

21 September 2010

**Memorandum of Understanding**  
among  
**Prince William County Park Authority;**  
**Northern Virginia Regional Commission;**  
**Leesylvania State Park, Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation;**  
**Potomac River National Wildlife Refuge Complex, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service,**  
**U.S. Department of the Interior;**  
**Prince William Forest Park, National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior; and**  
**Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail Office, National Park Service,**  
**U.S. Department of the Interior**

This Memorandum is entered into by and among the Prince William County Park Authority; Northern Virginia Regional Commission; Leesylvania State Park, Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation; Potomac River National Wildlife Refuge Complex, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Department of the Interior; and Prince William Forest Park & Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail Office, National Capital Region, National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior.

**ARTICLE I – BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES**

The National Trail System (NTS) was established through enactment of the *National Trail System Act of 1968* (82 Stat. 919, Public Law 90-543) (the Act). The 1968 law also authorized “feasibility studies” for additional components of the NTS, including the Potomac Heritage Trail; such a study was completed in 1974 by the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation. A 1983 amendment to the Act (77 Stat. 43, Public Law 90-543) designated the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail (the Trail) as a component of the NTS, recognized a corridor for the Trail, and assigned administration of the federal interest in the Trail to the Secretary of the Interior, which is delegated to the National Park Service (NPS).

Today, the evolving Trail network is an enterprise of many partners, including government agencies at all levels, non-profit organizations, volunteers and commercial interests. The growing network provides opportunities for outdoor recreation, education and exploration between the mouth of the Potomac River and the Allegheny Highlands. Modes of travel vary by Trail segment, including hiking, bicycling, boating, horseback riding, and cross-country skiing. Partnerships are at the heart of the Trail concept, creating a locally-managed network for recreation, education, transportation and health.

Within Prince William County (the County), the Trail is recognized in the Parks, Recreation and Open Space component of the *Prince William County Comprehensive Plan* (amended 2008), based on *Implementation Plan for the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail in Prince William County* (an inter-agency plan prepared for the Prince William County Park Authority by the Northern Virginia Regional Commission (2002); in *A Development and Management Plan for the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail in Virginia* (2006); in *2007 Virginia Outdoors Plan: Charting the Course for Virginia's Outdoors* (2007); and in *Virginia Trail Networking: Goals and Strategies* (2009).

The objective of this Agreement is to recognize a partnership among the signatories to plan, develop and manage cooperatively lands as segments of the Trail in Prince William County, Virginia.

**ARTICLE II - AUTHORITY**

Section 5.(a)(11) of the National Trails System Act of 1968, as amended in 1983 and codified at 16 U.S.C. § 1244 (a) (11), designating a general alignment for the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail; Section 7. (e) of the same Act, codified at 16 U.S.C. 1246, authorizing the Secretary of the

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Interior to “enter into such agreements with landowners, States, local governments, private organizations, and individuals for the use of lands for trail purposes...”; and section 814(g) of Div. I, Title VIII, of P.L. 104-333 (Nov. 12, 1996), codified at 16 U.S.C. §1f; the Federal Grant and Cooperative Agreement Act of 1977, 92 Stat. 3 (1978); and Section 204 of Title II of the National Parks Omnibus Act of 1998, codified at 16 U.S.C. § 5934.

### **ARTICLE III – STATEMENT OF WORK**

#### **A. The NPS will:**

1. recognize the Trail segments in Prince William County on the NPS “unigrid” brochure for the Trail;
2. provide opportunities for coordination between staff of the signatory agencies to this Memorandum and other Trail stakeholders;
3. provide staff of signatory agencies Trail markers and digital files of the Trail marker in various formats;
4. recognize the status of the Trail network within the County in NPS reports; and
5. enter into a cooperative agreement with the Prince William County Park Authority and consider sub-agreements in support of specific projects.

#### **B. The Prince William County Park Authority (the Authority) will:**

1. enter into a cooperative agreement with the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail Office, National Park Service, and consider sub-agreements in support of specific projects;
2. conduct an annual review of the Trail network in the County; and
3. maintain a leadership role in development, operations and maintenance of Trail segments in the County.

#### **C. All will:**

1. maintain a point of contact for Trail-related business;
2. participate in an annual review of the Trail network in the County; and
3. consider opportunities to promote the Trail network to residents and visitors.

- D. Maintenance of Trail segments will be performed by land owners or managers unless otherwise stated in other agreements.

### **ARTICLE IV – TERM OF MEMORANDUM**

This Memorandum will be effective for a period of five years from the date of final signature, unless terminated earlier by one of the parties pursuant to Article VII below.

### **ARTICLE V – LETTERS OF SUPPORT**

Additional parties may choose to demonstrate commitments to the development and management of the Trail network in the County through letters of support.

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**ARTICLE VI – KEY OFFICIALS**

All communications and notices regarding this Memorandum will be directed to the following key official(s) for each party:

For Prince William County Park Authority:

E. Jay Ellington, CPRP, Executive Director  
14420 Bristow Road  
Manassas VA 22111  
Prince William County Park Authority  
703-792-4270  
jayellington@pwcparks.org

For the Northern Virginia Regional Commission:

Aimee Vosper, ASLA, RLA  
Northern Virginia Regional Commission  
3060 Williams Drive Suite 510  
Fairfax VA 22031  
703-642-4623 voice  
703-642-5077 FAX  
avosper@novaregion.org

For Leesylvania State Park, Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation:

Ken Benson, Park Manager  
2001 Daniel K. Ludwig Drive  
Woodbridge, VA 22191-4504  
703 730-8205  
ken.benson@dcr.virginia.gov

For the Potomac River National Wildlife Refuge Complex, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service:

Greg Weiler, Refuge Manager  
14344 Jefferson Davis Highway  
Woodbridge, VA 22191  
703-490-4979  
greg\_weiler@fws.gov

For Prince William Forest Park, National Park Service:

Vidal Martinez, Superintendent  
18100 Park Headquarters Road  
Triangle, VA 22172  
304-221-2947  
vidal\_martinez@nps.gov

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For the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail Office, National Park Service:

Donald E. Briggs, Superintendent  
Post Office Box B  
Harpers Ferry, WV 25425  
304-535-4016  
don\_briggs@nps.gov

**ARTICLE VII – MODIFICATION AND TERMINATION**

- A. This Agreement may be modified only by a written instrument executed by the parties.
- B. Any party may terminate participation in the Memorandum by providing the other parties with sixty (60) days advance written notice. In the event that one party notifies the other parties of an intention to terminate participation, the parties will promptly discuss the reasons for the notice.


**ARTICLE VIII – SIGNATURES**

IN WITNESS HEREOF, the parties hereto have executed this Agreement on the date(s) set forth below.

**Prince William County Park Authority:**

Signature:  Date: 9/25/2010  
E. Jay Ellington, CPRP, Executive Director

**Northern Virginia Regional Commission:**

Signature:  Date: 9/25/2010  
G. Mark Gibb, Executive Director


**Leesylvania State Park, Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation:**

Signature:  Date: 9/25/2010  
Ken Benson, Park Manager

**For the Potomac River National Wildlife Refuge Complex, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service:**

Signature:  Date: 9/25/2010  
Greg Weiler, Refuge Manager


**For the Prince William Forest Park, National Park Service:**

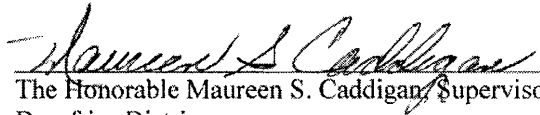
Signature:  Date: 9/25/2010  
Vidal Martinez, Superintendent


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For the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail Office, National Park Service:


Signature:  Date: 9/25/10  
Donald E. Briggs, Superintendent


Witnessed by:   
Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: 9/25/10  
The Honorable Frank J. Principi, Supervisor  
Woodbridge District  
Prince William County Board of Supervisors

Signature:  Date: 9-21-10  
The Honorable Maureen S. Caddigan, Supervisor  
Dumfries District  
Prince William County Board of Supervisors


Signature:  Date: 9/25/10  
David Brickley, President  
Prince William Trails and Blueways Council

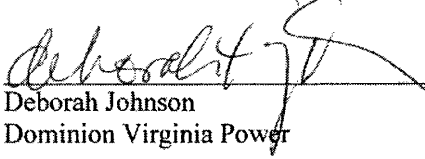
Signature:  Date: 9/25/10  
William Niedringhaus, President  
Potomac Heritage Trail Association, Inc.

Signature:  Date: 9/25/10  
Rick Holt, President  
Prince William Trails and Streams Coalition

Signature:  Date: 9-25-10  
Ann Marie Maher, Executive Director  
Prince William County/Manassas Convention and Visitors Bureau

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Signature:  Date: 9/25/2010  
Linda Johnston, President  
Friends of Potomac Wildlife Refuge

Signature:  Date: 9/25/2010  
Deborah Johnson  
Dominion Virginia Power



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

GREGORY A. WHIRLEY  
COMMISSIONER

14685 Avion Parkway  
Chantilly, VA 20151  
(703) 383-VDOT (8368)

September 2, 2010

Mr. E. Jay Ellington, CPRP  
Executive Director  
Prince William Park Authority  
14420 Bristow Road  
Manassas, VA 20112-3932

It is our understanding that the Prince William Park Authority has taken the lead regarding the establishment, design, and construction of Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail where it runs through the County. The construction of this historic trail will be a significant contribution to the trail network of the County, the Northern Virginia District, and the Washington metropolitan region, as well as becoming an important component of the National Trail System established by Congress in 1968.

The Northern Virginia District of the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) supports your efforts and will assist where possible by maintaining a point of contact for trail related business, participating in progress meetings, and promoting the trail to residents and visitors when possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Morteza Salehi".

Morteza Salehi  
District Administrator

Copy: Barbara DeChene, Assistant to the Woodbridge Magisterial District Supervisor  
Monica Backmon, Prince William County DOT, Transportation Planning Division  
Jo Anne Sorenson, VDOT  
Helen Cuervo, VDOT  
Robert McDonald, VDOT  
Fatemeh Allahdoust, VDOT