for the Votes for Women Trail

# Save the Date

Votes for Women History Trail --  
Public Meeting

Wednesday, August 22, 2012  
7 PM to 9 PM

Wesleyan Chapel  
Fall Street  
Seneca Falls, NY

# Contact Information

NPS Project Page:

<http://parkplanning.nps.gov/votesforwomen>

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