



## Message from the Trail's Superintendent

Dear Friends,

In Spring of 2007 the National Park Service began work on the first long-range management plan for the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail (NHT). This new Comprehensive Management Plan (CMP) will establish the future vision for the Trail. It will provide the framework that will guide management decisions so that the vision can be accomplished. It will also inform us and our partners as to how the Trail's resources can be managed and how visitors will be able to experience the Trail.

The National Park Service (NPS) is leading the CMP planning effort. Our partners, the Trail visitors, the communities along the Trail, and other interested parties are helping us prepare the plan. We are also working closely with the Trail's Advisory Council. The Council was legislatively established when the Trail was created and one of its primary responsibilities is to advise the NPS in the preparation and implementation of the CMP.

Public participation is essential when preparing a CMP. Over the past 18 months the NPS has completed the scoping process for the plan, engaging the park's partners, stakeholders, local community leaders, and many others. In September 2008 we conducted a series of community meetings to inform the public regarding the CMP planning process and to obtain comments about the management issues facing the Trail, and to hear about your vision for the Trail.

Since last fall we have learned more about the importance of American Indian communities to telling the Trail's story. The advent of the Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail also now provides additional opportunities for the Captain John Smith Chesapeake NHT. And, we continue to have a robust partner in the Friends of the John Smith Chesapeake Trail.

On May 12, 2009, President Obama signed Executive Order 13508, recognizing the Chesapeake region as a national treasure and calling on the federal government to lead a renewed effort to restore and protect the nation's largest estuary and watershed. The Order establishes a Federal Leadership Committee that will oversee coordinated agency efforts to restore the Bay.

The Order places extra emphasis on the need for the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail to provide public access to the Chesapeake region and to assist with protection of remaining significant natural landscapes.

The CMP Planning Team has now developed four conceptual alternatives for future management of the Trail. These alternatives reflect the Trail's purpose and significance, the issues facing the Trail, its legal mandates, and the comments the public provided during the scoping period. A preferred alternative has not yet been selected.

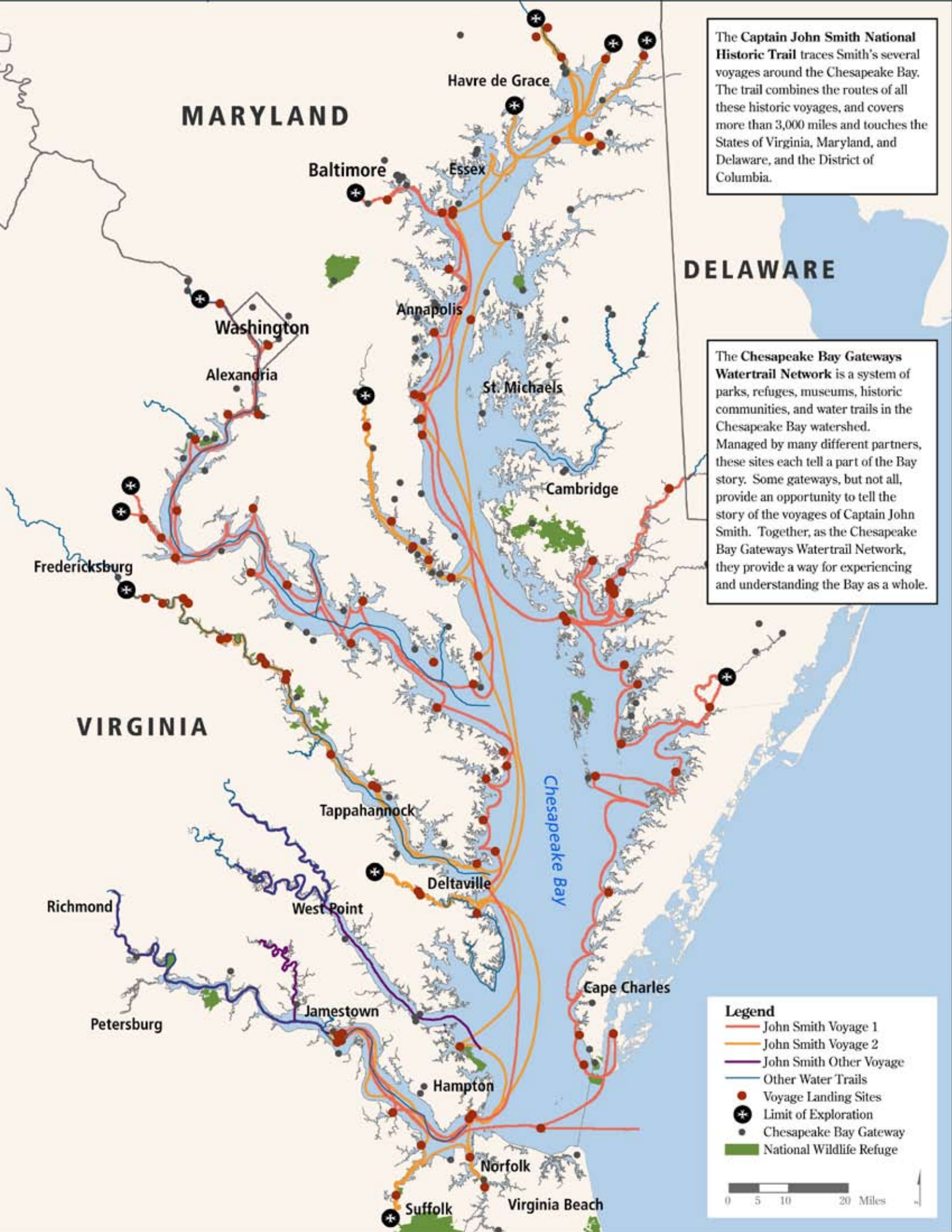
During the second and third weeks of October the NPS will hold a second set of CMP public workshops. At these workshops we will present the management alternatives for the Trail. This newsletter provides an overview of the alternatives under consideration.

Please join us at the upcoming community meetings to share your comments on the alternatives. You will find workshop dates, times, and locations for the workshops on page eight of this newsletter. You may also send comments over the Internet to: <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/cajo>. Thank you for your help.

Sincerely,

John Maounis, *Superintendent*

Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail



The Captain John Smith National Historic Trail traces Smith's several voyages around the Chesapeake Bay. The trail combines the routes of all these historic voyages, and covers more than 3,000 miles and touches the States of Virginia, Maryland, and Delaware, and the District of Columbia.

The Chesapeake Bay Gateways Watertrail Network is a system of parks, refuges, museums, historic communities, and water trails in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Managed by many different partners, these sites each tell a part of the Bay story. Some gateways, but not all, provide an opportunity to tell the story of the voyages of Captain John Smith. Together, as the Chesapeake Bay Gateways Watertrail Network, they provide a way for experiencing and understanding the Bay as a whole.

**Legend**

- John Smith Voyage 1
- John Smith Voyage 2
- John Smith Other Voyage
- Other Water Trails
- Voyage Landing Sites
- Limit of Exploration
- Chesapeake Bay Gateway
- National Wildlife Refuge

0 5 10 20 Miles

## What are the Management Alternatives under Consideration?

The NPS is exploring four alternatives for the future management of the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail. Each alternative is based on a different concept that describes how the trail's resources are managed and the experiences that visitors have on the Trail.

	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3	Alternative 4
	Continuation of Current Management	Exploratory Voyages of Captain John Smith	Chesapeake Region in the 17th Century	Recreation on the Historic Trail
Visitor Experience Focus	<p>Visitors experience the Trail by traveling along existing water trails and auto routes, NPS-dedicated segments of the John Smith water trail and John Smith auto tours.</p> <p>Visitors learn about the John Smith voyages through local and state park interpretive programs and media.</p>	<p>Visitors experience the Trail by personal watercraft, organized water-based tours, and auto and bus routes along NPS designated water trails and auto routes.</p> <p>Visitors learn about the history of the Captain John Smith voyages. NPS works with federal, state, and local partners to develop interpretive programs and media.</p>	<p>Visitors experience the Trail by personal watercraft, organized water-based tours, and auto and bus routes along NPS designated water trails and auto routes and connector trails.</p> <p>Visitors learn about the natural history of the region; the history of American Indian communities; the Captain John Smith voyages.</p> <p>NPS would develop visitor centers with appropriate partners.</p>	<p>Visitors experience the Trail by participating in recreation activities and volunteer environmental programs</p> <p>Visitors participate in recreation and environmental projects, with some interpretation of the Trail themes.</p>
Resource Protection Focus	<p>NPS assists local and state agencies to identify resources significant to the Trail.</p> <p>Protection is at the discretion of local and state agencies, as appropriate, for individual agency or organization's mission.</p>	<p>Protection focuses on significant voyage landing sites defined as sites that reflect the goals of the Virginia Company (claim territory, locate North-west Passage, and locate precious metals).</p> <p>NPS works with federal, state, local partners to protect significant resources. Little potential for federal acquisition.</p>	<p>Protection focuses on natural landscapes within the Trail's viewshed, significant archeological sites, places important to American Indians, and significant voyage landing sites.</p> <p>NPS works with federal, state, local partners to protect significant resources. Potential for some federal land acquisition.</p>	<p>Protection focuses on significant voyage landing sites that provide public access to the Trail.</p> <p>NPS works with federal, state, local partners to protect significant resources. Little potential for federal acquisition.</p>
Partnerships	<p>State parks and other partners in the Chesapeake Bay Gateway and Watertrails Network are encouraged to develop John Smith Trail media and programming, as appropriate, with the possibility of NPS technical and financial assistance.</p>	<p>State parks and other partners in the Chesapeake Bay Gateway and Watertrails Network are encouraged to develop John Smith Trail media and programming, as appropriate, with the possibility of NPS technical and financial assistance.</p> <p>Partnerships emphasize historical programs and media.</p>	<p>State parks and other partners in the Chesapeake Bay Gateway and Watertrails Network are encouraged to develop John Smith Trail media and programming, as appropriate, with the possibility of NPS technical and financial assistance.</p> <p>Partnerships emphasize expanding public access, American Indian stories, and landscape conservation.</p>	<p>State parks and other partners in the Chesapeake Bay Gateway and Watertrails Network are encouraged to develop John Smith Trail media and programming, as appropriate, with the possibility of NPS technical and financial assistance.</p> <p>Partnerships emphasize expansion of recreational opportunities and public access.</p>



## Alternative 1

### Continuation of Current Management (Status Quo)

Visitors would continue to experience the Trail as they do today, generally through self-guided trips along the Trail by water or on the land, or as part of a general recreational experience in the Chesapeake region. Limited interpretive materials would continue to guide visitors through the Bay experience. Interactive buoys, interpretive kiosks, and maps and guides would help travelers understand and navigate the historical land and seascapes. Very limited protection of Trail-related resources would occur.

### Resource Protection

- NPS assists local and state agencies to identify resources significant to the Trail.
- Protection is at the discretion of local and state agencies, as appropriate, for individual agency or organization's mission.

### Visitor Experience

- Visitors would have access to the Trail through existing local, state, and federal parks and refuges; existing water trail routes; and auto tour routes. e.g. Virginia's John Smith Adventures on the James.
- Existing visitor facilities along the Trail would be encouraged to identify themselves as part of the Trail, and may or may not have interpretive material and programming related to John Smith

### Partnerships

- Chesapeake Bay Gateway Network and Watertrails (CBGN) partners would be encouraged to interpret the John Smith Trail as part of their visitor media and programming with possible NPS technical and financial assistance through the CBGN program.
- NPS would act as clearinghouse for Captain John Smith information through its website [www.smithtrail.net](http://www.smithtrail.net) and would assist with special events that promote the Trail.



## Alternative 2

### Exploratory Voyages of Captain John Smith

Visitors would experience the Trail through organized water-based tours, auto tour routes, and personal watercraft traveling along the voyage routes. Experiences would emphasize the history of the voyages. The most significant voyage landing sites would be interpreted and protected.

#### Resource Protection

- Resources significant to the Trail and identified in the plan are Smith voyage landing sites that reflect the goals of voyage sponsor—the Virginia Company—to claim territory, to locate the Northwest Passage to Asia, and to profit, as well as those that reflect the interpretive themes of adventure and survival, mapping and exploitation, and profit.
- Protection of significant Smith voyage landing sites is accomplished by NPS providing technical assistance to partners with education of landowners regarding stewardship, planning, partner acquisition, and identification of potential funding sources.
- NPS acquisition of a significant Smith voyage landing site could occur if there

is a willing seller, the site is threatened with destruction or irreparable damage, and the site is critical to the implementation of the Trail CMP.

#### Visitor Experience

- The Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail follows the historic routes of Captain John Smith's voyages (1607–1609) and has water and land components, and may have connector trails.
- Visitors have access to the Trail for recreation, understand the interpretive themes, and appreciate the importance of environmental stewardship.
- Trail access sites are located at existing access sites and at significant voyage landing sites.
- Visitor contact stations are developed as modest capital improvements at significant voyage landing sites with matching grants for partners.
- Visitors follow the routes of Captain John Smith's voyages by tour boats, private watercraft, bus tours, and auto tour routes.
- At significant voyage landing sites visitors gain an understanding of the history of the voyages, Smith's relations with

American Indians, and natural resources Smith encountered.

- Interpretive materials are developed with NPS matching grants to partners; located at Trail voyage landing sites and visitor contact stations; and emphasize the events associated directly with John Smith's voyages as described in his journals.
- Interpretive media include outdoor exhibit panels and brochures.

#### Partnerships

- Trail partners can potentially receive NPS technical assistance and matching grant funds, through a program modeled on the Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Watertrails Network (CBGN).
- Partnering with the Star-Spangled Banner NHT and Washington-Rochambeau NHT occurs for cost containment and development of joint facilities and visitor programming.
- Trail access sites, auto routes, and tours would be developed by partnering with state parks, National Wildlife Refuges, local government tourism bureaus, heritage areas, historical societies, private sector outfitters, and tourism service providers.
- NPS would provide technical assistance for the protection and preservation of significant Trail resources to federal, state, and local agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and private property owners.
- CBGN sites along the Trail can receive technical assistance and matching grants to create public access and interpretation for the water trail and auto routes, as well as significant voyage landing sites.
- A friends group supports the work of the Trail partners by assisting with organizational capacity building, development (fundraising), working with NPS on developing a resource protection and preservation agenda, and facilitating implementation of the agenda with partners.
- The NPS consults with the Advisory Council on matters relating to the Trail, especially development and implementation of the CMP.





Chesapeake Region  
in the 17th Century

Visitors would experience the Trail by following the voyage routes by water or land. Viewsheds, natural landscapes, significant archeological sites, and places significant to American Indian communities could be protected. Experiences would emphasize the American Indian communities and natural environment of the Chesapeake region in the 17th century, and the history of Captain John Smith's voyages.



## Resource Protection

- Significant resources are sites that evoke landscapes and viewsheds of the 17th century Chesapeake region, are important to the area's American Indian communities, have the potential to provide important archeological information, or are significant John Smith voyage landing sites.
- Resources significant to the Trail and identified in the plan are John Smith voyage landing sites and American Indian Late Woodland archeological sites.
- Resources significant to the Trail that need to be inventoried are landscapes that evoke the 17th century Chesapeake region and viewsheds.
- Protection of significant sites is accomplished by NPS providing technical assistance to partners with education of landowners regarding stewardship, planning, partner acquisition, and identification of funding sources.
- NPS acquisition of a significant resource site could occur if there is a willing seller and the site is critical to the implementation of the Trail CMP.

## Visitor Experience

- The Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail follows the historic routes of Captain John Smith's voyages (1607–1609), has water and land components, and may have connector trails.
- Visitors have access to the Trail for recreation, understand the interpretive themes, and appreciate the importance of environmental stewardship.
- Trail access sites are located at existing access sites, sites that provide good potential for access, and areas where additional public access is needed.

- Up to two multipurpose regional visitor centers would be developed with matching funds from partners and would possibly be located within an existing facility; location criteria for siting these centers are to be determined.
- Visitors follow the route of Captain John Smith's voyages by tour boats or private watercraft as well as by bus tours or auto tour routes.
- At significant resource sites visitors gain understanding of the history of the voyages, explore landscapes and see viewsheds evocative of the 17th century Chesapeake region, experience American Indian cultures and societies, and learn about the Bay's fragile and complex ecology.
- Interpretive materials are developed by NPS or funded through matching grants to partners; are located at visitor centers and partner sites; and emphasize the 17th century world of the Chesapeake region that John Smith encountered.
- Interpretive media include outdoor exhibit panels and brochures, stand alone exhibits, and mobile websites and podcasts (other new technologies).

## Partnerships

- Trail partners can potentially receive NPS technical assistance and matching grant funds, through a program modeled on the Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Watertrails Network (CBGN).
- Partnering with the Star-Spangled Banner NHT and Washington-Rochambeau NHT occurs for cost containment and development of joint facilities and visitor programming.
- Trail access sites, auto routes, and tours would be developed by partnering with American Indian communities, federal,

state, and local governments, non-profit organizations and watershed groups, private sector outfitters, and tourism service providers.

- A cooperative resource preservation and land conservation agenda would be developed and implemented in partnership with federal, state, and local government agencies, NGOs, American Indian communities, and private property owners.
- CBGN sites can receive technical assistance and matching grants to create public access and interpretation for the water trail, auto routes, significant voyage landing sites, landscapes and viewsheds, and archeological and other American Indian sites.
- A friends group supports the work of the Trail partners by assisting with organizational capacity building, development (fundraising), working with NPS on developing a resource protection and preservation agenda, and facilitating implementation of the agenda with partners.
- The NPS consults with Advisory Council on matters relating to the Trail, especially development and implementation of the CMP.

## Recreation on the Historic Trail

Visitors would experience the Trail by participating in recreational activities and volunteer environmental programs, emphasizing the need for environmental stewardship for a healthier Chesapeake region. Public access would be a critical component of protected sites along the Trail.

## Resource Protection

- Significant resources identified in the plan are sites that are significant John Smith voyage landing sites and provide public access to the Trail, or could provide public access.
- Protection of significant resources is accomplished by NPS providing technical assistance to partners with education of landowners regarding stewardship, planning, partner acquisition, and identification of funding sources.
- NPS acquisition of a priority resource site could occur if there is a willing seller, the site is threatened with destruction or irreparable damage, and the site is critical for the implementation of the Trail CMP.

## Visitor Experience

- The Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail follows the historic routes of Captain John Smith's voyages (1607–1609) and has water and land components.
- Visitors have access to the Trail for recreation, understand the interpretive themes, and appreciate the importance of environmental stewardship.
- Trail access sites are located at significant John Smith voyage landing sites, existing access sites, sites that provide good potential for access, areas where additional public access is needed; they may include day-use and camping.
- Visitors follow the route of Captain John Smith's voyages by paddling and sailing, as well as biking and hiking.
- Youth groups and civic and corporate organizations sponsor and participate in bay and river cleanups, invasive species eradication, habitat restoration, and wildlife monitoring.
- Visitors and volunteers experience a direct connection to waters and lands of the Bay and gain a sense of ownership in

the future health of the Bay.

- Interpretive materials are developed with NPS matching grants to partners; are distributed by partner sites, outfitters, and tourism service providers; and emphasize the history of Captain John Smith's voyages, 17th century American Indian cultures and natural history of the Bay.
- Interpretive media include outdoor exhibit panels and brochures, boating guides, and green-way/blueway trail guides.
- NPS would provide interpretive training to environmental project leaders, outfitters, and tour operators.
- Bouys provide current weather and boating conditions and data along the Trail.

## Partnerships

- Trail partners can potentially receive NPS technical assistance and matching grant funds, through a program modeled on the Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Watertrails Network (CBGN).
- Partnering with the Star-Spangled Banner NHT and Washington-Rochambeau NHT occurs for cost containment and development of joint facilities and visitor programming.
- Trail access sites would be developed by partnering with federal, state, and local partners, recreation providers, NGOs, private sector outfitters, and tourism service providers.

- NPS would provide technical assistance for the protection and preservation of significant trail sites to federal, state, and local government agencies, NGOs, and private property owners.
- CBGN sites can receive technical assistance and matching grants to create public access and interpretation for the water trail, the bike/hike route and significant voyage landing sites.
- New Trail partnerships would be developed and will provide additional access and interpretation. Partnerships emphasize expansions of recreational opportunities and public access.
- A friends group supports the work of the Trail partners by assisting with organizational capacity building, development (fundraising), working with NPS on developing a resource protection and preservation agenda, facilitating implementation of the agenda with partners, promoting and providing training for tourism providers and outfitters to maintain green practices, and developing volunteer environmental stewardship projects and promoting them to outfitters and tourism providers.
- The NPS consults with the Advisory Council on matters relating to the Trail, especially development and implementation of the CMP.





**Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail**

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The National Park Service Chesapeake Bay Office coordinates the Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Watertrails Network and serves as the administrator for the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail and the Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail.

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## EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

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

#### *Public Input Sought on Trail Vision and Management*

This October, the National Park Service is presenting alternative concepts for the future of the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail. These concepts will describe management objectives, policies, and actions that will guide the development of the Trail over the next 15–20 years. How do you think the Trail should be developed? Please join us for a series of eight public workshops to be held around the Bay in mid-October. NPS staff will be on hand to take your comments and suggestions. Your involvement and input is essential to the success of this nationally significant Trail.

#### **Workshop Dates and Locations** (All workshops are from 6 pm to 8 pm)

October 12, 2009 The Watermen's Museum 309 Water Street Yorktown, VA 23690	October 15, 2009 Charles Sumner School 1201 17th Street, NW Washington, DC 20036	October 21, 2009 Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum Steamboat Building 213 North Talbot Street St. Michaels, MD 21663
October 13, 2009 Deltaville Community Center 17417 General Puller Highway Deltaville, VA 23403	October 19, 2009 Barrier Islands Center 7295 Young Street Machipongo, VA 23405	October 22, 2009 Havre de Grace Maritime Museum 100 Lafayette Street Havre de Grace, MD 21078
October 14, 2009 Annapolis Maritime Museum 723 Second Street Annapolis, MD 21403	October 20, 2009 Seaford City Hall 414 High Street Seaford, DE 19973	

### Next Steps for the Trail

After the series of public workshops scheduled for October 2009, NPS will further develop the alternatives, including selection of a preferred alternative, taking into consideration the comments received from the public.

A draft of the Comprehensive Management Plan/Environmental Assessment (CMP/EA) will be made public in the winter of 2010. Again, the public will have the opportunity to provide additional ideas and suggestions during a minimum 30-day review period.

A final version of the CMP/EA will be prepared and submitted to the NPS Regional Director for approval. NPS expects the plan to be finalized and approved in the spring of 2010. It will guide decisions about the Trail for the following 10–15 years.

#### **Timeline**

Fall 2009	Public Workshops— Preliminary Alternatives
Winter 2010	Draft CPM/EA distributed for public comment
Spring 2010	CMP/EA approved by NPS Regional Director