

— DESTINATION —
Southern Maryland

MEDIA RELEASE

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Southern Maryland Launches Pursuit of National Designation!

Public encouraged to participate in Community Conversations

Hughesville, MD – The executive director and board of directors for the Southern Maryland Heritage Area are pleased to announce the initiative to become the 56th National Heritage Area in the United States. The program committee has been established and the feasibility study process has launched. The Southern Maryland Heritage Area (public facing name Destination Southern Maryland) is a region of nationally significant stories, culture, and heritage. Community Conversations are being established to assist in defining these nationally significant stories and to inform the process.

“Southern Maryland has a vibrant state-based heritage area, and it is now time to raise this region’s national profile,” said Lucille Walker, executive director of Destination Southern Maryland. “We have so much to give to the national story.” The current heritage area includes Calvert, Charles and St. Mary’s Counties. The national heritage area may extend to the southern portion of Prince George’s County.

The public is invited to attend either the in-person or virtual Community Conversations to discuss the places, natural resources, and history that create the Southern Maryland experience from a diverse range of perspectives. In-person conversations will be held on September 10 (5:30 pm – 7:30 pm, Serenity Farm, Benedict, MD) and September 11 (11:30 am – 1:30 pm, Historic St. Mary’s City pavilion), and the virtual conversation will be held on September 17 (11:30 am – 1:00 pm).

To register:

Charles County location: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/community-conversation-becoming-a-national-heritage-area-tickets-117983733523>

St. Mary’s County location: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/community-conversation-becoming-a-national-heritage-area-tickets-118044984727>

Virtual: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/southern-maryland-national-heritage-area-community-conversation-tickets-118047985703>

The in-person conversations will be in covered, outside locations with rest facilities, and will be following all CDC and State of Maryland guidelines for in-person gatherings.

Destination Southern Maryland

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**The Southern Maryland National Heritage Area
Program Committee**

Lucille W. Walker, Southern Maryland Heritage Area (Destination Southern Maryland)
Dorothea Smith, African American Heritage House of Charles County
Francis Gray, Piscataway Conoy Tribe
John Hartline, Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland
Fred Tutman, Patuxent River Keeper
Julie Schablitsky, Maryland Department of Transportation, State Highway Administration
Jeff Murray, Calvert Marine Museum
Regina Faden, Historic St. Mary's City
Chris Kaselemis, St. Mary's County Economic Development
Franklin A. Robinson, Jr., Charles County Historic Preservation Commission
Steve Bunker, Friends of Malloes Bay-Potomac River National Marine Sanctuary
Ashley Chenault, Charles County Tourism, Parks and Recreation
Hilary Dailey, Calvert County Tourism, Economic Development
Karen Stone, St. Mary's County Museum Division
Laura Ford, Accokeek Foundation
Nancy Easterling, Historic Sotterley
Martin Proulx, Charles County Economic Development
Aaron Marcavitch, Anacostia Trails Heritage Area (Maryland Milestones)
Greg Pierce, Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum
Julia King, St. Mary's College of Maryland
Mina Kim, Holiday Inn Solomons Island
Donald Cropp, St. Clement's Hundred, Colony Builders

Feasibility Study Consultants:

Carolyn Brackett, Heritage Tourism/Preservation Planning Specialist
(Principal, Heritage Strategies)
August Carlino, Planning Consultant
(President and CEO, Rivers of Steel National Heritage Area)
Nancy Morgan, Heritage Development Specialist
(Principal, Point Heritage Development Consulting)