Southern Maryland
National Heritage Area Feasibility Study

DRAFT FOR PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT
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Cover photo provided by regional tourism offices

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DESTINATION
Southern Maryland

August 2021

The Board of Directors of the Southern Maryland Heritage Area Consortium (also known as *Destination Southern Maryland*) and the National Heritage Area Steering Committee are pleased to release this draft Feasibility Study for public review. This document represents the culmination of three years of outreach, research, and discussions throughout Calvert, Charles, St. Mary's, and Southern Prince George's Counties. The journey to recognize the profound national significance of Southern Maryland began with conversations, persevered through a pandemic, and has resulted in vital partnerships throughout the region.

We are proud to share this collective effort drawn from the input and shared experiences of so many. We would like to thank all who attended our in-person and virtual Community Conversations, the subject matter experts who double and triple checked the information, the museums and historic sites who opened their doors to us, and the consultant group for going above and beyond during this process.

We are so thankful for the support of leadership, from the towns and Commissions to the Maryland Legislature and Governor Larry Hogan. And this could not have been accomplished without the crucial input and backing from our federal partners: Congressman Steny Hoyer, Senator Ben Cardin, and Senator Chris Van Hollen.

The Board of Directors and the Steering Committee are also grateful for the financial support of this process from the Rural Maryland Council and the Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland.

And, finally, we dedicate this Feasibility Study to the people and communities of Southern Maryland. We are honored to share your voices and your heritage with the nation.

Sincerely,

Lucille W. Walker
Executive Director

Destination Southern Maryland

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This feasibility study was prepared by the Southern Maryland Heritage Area, a state heritage area certified by the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority, in partnership with the Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland and the National Heritage Area Feasibility Study Steering Committee. The study documents compliance with the National Park Service's *National Heritage Area Feasibility Study Guidelines* and supports Congressional legislation for designation of the Southern Maryland National Heritage Area.

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Executive Summary: Southern Maryland National Heritage Area Feasibility Study

Southern Maryland National Heritage Area Vision Statement

The Southern Maryland National Heritage Area envisions fulfilling a unique role in bringing together partners who work to conserve the cultural, historic, and natural resources that collectively represent the foundation stories of our nation. The National Heritage Area will cultivate pride of place for residents and form partnerships with cultural, conservation and historic organizations, local governments, civic groups, schools, churches, and other entities to ensure stewardship of resources, to foster national recognition and to create a thriving heritage tourism industry, attracting visitors who come to experience all that Southern Maryland has to offer. The National Heritage Area management entity will provide leadership to develop and implement sustainable plans which will benefit communities from the economic impact of increased visitation, while retaining the quality of life that makes Southern Maryland a desirable place to live.

The Feasibility Study Process

In 2019, area leaders began the process of pursuing National Heritage Area (NHA) designation. The study process was led by the state-certified Southern Maryland Heritage Area (SMHA). The heritage area was recognized by the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority (a division of the Maryland Historical Trust – State Historic Preservation Office) almost two decades ago for its unique history, culture, and resources.

The National Park Service defines a National Heritage Area (NHA) as *a place designated by the United States Congress where natural, cultural, historic, and scenic resources combine to form a cohesive, nationally distinctive landscape arising from patterns of human activity shaped by geography. These patterns make National Heritage Areas representative of the national experience through the physical features that remain and the traditions that have evolved in them. Continued use of National Heritage Areas by people whose traditions helped shape the landscapes enhances their significance.*

The National Park Service administers the NHA program and recommends a feasibility study be completed prior to designation.

The two-year feasibility study process has involved hundreds of citizens and dozens of community groups across the region and has strong support from Maryland's state and federal elected officials. An interdisciplinary study team including subject matter experts was formed to guide the study process, review data and documentation, and to develop the final study for submission to the National Park Service. The study was led by Lucille Walker, SMHA Executive Director.

Over the course of the planning process, the 10 criteria for NHA designation were closely examined and many questions were answered including: Is a NHA feasible in Southern Maryland? What is the nationally significant story here? Are there historic, cultural, and natural resources in the region that could help tell this story? Is there a partnership network and capacity to develop and carry out a regional vision based on the story and resources?

The study process defined the proposed NHA's boundaries to include Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary's counties which comprise the SMHA. Additionally, part of southern Prince George's County is also included in the boundaries due to strong connections to the proposed NHA's themes.

During the study process, legislation was introduced in Congress by Maryland's Congressional leaders. On March 25, 2021, Southern Maryland participated in Maryland Day, a legal state holiday observing the arrival of the first European colonists at St. Clement's Island. As part of the day's events, Senator Ben Cardin and Congressman Steny H. Hoyer announced they had introduced legislation to create the Southern Maryland National Heritage Area, and Senator Chris Van Hollen announced that he is a cosponsor of the legislation.

Southern Maryland: A Place of National Significance

Southern Maryland's unique role in creating and shaping many of our nation's core values for almost four centuries is the foundation of this feasibility study. The following excerpt from the study's Statement of National Significance reflects this role:

The arrival of the first English colonists in 1634 to a land that was already occupied by Indigenous people heralded the beginning of experimentation, engagement, struggle, and progress with complex and interwoven notions of cultural dominance, political rights, race, religion, commerce, environmental impact, and military conquest. From these beginnings, the inherent struggle to widen the circle of rights, inclusion and opportunity is reflected in each era of Southern Maryland's history. Southern Maryland is a land of contrasts and contradictions. It is where religious freedom was codified into law for the first time in the western world and one's choice of religion did not disqualify participation in local government and where colonists forged new laws and new rights, but it is also where Indigenous people lost their rights and their homes, and where Africans were brought to these shores in chains without the basic rights of humanity.

In addition to considering the special character of Southern Maryland through events that contribute to the nation's stories, the study also confirmed there is an impressive concentration of the historic, natural, and cultural resources and intangible living traditions that can support this history, including six units of the National Park Service: Piscataway Park, Fort Washington Park, Fort Foote, Oxon Cove Park/Oxon Hill, Harmony Hall, and Thomas Stone National Historic Site; two National Historic Trails: Captain John Smith National Historic Trail and Star Spangled Banner National Historic Trail; the Religious Freedom National Scenic Byway, and Mallows Bay Potomac River National Marine Sanctuary.

Themes for a National Heritage Area

Five themes capture the essence of this complex region. Each theme includes a thematic statement, historic context, and key resources.

1. Piscataway People: The Land is Who We Are
2. Sea Change: Time and Tide Shape Land and Life
3. Tobacco: A Growing Concern
4. Spirit of Faith, Spirit of Law, Spirit of Progress
5. Defense of a Nation

Ready for NHA Designation

Due to the significance, concentration, and integrity of the places and living traditions found in Southern Maryland, this region meets the necessary criteria for NHA designation. Southern Maryland's history is readily visible in the small communities, rural landscapes, waterways, and coastline of the region. Historic properties are abundant, and cultural traditions that are celebrated today have been handed down through generations. Through participation in public meetings and events, as well as through letters of support for an NHA, the public and governmental representatives at all levels have expressed strong interest in designation of the Southern Maryland National Heritage Area. Finally, SMHA underpins a strong partnership network that has demonstrated expertise, will, and capacity to support an NHA in Southern Maryland.

Chapter One:
Introduction – The Study Process

Background

In 2004, Southern Maryland, including the counties of Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary's, was certified as a state heritage area by the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority, a division of the Maryland Historical Trust (State Historic Preservation Office). The Southern Maryland Heritage Area (SMHA) operates with the public-facing name *Destination Southern Maryland*, and the marketing brand *Where Time and Tide Meet*. The foundation of the state heritage area's mission is "to enhance Southern Maryland through innovative heritage tourism experiences, comprehensive cultural and natural resource conservation, and excellence in educational opportunities." For the purposes of National Heritage Area designation, the study area of Southern Maryland extends to include southern Prince George's County, an area that shares the history and culture of Southern Maryland as documented in this study.

The Maryland Heritage Areas Program was created in 1996 to help communities use heritage tourism to strengthen their economies through the development, protection, and promotion of cultural, historical, and natural resources. The state's Program Open Space provides $6 million in annual funding for the Maryland Heritage Areas Program. Program Open Space is a land preservation and park development program managed through the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. Funds are generated by a transfer tax of 0.5 percent for every real estate transaction in the state. In 2019, approximately $5.1 million was allocated in grants for heritage area staffing, marketing, and capital and non-capital projects statewide.

Each of Maryland's 13 certified heritage areas (CHA) is defined by a distinct focus or theme. These distinctive places exhibit tangible evidence of the area's heritage in historic buildings and districts, archaeological sites, cultural traditions, singular natural landscapes, as well as other resources such as museums, parks, and traditional ways of life. The uniqueness of each heritage area attracts not only out-of-state visitors, but locals who want to learn more about their heritage and take pride in their community's unique sense of place. A strategic plan for the state's heritage areas summarized work in three key areas: developing heritage tourism product, building partnerships, and sustaining regional identity.

An Economic Engine Based on Heritage and Culture
SMHA's mission states the program is "an economic engine, providing product development and increased economic activity throughout the region through grants, partnership building, and sustaining regional identity."

In 2021, the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority released an economic impact study of the state's 13 certified heritage areas, providing an assessment of the total economic impact including employment and state and local revenues. The study found that collectively the state's 13 certified heritage area programs generated a $2.4 billion economic impact in FY19.

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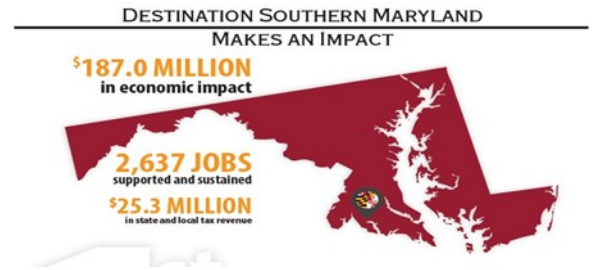
The study clearly showed the annual economic impact of SMHA:

- a total economic impact of $187 million annually through operations, grantmaking, and heritage tourism;
- supports and sustains 2,637 jobs including direct employment by the heritage area, as well as indirect and induced jobs created by supply and equipment vendors, jobs created in the
- community at hotels, restaurants, and retail stores; and
  $25.3 million in tax revenues for state and local government.

One of the most important ways the SMHA meets its mission is by providing financial support for the development, conservation, and promotion of historic, cultural, and natural resources for heritage tourism and educational programs. (Additional details are in Chapter 4.) This is accomplished in two ways:

- Seed grants (up to $5,000) are awarded annually through a competitive process. Recent grant awards have supported a variety of programs and projects such as museum exhibits and artifact conservation.
- Facilitating applications by heritage area partners for capital and non-capital grants from the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority. In 2020, more than $500,000 in grants was awarded to projects such as research and documentation of African American history, a museum exhibit about the Piscataway, a master plan for Historic St. Mary's City, and a tourism plan to promote La Plata as Maryland's first Bird City.

What Are National Heritage Areas?

The National Park Service defines a National Heritage Area (NHA) as ***a place designated by the United States Congress where natural, cultural, historic, and scenic resources combine to form a cohesive, nationally distinctive landscape arising from patterns of human activity shaped by geography. These patterns make National Heritage Areas representative of the national experience through the physical features that remain and the traditions that have evolved in them. Continued use of National Heritage Areas by people whose traditions helped shape the landscapes enhances their significance.***

In 1984, the first NHA, the Illinois and Michigan Canal National Heritage Area, was designated by Congress and signed into law by President Ronald Reagan. An early supporter characterized the creation of NHAs a "new and daring approach to the protection and management of its heritage and human resources." Three more NHAs were designated in the 1980s, followed by 13 designations in the 1990s. By the early 2000s, as communities across the country observed the success of the first NHAs, a groundswell of legislation resulted in the designation of 32 NHAs. This was followed by a decade when no new NHAs were designated again until six were designated in 2019. As of 2021, there are 55 NHAs located across the country. There are approximately 30 areas, from Maine to Hawaii and points in between, where efforts are in various stages of seeking NHA designation.

Only Congress can designate NHAs through authorizing legislation. The National Park Service is the federal partner to provide recognition, technical assistance, and funds in support of NHA programs. Currently there is no legislative statute establishing criteria for designating NHAs or providing standards for funding and management of the NHAs as one system or program. Directives and expectations for each NHA are included in the enabling legislation which Congress votes on. Upon designation, the NHA proceeds to develop a management plan which must be approved by the National Park Service and the Secretary of the Interior. The management plan is the blueprint for activities the NHA will undertake and provides a reference point for evaluation of accomplishments. (Note: As of March 2021, there is legislation pending in Congress to create a National Heritage Area System, a standardization for the designation of National Heritage Areas, and a clear statutory authority for the NPS to administer the NHAs as a program.)

Although NHAs are designated by Congress and partner with the National Park Service, the aspect that most clearly characterizes NHAs is the level of civic involvement required of local partners in order to be successful. NHAs are designed to be locally driven and require a collaborative process to develop and implement plans that reflect the interests and desires of residents to preserve, celebrate and share their cultural, historic, and natural resources.

NHAs use their region's shared history and resources as a platform for action to collaborate on preservation, promotion, and sustainable

All NHAs endeavor to meet the needs of residents by:
- Creating a community-driven network to support historic preservation, natural resource conservation, recreation, heritage tourism and educational projects;
- Supporting sustainable economic development through heritage conservation;
- Fostering pride of place and an enduring stewardship ethic.

development. Each NHA has a unique story to tell. This includes examples such as: Muscle Shoals NHA in Alabama, a center of music production since the 1960s and known as the "Hit Making Capital of the World"; Abraham Lincoln NHA which promotes sites associated with the president across the state of Illinois; National Aviation NHA which sustains the legacy of the Wright brothers and fosters recognition of the Dayton, Ohio region as the global center of aviation heritage; Cane River NHA in Louisiana which tells the stories of this community which includes the Creole - a unique blend of French, Spanish, African, Native American, and Anglo-American cultures; and Rivers of Steel NHA in Pennsylvania as a center of industry in the 19th and 20th centuries.

A 2020 report by the Congressional Research Service notes: NHAs reflect an evolution in roles and responsibilities in protecting lands. The traditional form of land protection for the National Park Service has been through government ownership, management, and funding of lands set aside for protection and enjoyment. By contrast, NHAs are comprised primarily of private lands, sometimes including various publicly owned lands and include sites managed by a variety of partners or non-profit groups. Federal funds that are allocated to the NHAs are required to be matched 50/50 with local funds or in-kind services. NHA objectives include the promotion of regional economic development and sustainability as well as the protection of natural and cultural heritage resources. The NPS provides technical and financial support to NHAs, and while NHAs are not considered units of the National Park Service, they are considered related areas and partners of the NPS.

What are the accomplishments of National Heritage Areas?

In 2006 the National Park System Advisory Board issued the report, *Charting a Future for National Heritage Areas*. The Advisory Board stated that "National Heritage Areas represent a significant advance in conservation and historic preservation." Upon examining the role and work of NHAs, the Advisory Board found that NHAs:

- involve the diverse people of this nation to tell their stories with integrity and authenticity
- weave together nature and culture and provide an integrated approach to conserving resources
- work beyond park boundaries by offering the National Park Service a new strategy to meet their stewardship mission
- conserve landscapes and traditions and make them available for the enjoyment of future generations
- engage youth and people of all ages in our future by providing them with opportunities for place-based education and a forum for public engagement; and,
- build new constituencies for the NPS and stay relevant by examining issues not just in the past but also in the present and future.

NHAs, do not:
- Regulate land use or zoning for public or private property
- Require public access to private property
- Regulate water rights
- Diminish state authority to manage fish and wildlife
- Diminish obligations of the U.S. government to any federally recognized Indian tribe

The report may be viewed at www.nps.gov/policy/NHAreport.htm.

National Park Service Economic Impact Assessments

In 2012, the National Park Service conducted its first economic impact assessment of six National Heritage Areas. The study found overwhelming positive benefit for the communities of the NHAs. Since then, an additional 18 of the 55 NHAs currently designated have had economic impact studies completed. All of the reports used the U.S. Department of Commerce's IMPLAN model to measure the federal investment results in the National Heritage Areas. The results of these studies have been positive, illustrating the benefit NHAs have when the annual NPS dollars are matched with other public and private investments and spent in the communities. In addition, the reports demonstrate that NHAs not only exceed the required dollar-to-dollar match requirement but that those dollars contribute to further economic benefits in the communities where they are spent by generating significant revenues for local governments and creating jobs, both short-term construction, and permanent employment, often in economically disadvantaged communities. Each of the 24 economic impact studies may be viewed here: https://www.nps.gov/subjects/heritageareas/economic_impact_studies.htm.

Purpose of the Feasibility Study

This feasibility study was developed by the SMHA in partnership with a steering committee, subject matter experts, and stakeholders representing the entire proposed geographic boundaries for the NHA.

This report follows the steps and meets the criteria set forth in the National Park Service's *National Heritage Area Feasibility Study Guidelines, 2019*, and provides information which confirms the region's eligibility for NHA designation by Congress. Chapters in this feasibility study are as follows:

- **Chapter 1** provides information about the study process, including public engagement, research and documentation, collaboration with stakeholders and partners, involvement of subject matter experts, and coordination with Maryland's Congressional delegation to introduce NHA legislation.
- **Chapter 2** presents the history of Southern Maryland and highlights the many path-blazing events which happened here and influenced our nation's heritage and culture.
- **Chapter 3** provides a detailed examination of the region's national significance, its historical themes and associated resources, and a description of the proposed boundary for the NHA. A map of the proposed NHA boundaries is included.
- **Chapter 4** reviews the process of considering management alternatives, determination of the preferred alternative, identification of goals for the NHA, and a description of the proposed coordinating entity. Also included is information on potential programs, a conceptual financial plan, and an assessment of impacts related to the preferred alternative.
- **Chapter 5** discusses the ten criteria for NHA designation and evaluates how Southern Maryland meets each criterion.
- **Appendices** include the resource inventory, information on potential funders and partners, letters of support, and other records documenting the study process.

Why a National Heritage Area in Southern Maryland?

Southern Maryland's Nationally Distinctive Landscape: Where Time and Tide Meet

Beyond the definition of NHAs stated above, the National Park Service states "The term *nationally distinctive landscape* has not been further defined but should be understood to include places that are characterized by unique cultures, nationally important events, and historic demographic and economic trends and social movements, among others. They are places that by their resources and cultural values and the contributions of people and events have had a substantial impact on the formation of our national story." The National Park Service further observes: "…*a nationally distinctive landscape* may contain *nationally significant resources*, e.g. units of the National Park System, National Historic Landmarks (NHLs), and National Natural Landmarks (NNLs)."

Southern Maryland's statement of national significance, themes, and historic contexts (chapters 2 and 3) reflect the research and documentation undertaken for this study and the determination by the study team that the region possesses a nationally distinctive landscape. The study highlights many nationally significant resources including land and water historic trails, a National Scenic Byway, National Parks, National Historic Landmarks, National Register of Historic Places properties, and a National Marine Sanctuary.

Two federally recognized trails and a National Scenic Byway are located in Southern Maryland. The Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail, designated by President George W. Bush in 2006 and administered by the National Park Service, is the nation's first water-based national trail and traces the places and events of the 1608 expedition. The Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail, authorized by Congress in 2008, leads visitors to sites and stories of the War of 1812 over 300 miles through Maryland, Virginia, and Washington D.C. The Religious Freedom National Scenic Byway, the first and only nationally recognized byway focused on stories of religious heritage and freedom, was designated by the Federal Highway Administration in 2009.

In 2019, Mallows Bay-Potomac River National Marine Sanctuary was designated by the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) as the first marine sanctuary in the Chesapeake Bay. The bay holds the largest and most varied collection of historic shipwrecks in the Western Hemisphere and is renowned for the World War I steamships, known as the Ghost Fleet.

Six National Park Service units are located within the proposed NHA's geographic boundaries. Five are located in southern Prince George's County. Piscataway Park lies across the river from George Washington's Mount Vernon home in Virginia. The park protects a landscape similar to what the Indigenous Piscataway would have experienced. In addition to a recreated colonial farm, the park includes a National Historic Landmark, Accokeek Creek site, which includes several archaeological sites dating from the Late Archaic period (c. 3000 B.C.) to historic times. It is the site of an extensive late 16th-early 17th century village of the Piscataway Indians, known as Moyaone.

Fort Washington National Park interprets the nation's early costal defense system and the site's role as one of a chain of forts surrounding the nation's capital from the 19th through the early 20th centuries. Fort Foote National Park was constructed in 1863 as part of a ring of fortifications encircling Washington City.

Oxon Cove Park includes Oxon Hill Farm which interprets the agricultural history of Prince George's County during the 18th and 19th centuries. The landscape is associated with the tobacco culture of the 1700s when tobacco became the country's primary export.

Also in Prince George's County is Harmony Hall, located in the Broad Creek Historic District. The 18th century Georgian-style mansion was built by tobacco merchant Enoch Magruder. The site became a National Park Service property in 1966 as part of a proposed parkway to Fort Washington which was never built.

The Thomas Stone National Historic Site near Port Tobacco is administered by the National Park Service. Also known as Haberdeventure, the site was the home of a signer of the Declaration of Independence

In addition to six National Park units and many sites listed in the National Register of Historic Places, seven National Historic Landmarks are located in the region: the aforementioned Thomas Stone National Historic Site; Poplar Hill on His Lordship's Kindness near Clinton; the aforementioned Accokeek Creek Site at Piscataway Park, an Indigenous village archaeological site; the J.C. Lore Oyster House and the William B. Tennison bugeye boat in Solomons; St. Mary's City Historic District; and Sotterley Plantation in St. Mary's County. Sotterley Plantation is also a UNESCO Slave Route Site of Remembrance.

The Study Process

The feasibility study undertook the following process toward designation outlined in the National Park Service's *National Heritage Area Feasibility Study Guidelines, 2019:*

"Local sponsors have undertaken a number of NHA feasibility studies, either as part of a state sponsored heritage initiative or because a local management entity desires to seek NHA designation by Congress. NPS then reviews the locally sponsored feasibility study to determine if the candidate area qualifies for national designation."

The state-certified Southern Maryland Heritage Area which partners with the Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland is the local coordinating entity that initiated the study, providing leadership and connection to an extensive network of partners to develop the study according to the NPS's guidelines.

Formation of a Study Team

An interdisciplinary study team including subject matter experts was formed to guide the study process, review data and documentation, and to develop the final study for submission to the National Park Service. The study was led by **Lucille Walker, Executive Director of the Southern Maryland Heritage Area.**

A steering committee played a critical role in the development of the study as they shared their knowledge of the region's history and its connection to events of national significance. Committee members included the Piscataway Conoy Tribal Chair, executive directors and staff from museums and historic sites, tourism directors, historic preservationists, archaeologists, historians, scholars, and economic development specialists. Committee members also provided access to the region's leaders, elected officials, business people, civic activists, etc. and aided in soliciting their support. A team of consultants worked with the program committee and other partners to develop the study.

Steering committee members are:

- **Stephen Bunker** – Chair, Friends of Mallows Bay – Potomac River National Marine Sanctuary
- **Ashley Chenault** – Chief of Tourism, Charles County Tourism, Parks and Recreation
- **Hilary Dailey –** Tourism Program Specialist, Calvert County Tourism, Economic Development
- **Nancy Easterling** – Executive Director, Historic Sotterley Plantation
- **Regina Faden**, Ph.D., Executive Director, Historic St. Mary's City
- **Laura Ford**, President and CEO, Accokeek Foundation
- **Francis Gray** – Tribal Chair, Piscataway Conoy Tribe
- **John Hartline** – Executive Director, Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland
- **Chris Kaselemis** – AICP, Economic Development Director, St. Mary's County Economic Development
- **Mina Kim** -Director of Sales and Marketing, Holiday Inn Solomons Island (former)
- **Julia King,** Ph.D., Professor of Anthropology, St. Mary's College of Maryland
- **Meagan Baco,** Executive Director, Anacostia Trails Heritage Area/Maryland Milestones
- **Jeff Murray** – Museum Director, Calvert Marine Museum
- **Greg Pierce** – Executive Director, Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum

- **Martin Proulx** – Agriculture Business Development Manager, Charles County Economic Development
- **Franklin A. Robinson Jr. -** Chair, Charles County Historic Preservation Commission; Governor's Appointee, Maryland Historical Trust Board of Directors
- **Stephanie Sperling,** M.A.A., Senior Archaeologist, Natural and Historical Resources Division, Maryland-National Capital Parks and Planning Commission, Prince George's County
- **Julie Schablitsky** – Chief Archaeologist, Maryland Department of Transportation
- **Dorothea Smith** – Chair, African American Heritage House of Charles County
- **Karen Stone** – Museum Division Manager, St. Mary's County Museum Division
- **Fred Tutman** – River Keeper and CEO, Patuxent River Keepers

Additional subject matter experts who were engaged are:
- **Michael Kent -** author, lawyer, Calvert County NAACP
- **Carol Eberly** - Arts Council of Calvert County
- **Cathy Thompson** - Preservation and Long-Range Planning Supervisor, Department of Planning, Charles County M-NCPPC, Department of Parks and Recreation, Upper Marlboro
- **Shelby Watson-Hampton** - Director, the Southern Maryland Agriculture Development Commission, also a family member of Robin Hill Farm and Robin Hill Winery in Prince George's County
- **Howie Grube** - Director of Development, Historic St. Mary's City Maryland
- **Greg Bowen** - Executive Director, American Chestnut Land Trust

Feasibility study consultants are:
- **Carolyn Brackett** - Heritage Tourism/Preservation Planning Specialist (Principal, Cultural Heritage Works)
- **Nancy Morgan** - Heritage Development Specialist (Principal, Point Heritage Development Consulting)
- **August Carlino** - Planning Consultant (President and CEO, Rivers of Steel National Heritage Area)

Study Process Steps

The National Park Service's *National Heritage Area Feasibility Study Guidelines*, *2019*, provides steps for the development of a feasibility study. The introduction to the guidelines notes "*These guidelines are offered with the understanding that each study may involve unique resource and public involvement issues and each region may present different study opportunities and constraints. Flexibility in the use of the guidelines is assumed throughout...*" With this understanding, the steps were followed and adapted as necessary to the unique circumstances of Southern Maryland and in particular to the development of the feasibility study in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Step 1: Define the Study Area

The study area began with three counties that make up the SMHA – Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary's. It was agreed by the steering committee and in the first public meetings that southern Prince George's County should be included in the study area.
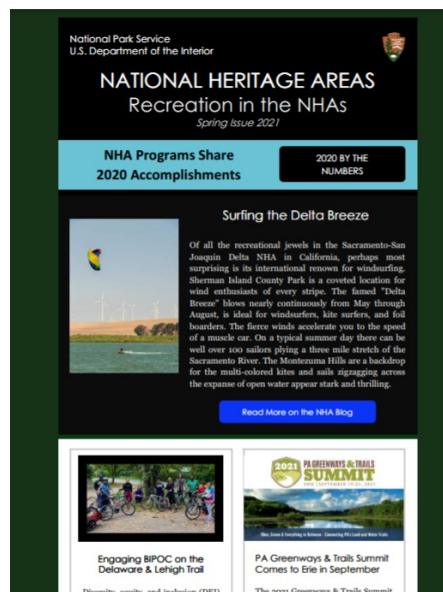
Step 2: Develop a Public Engagement Strategy

The feasibility study guidelines note *"If a local organization has already been formed to promote National Heritage Area designation and enjoys the support of local governments, business interests, organizations and the general public, the public involvement strategy may be designed to capitalize on its existence and public acceptance."*

This was the case with the SMHA initiating and providing leadership to develop the feasibility study. The state-certified heritage area's almost two decades of active involvement and its record of accomplishments meant that the feasibility study process began with enthusiastic support of elected officials and government agencies at the local, state, and federal level, businesses, and many nonprofit organizations representing historic, cultural, and natural resources. The project also had good will from residents as the heritage area's stellar reputation imbued confidence and support for the opportunity to seek national designation.

Extensive Outreach and Community Engagement

Planning to attain NHA designation began in 2016 when Lucille Walker took SMHA's helm as executive director. Through outreach and evaluation of existing conditions, Walker and stakeholders confirmed this effective state heritage area should be elevated to a national platform to fully serve its purpose and its constituency, and to achieve the excellence that the region's heritage merits. Recognizing both the opportunity and the need for national designation sparked an extensive planning and outreach process that led to the preparation of this feasibility study. A strategic set of steps included outreach to a variety of stakeholders and interest groups. A summary of this research and outreach follows:

The National Park Service shares updates on National Heritage Area activities through a quarterly newsletter.

- **Understanding National Heritage Areas –** Contacts with existing NHA directors and staff provided insights into the benefits of NHA designation and the types of activities that NHAs undertake. Additionally, these contacts provided guidance on the requirements and process of becoming a National Heritage Area.

- **Stakeholder Outreach -** Ms. Walker worked with SMHA's board of directors and partner organization, the Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland, to meet with hundreds of stakeholders throughout the region representing museums, historic sites, and municipalities, tourism agencies, community organizations, civic groups, and many others. The response from this outreach was unparalleled enthusiasm and support for beginning the process to achieve designation. Stakeholders from throughout the region have continued to participate in the process over the past three years by attending meetings, providing input into the development of feasibility study themes, participating in stakeholder interviews, and reviewing study drafts. (Letters of support from many stakeholders and partners are found in Appendix V.)

- **Tri-County Council Endorsement –** As the fiduciary agent for the Southern Maryland Heritage Area, Tri-County Council's endorsement of proceeding with the feasibility study was an essential step. (A letter of support from the Council is included in Appendix V.)

- **State and Congressional Legislative Outreach –** With support from stakeholders throughout the region and the endorsement of Tri-County Council, outreach focused next on securing support from state and Congressional elected officials. With the support of SMHA's board of directors, Ms. Walker made contacts which have continued to the present with elected officials and their staffs. Contacts at the federal level include **Rachel Jones** (now Delegate Rachel Jones), regional representative to **Senator Ben Cardin**, and regional representatives to **House of Representatives Majority Leader Steny Hoyer** (5th Congressional District) and **Senator Chris Van Hollen**. All federal partners expressed support and have remained engaged in the process. Contacts at the state level also yielded strong support including **State Senator Jack Bailey** of St. Mary's County and with **Gretchen Hardman**, **Governor Larry Hogan's** Southern Maryland representative. (A letter of support from the Southern Maryland Delegation is included in Appendix V.)

- **Interim Steering Committee -** An interim steering committee was formed with the economic development team from St. Mary's County, the tourism director from Visit St. Mary's, Historic St. Mary's City, and St. Mary's County museums. The support of St. Mary's County was the initial focus as this area was the scene of the primary "firsts" of the region and was the location of the founding of Maryland in 1634, as well as first contact with the Indigenous population. Approval from the St. Mary's County Commissioners opened the pathway to full engagement with the entire region. (A letter of support from the St. Mary's County Commissioners is included in Appendix V.)

- **Piscataway Conoy Tribe –** Securing the support of the region's Indigenous people was essential to a successful study process. Building on a strong relationship between SMHA and the Piscataway Conoy Tribe, tribal leaders expressed support for seeking NHA designation. **Francis Gray**, Tribal Chair, serves on the Feasibility Study Steering Committee. (A letter of support from the Piscataway Conoy Tribe is included in Appendix V.)

- **Feasibility Study –** With the support and endorsement of many stakeholders and partners and funding secured through the Tri-County Council's funds from the Rural Maryland Council of Maryland, the feasibility study process began in 2020. A formal steering committee was appointed, and consultants were selected through a Request for Proposals. Cultural Heritage Works, led by principal Carolyn Brackett and including Nancy Morgan and Augie Carlino, was selected to work with SMHA to develop the feasibility study. During this phase, it was determined southern Prince George's County should be considered for inclusion within the proposed NHA boundary. Representatives from Prince George's County were included on the steering committee, and contacts began with stakeholders in the county.

- **Congressional Legislation –** As the feasibility study process got underway, leadership determined that initiating pursuit of Congressional designation should begin. The strategy of pursuing the legislation concurrent with the feasibility study was based on several factors, including this region's success as a State of Maryland Heritage Area, its recognized historical significance and strong network of partners, and that the 400th commemoration of the founding of Maryland was only 13 years away in 2034. Guidance for the legislative process was provided by **Shannon Frede**, Environmental Policy Counsel to **Senator Ben Cardin**. Ms. Frede coordinated with the members and staff of Maryland's Congressional delegation regarding proposed legislation. To facilitate the process, Ms. Walker reviewed all legislation from the 55 existing NHAs and produced draft legislation for federal review.

- **Media –** From the onset of the feasibility study process, media outlets throughout Southern Maryland have provided coverage about the potential for NHA designation. Reporters attended public meetings and have interviewed SMHA's executive director many times.

Public Meetings

The onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, concurrent with the beginning of the feasibility study, presented challenges for creating a robust public engagement strategy. The study process included a combination of in-person and virtual meetings in consideration of COVID-19 conditions in Maryland at each stage of public engagement and to ensure that residents and partners were able to participate in the way they preferred. Public meetings were promoted through media outlets in Southern Maryland and email invitations to SMHA's partnership network. Public engagement meetings included:

First Public Meetings – September 2020

Three public meetings were held to introduce the concept of a NHA and to discuss nationally important stories of Southern Maryland that could contribute to the development of themes. Two meetings were held in person in outdoor venues that allowed for social distancing. A third meeting was held virtually and included breakout groups to facilitate discussion. Discussions and input from more than 150 participants provided important information and perspectives that helped shape a wide variety of stories from four centuries of history

> *The region holds powerful stories—social and cultural identities being mutually molded in a confined landscape—Europe, Africa, First Peoples; race, class, freedom. This region is a microcosm of the founding of our nation—all its original sins and original victories. As a nation, we are still responding to the things that originally happened here.*
>
> Stakeholder comment at public meeting

into five themes and a statement of significance. The meetings began with a review of themes in the state-certified heritage area's management plan as well as current marketing messages. Participants also emphasized the importance of communicating the complexity of Southern Maryland's story.

Second Public Meetings – March 2021

Two virtual meetings attended by more than 150 participants were held to present and solicit feedback on the proposed geographic boundaries, statement of significance, themes, and a resource inventory reflecting Southern Maryland's nationally significant stories and places. This information was reviewed by the steering committee prior to public presentation to ensure accuracy of the information presented to the public. Public meeting participants responded positively, observing that the themes and significance statement captured Southern Maryland's national importance and were interconnected to

> - *The themes provide a great foundation for interpretation and educational opportunities.*
> - *Very broad and inclusive and show that the themes are interconnected.*
> - *Visit, heck, it (the themes) would make me want to live here!*
>
> Stakeholder comments at public meeting

reflect the region's complex history. Participants also approved of the proposed geographic boundaries to include Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary's counties and southern Prince George's County.

—DESTINATION—
Southern Maryland

THE SOUTHERN MARYLAND HERITAGE AREA INVITES YOU TO ATTEND A COMMUNITY CONVERSATION
TO DISCUSS THE PROPOSED NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA!

CHARLES COUNTY

September 10, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Serenity Farm
6932 Serenity Farm Road, Benedict
Individually packaged dinners will be available from 5:30-6:00 p.m.
Meeting begins at 6:00 p.m.

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER

ST. MARY'S COUNTY

September 11, 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
St. Mary's City Pavilion
47414 Old State House Road, St. Mary's City
Individually packaged lunches will be available from 11:30 a.m. to Noon.
Meeting begins at Noon

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER

VIRTUAL

September 17, 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Meeting link will be provided after registration

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER

Please register for the Community Conversation in-person event you plan to attend by **September 8, 2020**, and the virtual event by **11:00 a.m. on September 17, 2020**.

READ ON FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE EVENT!

Destination Southern Maryland

SOUTHERN MARYLAND HERITAGE AREA CONSORTIUM P. O. BOX 745 HUGHESVILLE, MD 20637
DESTINATIONSOUTHERNMARYLAND.COM 301.343.2771

Step 3: Determine the Region's Contribution to the Nation's Heritage and Develop Potential Themes

Federal recognition of many places and events in Southern Maryland that have impacted the nation's history provided a firm foundation to determine the region's contribution to the nation's heritage. This recognition includes two National Historic Trails, a National Scenic Byway, a National Marine Sanctuary, four National Parks, seven National Historic Landmarks, 138 places listed in the National Register of Historic Places, including 14 thematic National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Forms (MPDFs).

The research phase of the study accessed documentation for these federally recognized resources as well as more than 80 articles and publications that document the history and culture of Southern Maryland. Among these were the management and interpretation plans for the SMHA, a master plan for developing interpretation and programming about the history and stories of the Piscataway, interpretive exhibit content for Historic St. Mary's City, and several academic dissertations. (See Bibliography for a list of research resources.) This research informed the development of the historic context to support five themes and a statement of national significance. Chapter 2 presents a historical overview of Southern Maryland. Chapter 3 presents the significance statement, five themes and historic context. Each section was reviewed for accuracy by the subject matter experts listed above and was presented to the public for review and comment.

Step 4: Develop a Resource Inventory and Determine Integrity

Compilation of the resource inventory coupled with the themes and historic context clearly determined that Southern Maryland is a nationally distinctive landscape with many resources that are currently interpreted or possess the integrity to be developed for interpretation. The inventory also identifies a multitude of resources that currently provide – or could provide – opportunities for conservation, recreation, and education. (See Chapters 3, 4 and Appendix for resource information.) Development of a resource inventory, themes and historic context accomplished the following required feasibility study criteria:

- Assess whether the region is a nationally distinctive landscape (Criteria 1 and 2)
- Assess whether there are resources important to the identified themes and if they retain integrity for interpretive purposes (Criterion 5)
- Determine if there are outstanding opportunities for conservation, recreation. and education (Criteria 3 and 4)

Resources are included in two places in this study. Chapter 3 includes a brief description of primary resources connected to each of the five themes. The Appendix includes a detailed chart of more than 200 resources organized alphabetically as well as maps showing the locations of these resources. Information for these resources includes:

- Theme
- National Register or National Landmark designation
- Location
- National, state, county, or city facility
- Private/nonprofit
- Type of Resource--Historic, natural, cultural, recreational, educational/interpretive, and tourism
- Website

Step 5: Delineate Geographic Boundary

The final geographic boundary for the proposed NHA encompasses Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary's counties and southern Prince George's County. A detailed explanation of the study and decision process and maps are found in Chapter 3.

Step 6: Determine Administrative and Financial Feasibility

An analysis of the 20 years of management of the SMHA confirmed that the organization can successfully expand to leadership of a National Heritage Area. SMHA operates on a strong fiscal foundation, with annual financial support from the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority, administrative support from the Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland, and grants from a variety of sources to support administration and programs. Additionally, in recent years SMHA has focused on expanding its grant program, resulting in support for projects and programs throughout the region that preserve historic, cultural, and natural resources and tells the important stories of Southern Maryland. After exploring options for the state heritage area's future, the preferred alternative which emerged during the study was to seek NHA designation. Recognizing the tremendous accomplishments of SMHA, the esteem the management entity engenders, and the abundance of nationally significant stories and resources, stakeholders agreed that the region is well-positioned to achieve NHA designation. A detailed 5-year budget projection and organizational structure for the NHA is found in Chapter 4. Additional information on current and potential partnerships and funders is found in the Appendix.

Southern Maryland Heritage Area 2017 Mini-Grant Awards

Step 7: Evaluate Public Support and Commitments

Public support for NHA designation was evident from responses to early outreach and throughout the feasibility study process. Steering committee members generously gave of their time to provide input on the region's national importance, to attend meetings, and to review drafts. Attendance at public meetings (virtual and in person) was excellent – particularly in light of the difficulties presented by the COVID pandemic – and participants engaged in lively discussions that helped inform and shape the feasibility study. Additionally, dozens of stakeholders and partner organizations provided letters of support, found in Appendix V.

Concurrent Activities in Southern Maryland
Three activities underway in the region in 2021 could have a significant impact on a Southern Maryland NHA, providing opportunities for new partnerships, interpretation, and sources of funding.

Through Piscataway Eyes Master Plan
The vision for telling the story of the Piscataway is described in the master plan: "…as Maryland's own Indigenous people, we will shape the Native interpretive program - from conception to implementation to sustainable long-term management."

The master plan outlines an interpretive framework including themes, story topics, places throughout the region where stories can be told, and an implementation plan.

Implementation is underway with several activities funded by grants from the SMHA, the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority, and the National Park Service. These include development of "The Land We Call Home," an exhibit at St. Clement's Island Museum, a traditional Native arts display at the Charles County Visitor Center and a Pow Wow event. The Piscataway are partnering with Merkle State Wildlife Sanctuary in Prince George's County to develop new interpretation and special events at the

Implementation of the master plan will create new ways to tell the story of the Piscataway and to engage the next generation.

Piscataway site of the Town of Mattapanient on the grounds of the wildlife sanctuary.

As part of the development of the Through Piscataway Eyes project, the Piscataway Conoy Tribe in partnership with the Southern Maryland Heritage Area, the Maryland Historical Trust, and St. Mary's College of Maryland (SMCM) undertook the archaeological survey of landscapes in the southern Maryland region important to the Piscataway people. In 2014, the Piscataway Conoy Tribe in partnership with the National Park Service and SMCM participated in an Indigenous Cultural Landscapes project focused on the Nanjemoy vicinity designed to support the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail.

In 2017, the Piscataway Conoy Tribe and SMCM in partnership with the Calvert County Historic Preservation Commission using funds from an NPS Underrepresented Communities Grant prepared National Register documentation for seven historically significant Piscataway Indian landscapes in Calvert, Charles, Prince George's, and St. Mary's counties.

Development of the master plan was guided by a steering committee with representatives from the National Park Service, Piscataway Conoy Tribe, Piscataway Indian Nation, Maryland Heritage Areas Authority, Maryland Historical Trust, Maryland Indian Tourism Association and Southern Maryland Heritage Area. It should also be noted that the Tribal Chair of the Piscataway Conoy served on the program committee for development of the NHA feasibility study.

Maryland Rediscovery 400

The landing of the Ark and the Dove ships at St. Clement's Island in 1634 marked the beginning of European colonization in the region and the eventual formation of the state of Maryland.

In 2019, the SMHA formed a committee with representatives from the Piscataway Conoy Tribe, historic sites, museums, historical societies, colleges, county and state preservation, and transportation agencies. In 2021, the committee's work is underway to encourage and support community-based projects in Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary's counties and southern Prince George's County in commemoration of the 400th anniversary of the Ark and the Dove's landing in 2034.

Many projects will use archaeology to access new information and understanding about the diverse people and cultures of Southern Maryland. The artifact assemblages and data generated from these investigations will be used in public outreach, including exhibits, story maps, speaker series, and site tours. Recent findings include the newly discovered location of housing quarters for enslaved persons at Historic Sotterley Plantation in St. Mary's County and a large collection of artifacts at the colonial-era site of a Piscataway settlement in southern Prince George's County.

MDOT SHA ARCHAEOLOGISTS UNEARTH 300-YEAR-OLD SLAVE QUARTERS SITE IN ST. MARY'S COUNTY

LEONARDTOWN, MD (October 27, 2020) – The Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration (MDOT SHA) and St. Mary's College of Maryland archeologists are working to unearth a 300-year-old slave quarters site at a historic Jesuit plantation in Southern Maryland.

Many of the archaeological remains lay buried in farm fields within Newtowne Neck State Park, which is managed by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR), and are located a stone's throw from an 18th century brick manor once occupied by Jesuit missionaries. Early indications suggest the slave quarters may date to around 1700.

Artifact at slave quarters in St. Mary's County)

Archaeological research will provide new information as Maryland prepares to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the Ark and Dove's landing in 2034.

Anacostia Trails/Maryland Milestones Heritage Area Boundary Amendment Study for Southern Prince George's County

Certified in 2001 by the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority (MHAA), the Anacostia Trails Heritage Area (ATHA)/Maryland Milestones encompasses over 100 square miles of northern Prince Georges County – bordered by Washington, D.C. to the south, Montgomery County to the west, Howard and Anne Arundel County to the north and encompassing portions of Bowie, Glenn Dale, and Cheverly to the east. ATHA's eastern boundary was amended in 2017 to include two municipalities – Bowie and Cheverly – and a portion of the unincorporated Area around the community of Glen Dale.

In 2020, ATHA, Inc., the heritage area's 501c3 management entity, undertook a study, with funding support from MHAA, to consider a programmatic boundary amendment to potentially include sites and communities in southern Prince George's County. The study is in response to requests from several sites and communities to be considered for inclusion in the heritage area including Accokeek Foundation (and the Potomac Heritage Tourism Alliance), the Town of Upper Marlboro, and Fairmount Heights. The study will fulfill the MHAA's requirements for programmatic boundary amendments:

Programmatic boundary amendments are made to add new geographic areas to the CHA (Certified Heritage Area) that were not contemplated in the approved management plan. These areas may be jurisdictions that have already amended their comprehensive plans to incorporate the CHA management plan, or they may be in new jurisdictions that have not yet amended their comprehensive plans.

In early 2021, ATHA/Maryland Milestones had completed site visits and meetings with potential stakeholders in southern Prince George's County. A situational analysis documented resources in the region. The analysis considered the connection of resources to ATHA's interpretive themes, heritage tourism potential, and local support for joining the heritage area. The study process will continue in 2022 with an anticipated request for a boundary amendment within a few years.

The executive director for ATHA/Maryland Milestones serves on the steering committee for the Southern Maryland NHA feasibility study. ATHA/Maryland Milestones is supportive of NHA designation for southern Prince George's County. If the boundary amendment is approved and the NHA is designated, the two heritage areas will have the opportunity to work in partnership both as a state-certified heritage areas and a designated NHA

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Compliance
The National Park Service's *National Heritage Area Feasibility Study Guidelines: 2019* addresses the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, and Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act. The guidelines note that although formal documentation is not required, both National Park Service and locally sponsored studies include NEPA components – most important is the engagement of local stakeholders and solicitation of public input to support the study's findings. As described in the sections above, this feasibility study met these requirements with extensive outreach and engagement of subject matter experts, elected officials, stakeholders, and the general public.

Further, the following statement is included as required by the guidelines:
Because at this stage in the evolution of a heritage area specific programs and projects may not be known…additional NEPA compliance and Section 106 compliance work will be conducted not only for a heritage area management plan for the region, but also for all future projects requiring federal funding.

Next Steps
On March 25, 2021, Southern Maryland participated in Maryland Day, a legal state holiday observing the arrival of the first European colonists at St. Clement's Island. As part of the day's events, Senator Ben Cardin and Congressman Steny H. Hoyer announced that they had introduced legislation to create the Southern Maryland National Heritage Area, and Senator Chris Van Hollen announced that he is a cosponsor of the legislation.

Vision Statement and Goals

The SMHA's vision statement was originally developed as part of an intensive management planning process which led to certification by the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority in 2004. The original vision statement reflected the aspirations of the new heritage area, stating a desire to "serve as a catalyst to coordinate regional efforts….to recognize the importance, conserve the physical resources, and galvanize the human resource base of the region to increase significantly both the quality and quantity of heritage tourism in Southern Maryland."

The original vision statement further projected results within three to five years when the heritage area would be successfully coordinating with other economic and community development efforts, and in ten years when the heritage area's work would result in a fuller picture of Southern Maryland's history and heritage sites that would attract an increasing number of visitors. As envisioned, within ten years the heritage area would engage in robust public involvement and residents would enjoy an enhanced quality of life.

Now nearing the two-decade mark, the SMHA has achieved this vision and is recognized as a leader throughout the region. With this successful foundation, the heritage area is prepared to increase its leadership role as the coordinating entity for the Southern Maryland National Heritage Area.

Through the feasibility study process, the following nationally-focused vision statement was developed.

Southern Maryland National Heritage Area Vision Statement
The Southern Maryland National Heritage Area envisions fulfilling a unique role in bringing together partners who work to conserve the cultural, historic, and natural resources that collectively represent the foundation stories of our nation. The National Heritage Area will cultivate pride of place for residents and form partnerships with cultural, conservation and historic organizations, local governments, civic groups, schools, churches, and other entities to ensure stewardship of resources, to foster national recognition and to create a thriving heritage tourism industry, attracting visitors who come to experience all that Southern Maryland has to offer. The National Heritage Area will provide leadership to develop and implement sustainable plans which will benefit communities from the economic impact of increased visitation, while retaining the quality of life that makes Southern Maryland a desirable place to live.

Goals for the Southern Maryland National Heritage Area
Goals for the Southern Maryland National Heritage Area are divided into two categories:

Category 1: NHA designation, coordinating entity, and planning
- Secure Congressional designation of the Southern Maryland National Heritage Area.
- Establish a new nonprofit organization to work with Tri-County Council as the cooperating organizations for the Southern Maryland National Heritage Area. (See Chapter 4 for details.)
- Complete a comprehensive management plan and secure approval from the National Park Service and the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Interior.

Category 2*: Actions of the NHA Management Entity*

Note: It is understood that these are broad categories that will be explored in depth during the management planning process to result in specific strategies.

- Capitalize on the NHA designation to further strengthen the existing partnerships established through the Maryland Heritage Area Authority.
- Enhance regional interpretation and education to reflect national significance.
- Increase connectivity of sites and themes to reflect national significance.
- Complete regional and national marketing materials and objectives.
- Provide excellence in preservation and resource stewardship.

Chapter 2: Southern Maryland: A Nationally Distinctive Landscape

"Heaven and Earth never agreed better to frame a place for man's habitation."
Captain John Smith, English explorer, 1608

In 1608, as English explorer Captain John Smith and his crew sailed the waters of the Chesapeake Bay, Potomac and Patuxent Rivers and ventured onto land that was already occupied by Indigenous people, he could not have known the expedition was setting the stage for Southern Maryland's evolution to become the distinctive and nationally significant place that it is today.

Captain John Smith

The beauty and bounty of the landscape that captivated Smith had evolved over millions of years of geologic activity and global climate changes, forming the Chesapeake Bay and creating a rich ecological system. The waterways that Smith and his crew traveled are a defining characteristic of Southern Maryland that today leads to rolling hills and farmlands as well as forested wetlands and numerous marshes that provide habitats for waterfowl and wildlife.

Smith's exploration had multiple purposes beyond documenting the flora and fauna. The opportunity for prosperity guided the explorers as they sought to see what the land and water could produce – forests for timber, ports for shipping, and a hospitable place for future colonists to make their home.

Of greater significance for future settlement by Europeans, Smith and his crew encountered people who already called this place home. Southern Maryland's Indigenous presence can be traced back more than 12,000 years from Paleo-Indian groups to later tribes. By the time of Smith's arrival, the Piscataway were the dominant tribe, aligning in a confederacy with other tribes including the Aquascake, Choptico, Matapoin, Mattawoman, Nanjemoy, Patapscco, and Patuxent. The arrival of European settlers in the 17th century instigated three centuries of struggle for the Piscataway as their lands and their identity as Indigenous people were taken. Not until the 21st century was the Piscataways' rightful place restored as they were officially recognized by the state of Maryland.

Drawn by accounts of the opportunities this bounteous land presented, the first European colonists arrived with a hope that set them apart – that their new home would be a place to escape religious persecution and express their faith according to personal beliefs. For this they counted on Lord Baltimore Cecil Calvert who instructed Catholic and Protestant colonists sailing

across the ocean on the Ark and the Dove to "preserve unity and peace" in religious observances "at land as well as at sea." Landing on St. Clement's Island on March 25, 1634 in the newly chartered Maryland Colony, the colonists held the first Catholic mass in the colonies, led by Father Andrew White.

Lord Baltimore Cecil Calvert

The progressive ideal of religious freedom became part of the character of the new community, St. Mary's City, which served as the capital of Maryland for over 60 years. The colonists designed their new city to emphasize the separation of church and state. The mayor's home was placed at the center with streets laid out to create two triangles. The state house and jail were located at two points, and the church and school were located at the other two points. The colonists proceeded to extend the ideal of religious freedom beyond simply practicing one's faith. For the new settlement, it meant there was no state-established religion and no requirement to swear religious oaths in order to vote or hold elected office.

The ideal had a far-reaching impact. It was in Southern Maryland that the first legislative act allowing liberty of conscience in the western world was passed by the Maryland General Assembly at St. Mary's City on April 21, 1649. *The Act Concerning Religion* provided the foundation for religious freedom that was included in the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States of America in 1791.

Freedom of religious belief and practice continued to attract people to Southern Maryland as seen in the establishment of Mount Carmel Monastery in Port Tobacco in 1790. Founded by four Carmelite Roman Catholic nuns, Mount Carmel was the first monastery for religious women in Colonial America.

Mount Carmel Monastery, Port Tobacco

Southern Maryland's early years of creating the new society also saw the starts and stops of attempts toward freedom and equality for women and people of color. Two early arrivals who laid claim to the promises of their new homeland were Mathias de Sousa and Margaret Brent. De Sousa arrived on board the Ark with the first colonists in 1634. Arriving as an indentured servant, within a few years de Sousa was a free citizen and a successful mariner and fur trader. In 1641, de Sousa made history as the first person of African descent elected to serve in a legislature (General Assembly) in what later would become the United States of America.

Mathias de Sousa

Margaret Brent arrived from England in 1638. Although her primary reason for coming to Southern Maryland was to escape persecution for her Catholic faith, Brent broke many norms for women of the era. Brent not only acquired large land holdings, she was the first woman to practice law in the colonies and the first woman ever to petition for the right to vote in the new land, a request which was denied by the Maryland General Assembly. More than 350 years later, Brent's trailblazing was recognized in 1991 when the American Bar Association's Commission on Women in the Procession established the "Margaret Brent Women Lawyers of Achievement Award" to honor women lawyers who have excelled in their field.
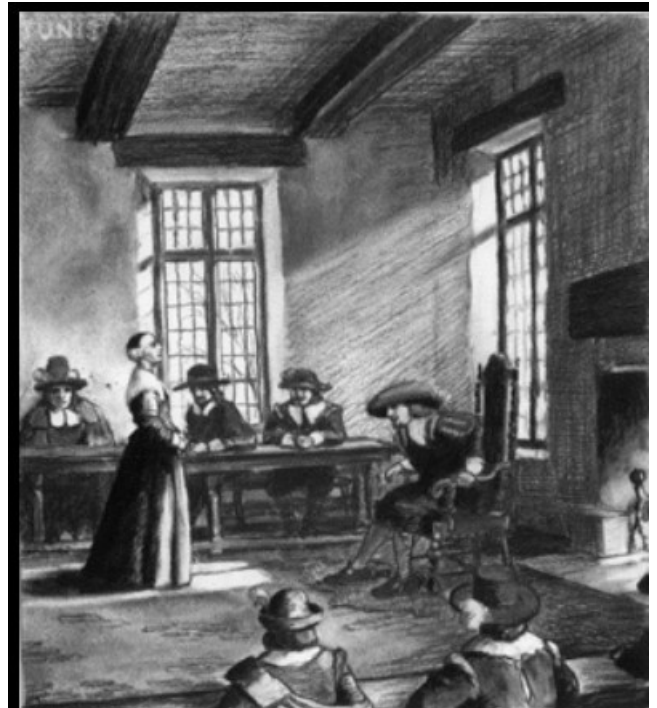
Margaret Brent was the first woman to practice law in the colonies and the first woman to petition for the right to vote in the new land.

Three years after the arrival of the first colonists and the founding of St. Mary's City, St. Mary's County was established in 1637. As the colony prospered and grew, new counties were drawn and named. Two were named in honor of Lord Baltimore Charles Calvert. In 1654, Calvert County was established and called Patuxent County until 1658. Charles County was established in 1658 (earlier boundaries were set in 1650). Prince George's County was created in 1696 from part of Charles and Calvert counties and named for Prince George of Denmark. Following the Revolutionary War, Maryland became the seventh state in the United States of America on April 28, 1788.

As European colonists sought to create a social structure for their new world, they were equally focused on earning a living. For this, they turned to the land and water that produced in abundance as the land was ideal for growing tobacco and the water teemed with sea creatures, most notably, oysters, which could be harvested. These industries became the foundation of Southern Maryland's economy for almost 400 years.

Although tobacco carried deep spiritual significance for the Piscataway who used it in ceremonies honoring their Creator, the colonists saw it as a commodity that could create great wealth. Over four centuries, Southern Maryland's dependence on tobacco had far-reaching impacts on the region. Through the mid-19th century, tobacco created wealth for some while also increasing a system of enslavement of Africans to work the labor-intensive crop. Tobacco was of such paramount economic importance that the labor it demanded created the societal structure of the region. A small but wealthy planter class topped a power hierarchy in which first indentured servants from England and later enslaved Africans made up the labor force. The system of enslavement created a cultural legacy felt across centuries as African Americans sought their full rights as citizens following the Civil War and through the Civil Rights Movement of the mid-20th century.

Tobacco ceased to be Southern Maryland's cash crop with the federal government's buy-out program in the early 21st century, but the tangible legacy of plantation homes and tobacco barns remain. In 2004, for the first and only time, the National Trust for Historic Preservation included a group of barns – the tobacco barns of Southern Maryland - on its annual "11 Most Endangered Places" list in recognition of their importance to the region's cultural landscape and to the national story of tobacco.

Southern Maryland's sea-based commerce created a maritime culture that continues into the 21st century. Beginning with the first colonists who waded into the shallow waters at the shoreline to collect oysters, gathering food from the sea soon became a commercial venture. Those who made their living harvesting seafood came to be known as watermen, a name and a tradition that continues to the present. The most significant tangible legacy from maritime commerce was the new styles of boats invented in Southern Maryland including the Chesapeake Bay bugeye, a large sailing canoe used for oystering, and single-masted skipjacks which began to be used at the end of the 19th century. In the 21st century, the skipjack is the last working boat under sail in the United States and was named Maryland's State Boat in 1985. The Maryland General Assembly noted: "Nothing better represents the way of life of Maryland watermen than the historic Chesapeake boat known as the Skipjack . . ."

Southern Maryland's political alliances, commerce-based self-interest, and strategic location resulted in the region's involvement in every war in the nation's history.

As colonial ties to England weakened in the late 18th century and opposition to taxation grew, Maryland joined the other 12 colonies in moving toward the American Revolution. Southern Maryland contributed many leaders in the new nation's birth including Thomas Stone, one of four signers of the Declaration of Independence from Maryland; Daniel Carroll, one of five men to sign both the Articles of Confederation and the Constitution of the United States; and Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer, who served in the Continental Congress and signed the Constitution. On the battlefield, General William Smallwood led five companies, called the Maryland 400, in the first major battle of the war in New York.

During the 19th century, Southern Maryland engaged in two wars – the first intended to maintain the independence of the fledgling United States and the second intended to tear the country into two nations. The War of 1812 brought numerous battles to Southern Maryland, with one of the most significant being the Battle of St. Leonard's Creek and the creation of the Chesapeake Bay Flotilla. It was in Southern Maryland that the British landed on their way to burn the President's House and U.S. Capitol in Washington City. By the onset of the Civil War, the sympathies of white Southern Marylanders lay firmly with the Confederacy due to their dependence on the system of slavery. Although Maryland did not secede from the Union, the state remained divided between Union and Confederate loyalties throughout the war.

For enslaved African Americans toiling on Southern Maryland's farms, all three wars created opportunities for freedom by aligning with the British during the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812 and escaping to serve in the Union Army during the Civil War.

Southern Maryland was again engaged in wars in the 20th century, becoming a major location for the U.S. Navy in World War I and World War II. The U.S. Navy arrived in 1890, establishing a naval gun testing facility at Indian Head in Charles County. By 1900, the Naval Proving Ground had expanded to include a powder making plant, access roads, a wharf, weapons facilities, and officers' quarters. When the United States entered World War I in 1917, production increased, and the surrounding area grew with new housing, hotels, schools, and businesses. World War II ushered in an even larger presence for the Navy with the Patuxent River Naval Air Base which consolidated the nation's air testing facilities. Today known as Naval Air Station Patuxent River (NAS Pax River), the base continues to serve an important role in defending the nation and is also a major economic driver in Southern Maryland, employing more than 17,000 people.

Naval Air Station Patuxent River serves an important role in defending the nation.

Almost 90 astronauts attended the U.S. Naval Test Pilot School prior to joining the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). Among the luminaries was Alan Shephard Jr. who participated in high-altitude flight tests when he attended the school in 1950. He later returned to Patuxent as a test pilot and instructor. Shephard was one of the first group of astronauts named by NASA in 1959. In 1961, he piloted the Freedom 7, becoming the first American to journey into space. Also in the nation's first group of astronauts was John Glenn, a decorated World War II and Korean War fighter pilot. Trained as a test pilot at the U.S. Naval Test Pilot School in 1954, Glenn made the first supersonic transcontinental flight in 1957. In 1962, Glenn became the first American to orbit the Earth. Glenn served as U.S. Senator from Ohio from 1974-1999. In 1969, Apollo 12, the second mission to land on the moon, was manned by the first all-Navy and all U.S. Naval Test Pilot School graduates crew of Commander Charles "Pete" Conrad, Lunar Module Pilot Alan Bean, and Command Module Pilot Richard Gordon.

NASA announced its first group of astronauts to include women in 1978. (In the early 1960s, a group of women known as the "Mercury 13" were selected for astronaut training, but none had the opportunity to fly in space.) Although none of the first group trained as test pilots, as the Navy and Air Force opened opportunities for women to become pilots, eventually six women who were selected as astronauts attended the U.S. Naval Test Pilot School including Nicole Aunapu Mann, a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Marine Corps who flew combat missions in Iraq before joining NASA's 21st astronaut class in 2013. Mann led a team of astronauts to develop the Orion spacecraft, Space Launch System, and Exploration Ground Systems. She was then assigned for the crew flight test of Boeing's Starliner spacecraft with a mission to the International Space Station planned for 2021.

As the 20th century dawned, changes in transportation transformed Southern Maryland's economy once again – this time into a destination for tourists. Steamboat, excursion boats and ferries had already spurred the development of hotels and restaurants along the shoreline in the 19th century. By 1908, Maryland had joined the nation's Good Roads movement and appropriated $5 million to improve the state's roads. By the 1940s, three major highways had been constructed through Southern Maryland – U.S. Route 301, Maryland 4, and Maryland 5.

In 1927, Robert Crain Highway/MD3 opened, traveling from Glen Burnie in Prince George's County south to Charles County, the first major road constructed in an entirely new location by the State Roads Commission. The road later became part of U.S. Route 301 which runs from Delaware to Virginia. (Signage continues to identify the road as Crain Highway in Prince George's County.) Maryland State Route 416 was constructed from Upper Marlboro in Prince George's County to Sunderland in the 1920s, connecting Washington D.C. with tourist resorts in Calvert County. The highway later became part of Maryland 4. Originally the Washington and Marlborough Turnpike, the route traveled from Washington D.C. to shoreline resorts in Anne Arundel County. One of the original state roads, Maryland 4 was paved in 1910. Over the next century, the route was adjusted several times, incorporating other roads, and eventually reaching the southern tip of Calvert County. Maryland 5 became another major route through Southern Maryland, starting in 1927 when it was designated to travel from Point Lookout in St. Mary's County north through Charles and Prince George's counties to Washington D.C.

With new highways providing convenient access from Washington D.C. into Southern Maryland – particularly Prince George's County – more people began to move into the area. By the 1920s, 75 percent of the people living in the suburban corridor in the northern part of the county worked in the nation's capital. Prince George's County saw tremendous growth in only a few decades, from 26,000 in 1890 to 60,000 in 1930. To manage this growth, the Maryland National Capital Parks and Planning Commission (MNCPPC) was established in 1927 for Prince George's County and Montgomery County (which also borders Washington D.C.) With an original mandate to conduct long-range planning and park acquisition and development, MNCPPC grew to manage the county's parks and multiple facilities including historic sites, to conduct research and publish historic context reports, and to develop community, historic preservation, and transportation plans.

In the 21st century, the southern part of Prince George's County included in the proposed Southern Maryland NHA boundary is defined as the "rural tier" in the county's general plan, which focuses on maintaining the area's rural character. MNCPPC owns and manages many of the resources included in the Southern Maryland NHA study boundaries including Darnell's Chance House Museum, Patuxent Rural Life Museums, and Mount Calvert Historical and Archaeological Park in Upper Marlboro, and Surratt House Museum in Clinton. Communities within southern Prince George's County to be included in the NHA boundary include Upper Marlboro, Brandywine, Aquasco, Eagle Harbor, Cedar Haven, Clinton, Fort Washington, and Accokeek. The unincorporated communities of Fort Washington and Friendly were included in a "top 5" list of affluent African American communities in the United States in 2015.

In the early 20th century, as communities along Southern Maryland's shoreline operated restaurants, hotels, and attractions that were open only to white tourists, two resort communities were developed for African Americans on the Patuxent River in southern Prince George's County. Eagle Harbor recruited African American tourists to "Paradise on the Patuxent." The community featured small cottages, piers, bathhouses, a merry-go-round, park, hotels, and restaurants. Cedar Haven was established nearby and featured small houses and a hotel which hosted conferences and other events.

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**BOATING   BATHING   FISHING
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500 PLOTS at 1 CENT A FOOT

An advertisement in the Washington Tribune for a summer resort for African Americans.

SLOT MACHINE PLAYERS—Mother and daughter feed coins into slot machines in a drugstore in Leonardtown, St. Marys county.

In 1949, U.S. Route 301 gained a nickname, Slot Machine Alley, and Southern Maryland got an influx of tourists, when slot machines were legalized in Maryland. (Slot machines are coin-operated gambling machines. Coins inserted in the machine generate symbols which can result in cash winnings.) For almost 20 years, there were only five places in the country where slot machines were legal: Nevada and the Maryland counties of Charles, St. Mary's, Calvert, and Anne Arundel. During these years, approximately 5,000 slot machines were operated in nightclubs, bars, tourist courts, laundromats, hardware stores, gas stations, barbershops, and grocery stores. Tourists from New York and New England who were traveling south stopped to play the machines in the Wigwam, the Desert Inn, the Waldorf Hotel, and other clubs.

Slot machines were found throughout Southern Maryland from the late 1940s until the 1960s when they were outlawed.

In 1963, the Maryland General Assembly voted to outlaw slot machines, with a deadline of 1968 to remove all machines from the state, sparking an outcry from community leaders about the negative impact on Southern Maryland's economy. Multiple initiatives emerged as a result, including road construction projects, seeking new European markets for tobacco, and transitioning St. Mary's Seminary into St. Mary's College, a four-year liberal arts college. Projects in support of tourism development included funding the reconstruction of Port Tobacco's historic courthouse, preserving the shoreline at St. Clement's Island, and expanding several state parks.

The state also created the St. Mary's City Commission to begin reconstruction of the original town to generate tourism. In 1916, the Maryland General Assembly authorized March 25 as Maryland Day, a legal holiday. Ceremonies are held at Historic St. Mary's City and other communities to commemorate the arrival of the first colonists in 1634. On Maryland Day in 2021, officials announced that archaeologists had located the remains of the original settlement site after a search of more than nine decades. St. Mary's Fort was built in 1634 by the first English colonists. The discovery was one of many remarkable archaeological finds at the site in recent years including, the discovery in 1990 of three lead-lined coffins containing the remains of Maryland colonial governor Philip Calvert (d. 1683), his first wife, Anne, (d. 1678 or 1679) and Calvert's six-month-old son, most likely with his second wife.

A pivotal change in Southern Maryland's economic development focus also emerged in 1964 – formation of the Tri-County Committee for Community Action, known today at the Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland, representing Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary's counties. The state of Maryland authorized the agency's role "to coordinate plans and projects for the development of human and economic resources in the Southern Maryland region" and provided grants to assist in recruiting industry. In the 21st century, the Tri-County Council continues to provide leadership for economic development in areas including transportation planning, agriculture, and workforce development. The state-certified Southern Maryland Heritage Area is housed within the Tri-County Council and encompasses Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary's counties.

In recent years, federal recognition of the places and events in Southern Maryland that have impacted the nation's history has come from Congress, several federal agencies, and the Office of the President. Three federally recognized trails are located in Southern Maryland. The Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail, designated by President George W. Bush in 2006 and administered by the National Park Service, is the nation's first water-based national trail and traces the places and events of the 1608 expedition. The Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail, authorized by Congress in 2008, leads visitors to sites and stories of the War of 1812 over 300 miles through Maryland, Virginia, and Washington D.C. The Religious Freedom National Scenic Byway, the first and only nationally recognized byway focused on stories of religious heritage and freedom, was designated by the Federal Highway Administration in 2009. The byway's programs and promotions are managed by the Southern Maryland Heritage Area.

In 2019, Mallows Bay-Potomac River National Marine Sanctuary was designated by the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) as the first marine sanctuary in the Chesapeake Bay. The bay holds the largest and most varied collection of historic shipwrecks in the Western Hemisphere and is renowned for the World War I steamships, known as the Ghost Fleet.

In addition to many sites listed in the National Register of Historic Place, seven National Historic Landmarks are located in the region including the Thomas Stone National Historic Site near Port Tobacco, administered by the National Park Service; Poplar Hill on His Lordship's Kindness near Clinton; the Accokeek Creek Site, an indigenous village archaeological site in Prince George's County; the J.C. Lore Oyster House and the William B. Tennison bugeye boat in Solomons; St. Mary's City Historic District; and Sotterley Plantation in St. Mary's County.

Mario Harley offers a Piscataway blessing at the dedication ceremonies for Mallows Bay-Potomac River National Marine Sanctuary.

Today, a visitor traveling through Southern Maryland can quickly begin to experience the region's history, cultures, and economies. The built environment – tobacco barns, churches, lighthouses, plantations, historic commercial and residential districts, bugeyes and skipjacks (unique boats created in Southern Maryland for use in the Chesapeake), set in a stunning natural landscape where many sites are sacred to the Piscataway - reflect more than four centuries of life here. The stories of the built environment come to life at many places throughout Southern Maryland as stories of the past are shared and cultural traditions continue to thrive. Many local, state, and federal partners continue to build on the intentions of those who went before - from the Indigenous people who revered land and water as sacred, to the colonists determined to make their home in a new world, to African Americans who survived being enslaved and emerged to demand the rights of full citizenship. Today's partners seek to honor the stories and places of these predecessors, ensuring that Southern Maryland continues to be recognized as a special place with a unique role in our nation's past, present, and future.

Chapter 3
Statement of National Importance, Interpretive Themes, Historic Context, Resources, and Boundary

Introduction

A primary goal of this feasibility study is to consider the special character of Southern Maryland through the events, past and present, that contribute to the nation's stories and to confirm the historic, natural, and cultural resources and intangible living traditions that can tell the stories which are found here.

The study process was enhanced by the existence of a state-certified Southern Maryland Heritage Area which is the centerpiece of the proposed NHA boundary. Leadership by the state heritage area has resulted in interpretive plans, support for preservation of resources, and creation of a strong network of partners. This foundation provided the basis for working collaboratively with a panel of subject matter experts and a steering committee and conducting public outreach to develop a Statement of National Significance and five interpretive themes that reflect the region's nationally important stories, to identify resources, and to define the boundary for the proposed NHA.

Identifying Stories and Resources

The *National Heritage Area Feasibility Study Guidelines* (National Park Service, 2019) notes that National Heritage Areas are "*regions that have contributed in substantial ways to our national heritage.*" The guidelines direct the study team to assemble and analyze historical information to define the study area's contributions to the national story and to develop interpretive themes as the "*organizing framework*" that are "*bridges to increased public understanding of the importance of the region and its theme-related resources.*"

This directive was accomplished through a multi-step process that began with the formation of a steering committee which included subject matter experts and holding three public meetings in the fall of 2020. Meetings focused on reviewing themes developed for the SMHA as the basis for identifying nationally significant stories and resources. Additionally, numerous plans for nationally significant resources were reviewed including the Star Spangled Banner National Historic Trail Comprehensive Management Plan, Captain John Smith National Historic Trail Comprehensive Management Plan, Religious Freedom National Scenic Byway Corridor Management Plan, Mallow's Bay-Potomac River National Marine Sanctuary Management Plan, National Register of Historic Places nominations for many properties, and multiple documents researched and written by subject matter experts in the region. (All resource materials are listed in the bibliography.) The proposed Statement of National Importance and five interpretive themes were presented in two public meetings in the spring of 2021 and were reviewed by the steering committee and additional subject matter experts including interpretive planners.

In accordance with the guidelines, the study team developed an inventory of historic, cultural, and natural resources to recognize the special places that underpin the region's important stories. (See Chapter 5 for details on the resource inventory and Appendix IV for the inventory.) The resource inventory demonstrates the three purposes specified in the guidelines:
1) assessing whether the region is a nationally distinctive landscape (criterion 1);
2) assessing the presence of resources connected to the identified themes which retain integrity for interpretation (criterion 5); and
3) to identify opportunities for conservation, recreation, and education (criteria 3 &4).

This chapter presents the Statement of National Importance and five interpretive themes including a thematic statement and historic context and a summary of resources for each theme. The chapter concludes with a description of and justification for the proposed NHA geographic boundary.

Greenwell State Park, St. Mary's County

Statement of National Importance

The arrival of the first English colonists in 1634 to a land that was already occupied by Indigenous people heralded the beginning of experimentation, engagement, struggle, and progress with complex and interwoven notions of cultural dominance, political rights, race, religion, commerce, environmental impact, and military conquest.

From these beginnings, the inherent struggle to widen the circle of rights, inclusion and opportunity is reflected in each era of Southern Maryland's history. Southern Maryland is a land of contrasts and contradictions. It is where religious freedom was codified into law for the first time in the western world and one's choice of religion did not disqualify participation in local government. It is where colonists forged new laws and new rights, but it is also where Indigenous people lost their rights and their homes, and where Africans were brought to these shores in chains without the basic rights of humanity.

The region's geography set the stage for this ongoing story as history played out on the Chesapeake Bay landscape, where water touched all aspects of life. The waterways that helped sustain the Indigenous Piscataway are the same ones that carried British military forces to these shores in the War of 1812 and subsequently positioned the region for strategic military importance to the United States centuries later.

The landscape and waterways that offered prosperity to many offered only enslavement to Africans captured and brought to these shores. Enslaved and indentured people worked these fertile lands, and trade flourished.

Over time, a unique maritime culture emerged with new boats called skipjacks and a new name – watermen – coined for those who make their living harvesting seafood from the Chesapeake Bay, an economy that continues to the present.

The centrality of tobacco, not only as a crop but a lifestyle, had far-reaching consequences in the 18th, 19th, 20th, and 21st centuries as it became the region's economic foundation before eventually becoming part of the national movement to end its growth and use.

The upward arc of inclusion is apparent in the determination of formerly enslaved African Americans to obtain an education and work toward full citizenship after the Civil War, and in the re-emergence of the Piscataway as an officially recognized tribe by the State of Maryland in the 21st century.

Interpretive Themes

Theme 1 - Piscataway People: The Land is Who We Are

For thousands of years, Indigenous people called Piscataway have lived on the lands that now comprise Southern Maryland. Today, many Piscataway still live in Southern Maryland, the descendants of the people whose homeland is now shared with many others. Modern Piscataway have kept their culture alive, passing their history and tribal customs on to their children across generations. The Piscataway People remain a vibrant part of Maryland and the Mid-Atlantic region.

This statement from the introduction of *Through Piscataway Eyes: Master Plan* captures the legacy of the Piscataway in Southern Maryland and the continued importance of this homeland to Piscataway culture and traditions. The master plan, completed in 2016, outlines an interpretive framework including themes, story topics, places throughout the region where stories can be told, and an implementation plan. Development of the plan was guided by a steering committee with representatives from the National Park Service, Piscataway Conoy Tribe, Piscataway Indian Nation, Maryland Heritage Areas Authority, Maryland Historical Trust, Maryland Indian Tourism Association and Southern Maryland Heritage Area.

Creation and implementation of the master plan coincides with recent archaeological discoveries of Piscataway sites, formal State of Maryland recognition of the Piscataway, formation of many new partnerships to honor Piscataway history and tell their stories, and the intent of Maryland's Congressional leaders to designate a National Heritage Area. These actions reflect the significance of the story of the Piscataway people, past and present.

Who are the Piscataway?

Southern Maryland's history of Native American occupation spans over 12,000 years. Paleo-Indians were first to migrate to the region as they followed bison, caribou, and mammoth. In the centuries that followed, Native Americans in the Chesapeake region developed agriculture, permanent year-round settlements, and complex social structures. Tribes interacted with other regional populations in trade and in conflict, and a blending of Native American cultures evolved within the Chesapeake area.

According to an account given in 1660 to colonial Maryland's Governor Philip Calvert, by that time there had been 13 generations of leaders of the Piscataway people. The account begins with the arrival of a leader from the Eastern Shore who united the Indigenous groups, which historians calculate occurred between 1270 and 1400 AD. Some of the tribes aligned under the Piscataway Confederacy were the Aquascake, Choptico, Matapoin, Mattawoman, Nanjemoy, Patapscco, and Patuxent.

From the beginning, the Piscataway's identity and culture was closely aligned with the land and water and the resources each provided. The name *Piscataway* is roughly translated as "where the waters meet," reflecting the association with the Potomac River.

By the early 1600s, there were as many as 8,000 people in the tidewater region, loosely grouped into three major chiefdoms. By the early 17th century, the Piscataway were the largest and most powerful tribal nation in the lands between the Chesapeake Bay and Potomac River, with various estimates of population reaching as high as 7,000. Piscataway territory included present-day Charles, Prince George's and St. Mary's counties, extended north into Baltimore County and west to the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains.

The Piscataway's ancient capital of Moyaone was located in present-day Prince George's County. In the 1680s, the capital was relocated to Zekiah Manor in present-day Charles County. The 8,800-acre property belonged to Charles Calvert, the third Lord Baltimore, who offered it as a place where the Piscataway could escape continual attacks from the Susquehannok and other northern Indian groups known as the Five Nations Iroquois. The Piscataway built a fortified settlement at Zekiah Manor but it did not provide the needed protection as they endured repeated attacks until a peace treaty was reached in 1685.

In the spring of 2011, a team of researchers from St. Mary's College of Maryland and the College of Southern Maryland discovered the location of Zekiah Fort, which had been sought by archaeologists since the 1930s. Given the rich assemblage of artifacts found by archaeologists, it is possible that the site represents the residence of the Piscataway tayac (chief) and his family.

Piscataway history reflects change from a hunting-and-gathering society towards more permanent villages, as agriculture became increasingly important. Most Piscataway tribes lived in temporary villages near a river or spring, where soils were fertile, and wetlands provided a variety of wild foodstuffs. As men engaged in hunting and fishing, women cultivated crops of corn, squash, and beans. When yields fell, fields were left to revert to forest and new fields were cleared, periodically moving villages in the process. Early accounts note the abundance of food: deer, raccoon, fox, skunk, lynx, elk, bear, wolf, duck, turkey, clams, oysters, a variety of fish and birds, fruits including strawberries, plums, raspberries, mulberries, as well as acorns, walnuts, and herbs. Some foods were also noted for medicinal use.

Piscataway Culture: Language and Beliefs

Much of what is known about early Piscataway language and beliefs comes from accounts of encounters with Europeans in the 17th century. Of particular importance are the chronicles of Father Andrew White, a Jesuit missionary, who arrived in 1634 with a group of English colonists. In his reports, White describes his impressions of the Piscataway, cautioning that he does not know the language. White sought to understand the Piscataway language, which is part of the Algonquian family of languages that reached from the southeast up to what is now Canada, across to the Great Lakes to some parts of the Great Plains and to what is now California. Considered a "sleeping" language today, its legacy is found in Southern Maryland place names which have their origins in Algonquin. Examples include the Patuxent River, translated as "water running over loose stones" and Potomac River, translated to "river of swans."

Francis Gray, Tribal Chair of the Piscataway Conoy, chats with a re-enactor of Father Andrew White.

Despite his stated lack of confidence in his interpreter's translation, White understood Piscataway beliefs to include "one God of Heaven" (or "sky" in other translations) as well as an evil spirit called "Ochre" and reverence for corn and fire.

An anonymous account from 1635 concurs, stating that the Piscataway acknowledged a god who was the giver of good things. The writer also observes the Piscataway sacrificed as an offering the first yields of their corn harvest, as well as the first game hunted and fish caught. He refers to a ceremony performed by an "ancient man" who burned part of the sacrifice, with those gathered eating the remainder.

In addition to White, other priests arrived and within a few years, as they became more familiar with the language, began determined efforts to convert the Piscataway to Christianity. White's efforts resulted in what today is the primary example of written Piscataway language – a translated Bible. A report from 1639 noted "all the priests are in places far distant…so they expect to obtain an earlier acquaintance with the barbarian language and propagate more widely the sacred faith of the gospel."

The priests would have success in the years to come, dramatically influencing the beliefs and culture of the Piscataway. By 1640, White had converted and baptized the tayac (Kittamaquund), his wife and children. The tayac and his wife had a Christian wedding, began wearing European clothing, changed their names to Charles and Mary, and sent their daughter to be educated by English colonists.

Governing System

Although leaders of the Piscataway were men, selection traditionally followed matrilineal family lines. Each village had a werowance, or leader. A council of advisors was called a wisoes. Village chiefs were directed by tribal chiefs and tribal chiefs by paramount chiefs, called tayacs, who ruled the chiefdom. Smaller Piscataway bands—including the Chaptico, Moyaone, Nanjemoy and Potapoco—allied themselves under the rule of a werowance for the purposes of defense and trade. The werowance appointed leaders to the various villages and settlements within the tribe. Some accounts also reference the cockoroose, a senior warrior and advisor.

In 1666, a treaty was signed with the intent of clarifying the relationship between the Piscataway, other Indigenous groups, and the English colonists. In reality, the treaty's 14 articles, although making clear that the Piscataway were dominant among other groups, made it equally clear that the Piscataway were now under the authority of the English governor and subject to English law. Additionally, the treaty required boundaries for where the Piscataway could live, starting the process of creating what would come to be called reservations.

Struggle for Land and Community

Although Lord Baltimore offered land and provisions for the Piscataway to construct Zekiah Fort in the late 17th century, the intent to take over the land moved to the forefront as Maryland transitioned from proprietary to royal rule, and the population of colonists continued to grow. In 1692, the Piscataway registered a protest over encroachments on their land. Five years later, the situation had only worsened as colonists destroyed the Piscataway agricultural fields.

In 1695, Governor Francis Nicholson demonstrated the royal government's lack of interest in a relationship with the Piscataway by refusing the tayac's traditional gifts. He also advised the Maryland Council to seize Piscataway lands to "occasion a greater quantity of tobacco to be made." The colonial government's disregard for treaties, and the introduction of diseases to which the Piscataway had no immunity, had a devastating impact, reducing their population from more than 8,000 in 1600 to only 300 people by 1700, as many died, and many migrated to other areas.

The American Revolution brought further displacement as Piscataway villages were devastated, resulting in various groups migrating to Pennsylvania, Michigan, North Carolina, and Canada. Those who migrated to Pennsylvania found a more hospitable environment and protection by the Iroquois, who called the Piscataway the Conoy, a name they eventually incorporated.

Fragile and Fractured

The losses were not only tangible – the loss of land – but the loss of intangible culture and identity as a people. Among the losses was the oral tradition of handing down the stories of the Piscataway from one generation to the next. Marriage records from the late 18th century and the 19th century show marriages between Piscataway and English/Americans and adoption of English surnames. As the years went by, they were no longer recognized as Native Americans by the federal government, who instead listed the Piscataway as "mulatto" or "Negro" in census records. Maryland marriage records from the 19th century list couples as "colored" or "free people of color."

In 1889, Smithsonian Institution ethnographer James Mooney decided to investigate the Piscataway – past and present – in Maryland. Mooney sent an inquiry to physicians along the Eastern Seaboard, asking for local place names of Indian origin; names and addresses of people of "pure or mixed Indian blood;" any known archaeological resources; and contacts of people who could provide additional information. Forty-seven responses came from Maryland with the primary response "there are none." However, there were several families identified as Piscataway in Upper Marlboro and Brandywine. Mooney documented responses that various families "may be" or are "supposed to be" Indian. Overall, Mooney's research showed that not only had society at large forgotten the Piscataway, the descendants themselves did not know about their heritage. Mooney's interest continued, and in 1914 he visited Prince George's and Charles counties and met with people he described as a "blend of races, Indian, Negro, and White…they probably represent descendants of the Piscataway tribe…"

"Rediscovering" the Piscataway

The arrival of the 20th century saw the gradual start and increasing interest among scholars to study Native American history. From the late 1920s through the 1970s, some two dozen studies of Indians of the eastern U.S. including the Piscataway, were published by at least 15 scholars. The studies, however, often reflected a Euro-centric view, dismissing those of "mixed blood" as not "real Indians."

A 1969 National Park Service study on the Piscataway begins by informing the reader: "…the fifteen men on Captain John Smith's expedition out of Jamestown became the unexpected *discoverers* (emphasis added) of the Potomac River on the 16th of June 1608." This declaration of discovery is followed by Captain Smith's report that they encountered people who already lived there: "hostile Indians" and "Indians (who) welcomed the expedition."

In the early 1970s, the Piscataway began a movement to reclaim their story and identity and to seek their rights and recognition. The initiative likely had been building for many years, influenced by the Civil Rights era of the 1950s and 1960s, the increasing Pan-Indian movement across the nation, and public interest in the history of Native Americans.

In Southern Maryland, individuals and groups simultaneously began the process of seeking official tribal recognition by the state of Maryland. Taking a leading role in the effort were two groups, the Piscataway-Conoy Federation and Sub-tribes, and the Piscataway Indian Nation. These groups invested many years working with the Maryland Commission on Indian Affairs and assembling written records and information from oral histories to document the Piscataway, past and present, in Maryland.

The Maryland General Assembly enacted a law creating a process for recognition. The law required that a tribe must provide proof of being a continuous American Indian community from 1790 to the present and Indigenous to the state. The process was aided by the records of the Catholic church whose connection to the Piscataway traced to the first colonists in the 17th century and continued to have Piscataway members.

In January 2012, then-Governor Martin O'Malley signed executive orders officially recognizing the Piscataway Conoy Tribe and the Piscataway Indian Nation in Southern Maryland. The executive order recognized there were approximately 58,000 people with American Indian heritage living in Maryland. The order opened the opportunity for state and federal funding for education, minority business contracting, housing, public health, and consultation for reburial of Native American remains in Maryland.

We Are Still Here!

Achieving state recognition was one step in a multi-faceted approach for present-day Piscataway people to honor their ancestors, to preserve customs and traditions, and to record, document, protect, and raise awareness about many places in Southern Maryland where the Piscataway story can be told.

The Piscataway have developed a partnership with Maryland National Capital Park and Planning that allows use of Merkle Wildlife Sanctuary and Chapel Point State Park for ceremonies and educational programs as both sites have deep cultural significance.

Young people are embracing their Piscataway heritage. In 2019, the Piscataway Conoy Tribal Council joined the Georgetown University Native American Student Council to develop a petition calling for creation of an Indigenous studies program, an effort to hire Indigenous faculty, and "formal university acknowledgement of Piscataway land."

The Piscataway are also active in environmental issues that impact their homelands. For example, in 2019, the Piscataway Conoy Tribe successfully opposed plans by the Maryland Department of Environment to grant approval for construction of a solar farm in Charles County, citing a devastating environmental impact to sacred ancestral land.

**Photo:
Jay Baker**

Resources

Following official state recognition of the Piscataway, in 2013 the Maryland General Assembly appropriated funds for archaeological fieldwork at the newly discovered site of **Zekiah Fort** and to support the master interpretive plan, *Through Piscataway Eyes.* The master interpretive plan notes that, with funding from a variety of sources, Charles County acquired the 100-acre site of Zekiah Fort as a property to be set aside for conservation, and a public-private partnership formed to protect the site.

The themes and story topics identified in the master plan are the foundation of five focus areas for interpretation. The centerpiece of an interpretive experience would be **The Piscataway Indian Center**. This new tribal facility would have four functions:

- Serve as the Piscataway government headquarters;
- Introduce visitors to the Piscataway story through interpretive exhibits, programs, and events;
- House a repository for Piscataway archives and museum collections;
- Include a community center for meetings, events, educational programs, etc.

Anchor (gateways), satellites (sites that include stories of the Piscataway with other historical events and stories), and secondary places (private or public lands accessible for small tours guided by archaeologists) are identified within each interpretive focus area. Sites recommended for phase one implementation include five anchor sites and 12 satellite sites.

Anchor sites include **Chapel Point State Park** which has sites from the Early Archaic to Late Woodland era (6000 BC – AD 1600) as well as a 19th century cemetery. The location of **Merkle Wildlife Sanctuary** was continuously used by Native people since at least the Late Archaic period (3500-1000 BC) through Late Woodland period (900-1600 AD) and was probably occupied into the 17th century. Through a partnership with the Piscataway Tribe, plans call for building Piscataway structures and developing interpretation. **Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum** is a state-owned site, managed by the Maryland Historical Trust, and includes Woodland Indian Village and artifact exhibits. **St. Clement's Island Park and Museum** features interpretive exhibits and three archaeological sites dating to the Woodland period (1000 BC-1600 AD) and possibly contact period(s). **Piscataway Park** is an outdoor colonial living history museum owned by the National Park Service and managed by the Accokeek Foundation. The park's shoreline and wetlands are conserved to reflect what the land would have looked like when the Piscataway people inhabited the land prior to European settlement. An oral history project was used to develop a traveling exhibit. Also included at the park is a satellite site, **Moyaone Sacred Site**, the site of the largest Piscataway village at the time of the arrival of Europeans.

Additional satellite sites included in phase one are: **Zekiah Fort** and **Moyaone Sacred Site** (discussed above). **Chapman State Park** has more than 80 sites representing a continuum of use for 8,000 years including Late Archaic (3000-1000 BC), Late Woodland (900-1600 AD), and contact period. **St. Ignatius Church at Chapel Point** is the site of a monument to St. Kateri Tekakwitha—an Algonquin Mohawk laywoman, recognized as the first American Indian Saint by the Catholic Church. **Mount Calvert Historical and Archaeological Park** is the site of Prince George's County's first county seat in 1696. Archaeologists have found evidence of more than 8,000 years of human culture**. Patuxent River Park's** attractions include an American Indian Village that replicates an Eastern Woodland village (1000-300 BC). **Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary** at the Calvert County/Ann Arundel County line and includes sites ranging from Archaic (6000-1000 BC) through Woodland (1000 BC-1600 AD). There are at least 60 sites in this area of the mid-Patuxent River that span more than 10,000 years of human history and include Native villages and camps, colonial wharves and towns, antebellum plantation houses and slave quarters, along with 19th and 20th century shipwrecks and railroad trestles. **Calvert Marine Museum's** programming focuses on how the Native people used the land. The museum has an interpretive exhibit "People of the Patuxent" and a guided museum tour program titled "John Smith and the Native Peoples of the Patuxent." Decades of research and ongoing archaeological excavations at **Historic St. Mary's City** provide the foundation of exhibits and re-created structures including a Woodland Indian hamlet and school programs for students and visitors. **Newtowne Neck State Park's** sites represent the Archaic period (beginning ca. 6000 BC) into the present and include a large base camp used from the Late Archaic through the Late Woodland, where there is evidence for a substantial Late Woodland village. Archaeological sites **Biscoe Gray Heritage Farm Park** include a Middle and Late Woodland hamlet (ca. 500 - 1650+ AD) that was likely used as a hunting and fishing camp. There is also an early colonial site (ca. 1700-1775) that is possibly associated with a French Huguenot family. Later sites on the property include two houses associated with an African American farming family.

St. Ignatius Church—Chapel Point: Tribal members gather at the dedication of a statue of St. Kateri Tekakwitha, an Algonquin-Mohawk laywoman, recognized as the first American Indian saint by the Catholic church.

Theme 2: Sea Change: Time and Tide Shape Land and Life

Water is the source of Southern Maryland's distinct maritime culture as the region became a center of fishing, crabbing and oyster production, and culinary seafood specialties emerged. Water has shaped land and life in Southern Maryland for millennia Water first supported a place for life more than 10 million years ago when a shallow ocean teeming with life covered this land. Waterways were so important to Indigenous peoples that their name – Piscataway – means "where the waters meet." Water provided the avenue for change with the arrival and settlement of Europeans in the 17th century, both indentured and free, and the unwilling arrival of enslaved Africans. Water made Southern Maryland a harbor for ships from the Revolutionary War through World War II. Southern Maryland's aquaculture is celebrated and commemorated today with many historic sites, museums, tours, festivals, and events. Today, thousands of miles of shoreline continue to be important for recreation and business as well as the focus of environmental restoration and conservation.

Southern Maryland is a peninsula bordered on the west by the Potomac River and the Chesapeake Bay on the east. The Patuxent River, the largest river within the state's boundary, flows for approximately 110 miles from the Chesapeake Bay between Calvert and Anne Arundel counties to the east and St. Mary's, Charles, and Prince George's counties to the west.

Thousands of fossils provide evidence of sea creatures who lived millions of years ago when the land that would become Southern Maryland was covered by water. Beginning about 10,000 years ago and continuing for several thousand years, melting glaciers flooded the Susquehanna River valley, creating what is now the Chesapeake Bay. Within 4,000-5,000 years, the Potomac and Patuxent rivers began to take their current shapes. The rising sea level created rich new swamp and marsh environments, and warming temperatures encouraged the forest growth.

Waterways are a unique regional characteristic of Southern Maryland and sustain many of the region's significant resources. Along the coastline, major tributaries shape barrier islands and form small bays. Inland smaller tributaries meander through rolling hills and farmlands creating forested wetlands and numerous marshes that provide habitats for waterfowl and wildlife.

First Historical Records

An arrival by water resulted in the first written historical records of Southern Maryland. In 1608, English explorer Captain John Smith and his crew undertook two voyages, sailing the Chesapeake Bay, Potomac and Patuxent Rivers, and making contact with the Piscataway and other Indigenous peoples along the way. Smith described the beauty he saw around the Chesapeake Bay and later created his now-famous map of the region showing Indigenous people's settlements as he understood them. Smith's opinion of the area was clear: "Heaven and Earth never agreed better to frame a place for man's habitation." The bay and its rivers offered a hearty supply of crabs, fish, oysters, and waterfowl, while the forests and hills teemed with bear, deer, fox, rabbit, turkey and game birds. Smith also described the mercilessness of the water: "The winde and waters so much increased with thunder, lighting, and raine, that our mast and sayle blew overbord and such mighty waves overracked us in that small barge that with great labour we kept her from sinking by freeing out the water."

For Freedom and Servitude

Another arrival by water marked the beginning of European settlement. In 1633, almost 150 English men and women boarded two ships, the Ark and the Dove, bound for the Chesapeake Bay. In 1634, they arrived at the new land they hoped to colonize, although it was already occupied by the Yacocomico, an Algonquin-speaking group related to the Piscataway. The settlers acquired land on a bluff overlooking the river from the Yacocomico who taught the newcomers how to clear the land, grow corn, beans and squash and introduced the colonists to oysters, fish, venison, and other nutritious game they never would have eaten in England. The newcomers ambitiously named their fledgling community St. Mary's City and incorporated in 1667. As the first colony in Maryland, St. Mary's City served as the capital for more than 60 years before the center of government was relocated to Annapolis.

Most of the laborers brought over in the early years were indentured servants who worked for a period of time and then became free. Water also brought the unwilling – enslaved Africans. By the 18th century, thousands of captured Africans were arriving on Maryland's shores, traveling across the Atlantic in overcrowded, abhorrent conditions to be enslaved and forced to labor in the tobacco fields, growing Southern Maryland's most important cash crop.

Construction of a replica of the Dove began in 2019 and was slated for completion in 2022 in Historic St. Mary's City.

Water, Ships, War and Commerce

Southern Maryland's waterways have been an important transportation route for commerce and war. During the 18th century as tobacco production grew, Southern Maryland waterways were filled with ships transporting goods between the colonies and England. In the American Revolution, the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries were conduits for both Colonial and British troop movements. In the War of 1812, the Patuxent River provided the British fleet easy access to towns and villages along its shores. By the 19th century, steamboat travel and seafood harvesting helped towns along the shoreline thrive.

(See "Defense of a Nation" theme for discussion of water's role in wars and maritime defense.)

A Distinct Maritime Culture

The presence of waterways played a significant role in the distinct culture that emerged in the region's early years and continues to influence its economy and culture. Southern Maryland's waterways have provided generations with opportunities for industry, including seafood harvesting and processing, and ship building. Known historically as "watermen," they continue in the 21st century to make a living harvesting blue crabs, finfish, and oysters in the Chesapeake Bay.

Of primary importance to the region's economy and culture for most of its history is the presence of oysters in the Chesapeake Bay. One translation of the word Chesapeake from the Piscataway's Algonquin language is "Great Shellfish Bay." The Atlantic Ocean's water combined with the Chesapeake's fresh water to create a moderately salty water where oysters flourished. Oysters keep the waters of the Chesapeake clean as they filter water through their gill system to obtain nutrients. Evidence of oyster use dates to at least 4,500 years ago as Indigenous people harvested oysters, softshell clams, ribbed mollusks, and other shellfish for food. Over time, oysters became the preferred shellfish.

Oysters quickly became an important food for colonists. Shells excavated from sites in St. Mary's City show the first colonists collected oysters from shallow waters near the shore. By 1700, a new tool called shaft tongs – long, wooden shafts bolted together like scissors with metal baskets – began to be used. This invention allowed watermen to work from boats rather than wading into the water. Tongs continued to be improved with Solomon Islands blacksmith Charles L. Marsh patenting his new and improved version in 1887.

The introduction of dredging in 1808 created a highly efficient method of harvesting oysters, but its harmful effects to the bay caused the Maryland General Assembly to outlaw it in 1820. In 1865, dredging was once again permitted, ushering in a boomtime for oyster harvesting which peaked around 1885. Calvert County led the way in establishing strong commercial seafood harvesting and boat building industries in the mid-19th century. The largest commercial fishery in Calvert County started in the 1860s at Solomons and continued to grow through the end of the century.

Lore Oyster House—Oysters came in from the bay by a conveyer belt and were dumped in this room for processing. Photos courtesy Calvert Marine Museum

As commercial fishing and shipping grew, unique styles of boats were invented in Southern Maryland. The Chesapeake Bay bugeye was a large sailing canoe with covered holds for cargo used for oystering. Smaller, single-masted skipjacks appeared toward the end of the 19th century, replacing bugeyes with their improved design. By the early 20th century, there were as many as 2,000 skipjacks. In the 21st century, skipjacks are the last working boat under sail in the United States. The skipjack was designated as Maryland's state boat in 1985. Twenty-six skipjacks located across the state are listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Tourism, Recreation and Environmental Sustainability

In the 21st century, Southern Maryland's waterways are a focus of other activities in addition to seafood harvesting, including travel and recreational use, contributing to a strong tourism economy and advocacy, plans, and actions by many groups to restore and conserve the waterways.

Tourism has deep roots in the region. With the advent of steamboat travel in the early 19th century, this mode of transportation grew from transporting goods to passenger travel. In the years following the Civil War, steamboat travel gave rise to boarding houses, hotels, and restaurants, transforming small towns into tourist resorts. By the early 20th century, hundreds of excursion boats and ferries brought visitors to the region, a trend that would continue until the 1920s when railroad and automobile travel became popular and convenient.

POINT LOOKOUT HOTEL, POINT LOOKOUT, MD.

Water continued to attract tourists throughout the 20th century and into the 21st century. In the 1920s, at the height of Jim Crow segregation, two resort communities were developed for African Americans on the Patuxent River in southern Prince George's County. Eagle Harbor was advertised as a "high class summer colony for better people" and recruited African American tourists to "Paradise on the Patuxent." The community featured small cottages, piers, bathhouses, a merry-go-round, park, hotels, and restaurants. A second summer recreation community, Cedar Haven, was established nearby in 1926 and featured small houses and a hotel which hosted conferences and other events. A bathhouse near the beach offered lockers, dressing rooms and bathing suits for rent.

Eagle Harbor was incorporated in 1929 and presently has a mayor and a board of commissioners. Working with the Eagle Harbor Citizens Association, the small community recently completed a plan, *Eagle Harbor 2025: Planning for a Sustainable Community,* which addresses the Patuxent River's environmental issues including erosion, silt buildup, flooding, and hazards caused by climate change.

Water recreation also has a long history. Recreation, including sport fishing, boating, and water excursions, continued to grow throughout the 20th century. Communities along the shoreline have built tourism-based economies with lodging, locally owned seafood restaurants, shopping, marinas, boat rentals, tours, and events that celebrate the region's aquaculture.

A water-based tourism economy is equaled by the efforts of a number of organizations to restore and conserve the area's unique water resources. For the Piscataway Conoy, protecting the rivers enjoyed by their ancestors for thousands of years is vital to preserving their heritage and ensuring their ability to thrive in the future. The partnerships also include a focus on environmental justice which has led to the discovery of environmental threats such as a massive sewage spill at Mattawoman Creek. Coordinated advocacy between the Piscataway Conoy and conservation groups contributed to the cancellation of the controversial Atlantic Coast Pipeline Project.

Restoration and conservation of the Chesapeake Bay, the nation's largest estuary, focuses on the water and surrounding land and the habitat created for fish, oysters, waterfowl, pollinators, and other wildlife. Organizations such as the Chesapeake Conservancy, Chesapeake Bay Environmental Center, and Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay (headquartered in other parts of Maryland) have undertaken a wide variety of activities to study the bay's ecosystem, advocate for restoration, offer tours and programs to educate the public, and to create a culture of stewardship. These organizations work in partnership with the federal government and Maryland Department of Natural Resources.

For over 40 years, the Chesapeake Bay has been the focus of efforts to create a network of partners throughout the states and communities it touches. The first Chesapeake Bay Agreement was created in 1983, forming a cooperative agreement for the states of Maryland, Pennsylvania, and Virginia, the District of Columbia, and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to address pollution and species decline. In 1993, the National Park Service (NPS) joined the partnership to help with interpreting natural and cultural resources and providing public access. In 2004, the NPS completed a special resources study, and in 2006 the Captain John Smith National Historic Trail was designated. In 2020, the governors of Maryland and Virginia called for legislation to establish a Chesapeake National Recreation Area. An advocacy campaign was launched by the Chesapeake Conservancy to support the designation.

Southern Maryland's waters offer many recreational opportunities.

Resources

(NR – National Register of Historic Places; NHL – National Historic Landmark; NPS – National Park Service)

The **Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail**, administered by the National Park Service, was designated by President George W. Bush in 2006 as the nation's first water-based national trail. The trail covers 3,000 miles of water routes and is based on Smith's map and written accounts. In Southern Maryland, the trail connects stops along the Potomac River and Patuxent River. Additionally, hundreds of miles of waterways are designated as official **Maryland Waterways Trails** by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources including the Lower Potomac, Anacostia, Patuxent, and Wicomico rivers as well as hundreds of smaller streams, creeks, and rivers. **Watermen Heritage Tours** was developed by the Chesapeake Bay Conservancy in partnership with the Maryland Watermen's Association, Coastal Heritage Alliance, and the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum. The program has trained more than 100 watermen to give tours as a supplement to their fishing businesses. Several watermen companies in Southern Maryland offer crabbing demonstrations, rides on commercial fishing vessels and other tours and programs. **The Potomac Riverkeeper Network** partners with the Piscataway Conoy to lead educational kayak trips along the Potomac River. These tours emphasize the environmental and cultural importance of conservation. **The Patuxent Riverkeeper** works to conserve and protect Maryland's longest and deepest intrastate waterway through a variety of programs, advocacy, and volunteer opportunities. *The Southern Maryland Oyster Guide* includes museums, tours, and events that celebrate and tell stories of the watermen and identifies restaurants and markets where oysters and other fresh seafood can be found. Lighthouses can be seen at museums and parks in Southern Maryland. These include two lighthouses at **Calvert Marine Museum – Drum Point Lighthouse** (NR) and **Cove Point Lighthouse and Keepers Home** (NR). The museum also includes a collection of boats of the Chesapeake (including the **William B. Tennison bugeye** (NHL), which visitors can schedule for a river cruise), several interpretive exhibits, and **Lore Oyster House** (NHL), site of a seafood packing company from the late 19th century until the late 20th century. **Piney Point Lighthouse Museum and Historic Park** includes the 1836 lighthouse and keepers quarters as well as a maritime exhibit featuring four historic wooden vessels – a skipjack, bugeye, log canoe, and dory boat. **Point No Point Lighthouse** (NR) was completed in the early 20th century as part of the federal government's efforts to provide for safe maritime transportation in the Chesapeake Bay. A large-scale restoration of **Point Lookout Lighthouse** was completed in 2020. Plans are underway to add interpretive exhibits at the lighthouse that is located on the grounds of **Point Lookout State Park. Fort Washington Light,** located on the grounds of **Fort Washington Park** (NPS), was converted from a fog bell tower in 1901. A replica of **Blackistone Lighthouse** located in **St. Clement's Island State Park** combines a two-story home centered by a 40-foot lighthouse tower. **St. Clement's Island Museum** overlooks the site of the 1634 English colonists' landing. Exhibits tell the stories of early Colonial history including the voyage of the Ark and the Dove.

Theme 3: Tobacco: A Growing Concern

For almost four centuries, tobacco was the economic foundation of life in Southern Maryland. The reach of tobacco's influence touched all people: honored as sacred by the Piscataway, bringing prosperity to whites and servitude to enslaved African Americans, and influencing cultural norms well into the 20ᵗʰ century. Tobacco's demands were great – exhausting the soil, forcing unending labor from the enslaved, and finally, destroying the health of its users.

Everything about Southern Maryland made it the right place to grow tobacco. A level and rolling landscape gave plenty of space for farms; a favorable climate provided the necessary 185-day growing season with warm summers, mild winters, and the right amount of rain; fine, sandy, loamy soils drained well and retained nutrients; and proximity to the Patuxent and Potomac Rivers and Chesapeake Bay served to transport tobacco to markets. Although Kentucky, Virginia and North Carolina also grew tobacco, only in Southern Maryland was the entire economy and way of life built around this crop. Until the end of the 20ᵗʰ century, residents either worked on farms growing tobacco or on the water harvesting seafood.

A Sacred Plant

Tobacco carried deep spiritual significance for the Piscataway who lived in the area for thousands of years before the arrival of Europeans in the 17ᵗʰ century. Father Andrew White, a Jesuit missionary, described a ritual using tobacco in the Temple of Patuxent: "Upon a day appointed all the towns met, and a great fire being made, about it stood the younger sort, and behind them again the elder. Then taking a little deer suet, they cast it into the fire, crying Taho, Taho, and lifting up their hands to heaven. The ceremony continued with singing and dancing. They believe the smoke of tobacco sanctified their bodies and honored their Creator."

Archaeological excavations at Zekiah Fort, which was occupied by the Piscataway from 1680 to approximately 1692, discovered a small number of both Indian- and English-made tobacco pipe fragments. In contrast to the English, who enjoyed large amounts of tobacco, the discovery may suggest that the Piscataway used tobacco in limited quantities.

A Profitable Plant

As English colonists settled in the area in the early 17ᵗʰ century, the priority was to secure shelter and food. From there, colonists turned their attention to the economic opportunities presented by the tobacco market in England and Continental Europe. The

Tobacco pipe found at the Zekiah Fort site.

first settlers planted *Nicotiana tabacum,* a plant native to the Americas. Colonists' success in growing tobacco can be attributed to the Piscataway who shared their knowledge of planting and harvesting. The increase in tobacco farming brought still more settlers, mostly single young men who arrived as indentured servants.

Maryland tobacco burned slowly and evenly, making it a product that would soon be in great demand by England, France, and northern European nations, a demand that continued well into the 19th century. As it became clear that tobacco could generate wealth, Southern Maryland followed the precedent set by settlers in Jamestown, Virginia, clearing land and continually increasing production. The singular focus on growing tobacco shaped the landscape of Southern Maryland into a region of isolated, self-sustaining plantations consisting of the main dwelling surrounded by outbuildings for agricultural tools and livestock and housing for enslaved workers. Many plantations were located near the area's rivers and had their own wharves, providing easy access for shipping the crop to market. By the 1630s, some 1.5 million pounds of tobacco were produced each year, increasing to almost 40 million pounds by the 18th century.

Tobacco's increasing popularity was noted by English merchant Thomas Tyron. While in the 1620s, only gentlemen used tobacco, by the 1690s, Tyron observed, it had become a "Custom, the Fashion, all the Mode…so that every Plow-Man has his pipe."

Tobacco is the current Coin of Mary-Land and will sooner purchase Commodities from the Merchant than money.

George Alsop, 1666

In Southern Maryland, tobacco's importance was most clearly in evidence when the plant began to be used as currency. In 1666, George Alsop, who had arrived earlier as an indentured servant, noted: "Tobacco is the current Coin of Mary-Land, and will sooner purchase Commodities from the Merchant than money." This practice continued for at least 100 years. Land records in Upper Marlboro show that until 1761, almost all leases and sales were assessed in pounds of tobacco.

Building an economy dependent on tobacco left planters at the mercy of both the environment and trade practices. After 1730, careless curing and packing methods and poor care of tobacco plants resulted in a lower quality of tobacco and began to decrease tobacco sales. The Maryland General Assembly finally took action, passing the Tobacco Inspection Act of 1747. The law succeeded in closing the gap in prices between Maryland and Virginia, established 75 warehouses staffed by inspectors, and reduced debts prior to 1748 which had been contracted in tobacco. Communities where warehouses were located saw growth as businesses that catered to tobacco growers, such as taverns and retail stores, sprang up. Tobacco prices began to rise again, and with the opportunity for increased prosperity came the need for more hands to work the crop.

Unrelenting, Intensive Labor
"You plant it, you work it, you spear it, you hang it up in the barn, you take those sticks down and push your tobacco off, and then strip it into bundles. Then you pack these bundles down… and you let it sit there until summer when you get time to sell it. From the beginning of tobacco until the next year you plant…you're working tobacco year-round, every day." The early 20th century memories of Elsie Bean capture what has always been true – tobacco is a crop that requires an extraordinary amount of work.

In the 17th and 18th centuries there was plenty of land in Southern Maryland, but there were not enough hands to work it. The colonists first followed the British system of indentured servitude, attracting immigrants to work for a period of time in return for training, room and board and, eventually, freedom and the right to own land. As the British economy improved, indentures declined, and landowners turned to a system of lifelong labor with no chance of freedom. That system was enslavement of Africans, a change that would have profound impacts on Maryland's development as a state and Southern Maryland's loyalties in future wars.

The increasing profitability of tobacco created a cyclical process. Tobacco was shipped to English and European markets, and the profits were used to purchase men and women brought from Africa and enslaved to cultivate more tobacco. Although enslaved people were likely in the colony from its earliest days, the growth of the enslaved population in Southern Maryland in the 18th and 19th centuries was extraordinary, with the largest plantations having 100 or more enslaved persons. By 1860, half of the state's enslaved population was located in Southern Maryland. For example, in Charles County, enslaved persons were 18 percent of the population in 1712; by 1782, the enslaved population accounted for 48 percent of the total population. By 1850, this number would reach 65 percent. In Prince George's County, enslaved persons were 52 percent of the population in 1790 (with 1 percent free Black), increasing to 54 percent in 1850 (5 percent free Black.)

While wealthy planters continued to increase the number of enslaved workers to work in the fields, white farmers who did not own slaves worked side by side with hired black workers in the fields, a reality that did not translate to equal rights for black workers.

New Markets, New Crops

By the early 19th century, tobacco farming had taken up extensive tracts of land, driving up land prices, depleting the soil and decreasing the quality of tobacco, and resulting in an exodus of many families to new frontier lands. Competition increased from other states; by the end of the War of 1812, European markets preferred tobacco grown in Kentucky, Tennessee, and southwest Virginia.

Despite the competition, Southern Maryland continued to produce tobacco, shipping most crops to the Netherlands. Census data indicate that in the mid-1800s, the largest tobacco producing counties in Maryland were Prince George's, Anne Arundel, and Calvert with Charles and St. Mary's counties following closely.

Poplar Hill on His Lordship's Kindness was one of many tobacco plantations in Southern Maryland in the 19th century.

Tobacco production in Southern Maryland decreased dramatically in the late 19th century as the emancipation of enslaved persons after the Civil War left landowners without a labor force. By 1880, the state's contribution to tobacco production on a national scale decreased to five percent, from a high of 30 percent in 1830. Many farmers began to grow other crops such as wheat, oats, corn, and vegetables and planted fruit orchards. Those still farming tobacco reduced the number of acres and sold land or rented to sharecroppers or tenant farmers who were likely formerly enslaved persons or their descendants. Farmers experimented with various ways to improve the crop, including short-lived flue-curing, but other states became leaders in tobacco production and sales. During these years, tobacco consumption changed as well, as pipe smoking and mass production of cigarettes emerged.

In 1887, the federal government stepped in with the Hatch Act that allocated funds for agricultural experiment stations and shared information on improvements in tobacco farming. Help was close by with the establishment of the Maryland Agricultural Experiment Station at Maryland Agricultural College in 1888.

After more than three decades of struggle, the tobacco industry in Southern Maryland re-emerged in the 20th century, becoming the region's primary cash crop once again. As cigarette smoking increased after World War I and continued to rise for the next 50 years, production and prices soared. A 1935 report noted that 5,477 farms in Southern Maryland cultivated tobacco on almost 33,000 acres of land – 99 percent of the acreage was in Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Prince George's, and St. Mary's counties. Throughout these years, state and federal government agencies and organizations such as the Maryland Tobacco Improvement Foundation (1950-1968) conducted continual research and experiments with the goal of producing more high-quality tobacco. The Foundation also provided free seeds to farmers along with educational materials on how to grow tobacco.

Former governor of Wyoming and former director of the U.S. Mint Nellie Tayloe Ross acquired 200 acres and a 100-year-old house on Solomon's Island where she grew tobacco. 1938. Photographer: Harris & Ewing; Photo: Library of Congress

Port Tobacco farm. 1937. Photographer: Frances Benjamin Johnston. Photo: Library of Congress

Demise of an Industry

The upward trajectory of these years would begin to change dramatically as the 20th century neared its close. 1983 was a pivotal year for tobacco. As the growing season was devastated by drought, other factors were already affecting the crop: high labor, land and production costs, decreasing sale prices, and perhaps most significantly, the decline in smoking and other tobacco use in response to publicity about its negative health impacts.

As the 21st century opened, this combination of factors led to the Maryland State Tobacco Buyout Program, administered through the Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission (SMADC) which continues to assist farmers in transitioning to other crops. Begun in 2001, the program used nearly $80 million of settlement funds from the Master Settlement Agreement (brought against tobacco companies by the attorneys general in 46 states including Maryland) to buy out tobacco farmers who agreed to grow a different crop. A primary goal of the program was to preserve the rural-agricultural heritage of Southern Maryland. Other settlement funds were used for cancer research, education, health care, and smoking cessation programs. An interesting contradiction was continued distribution of free seeds to the state's 1,200 tobacco farmers and continued research on ways to improve crops by the University of Maryland, College Park's cooperative extension program.

Nearly 900 farmers took the buyout and stopped growing tobacco. Amish and Mennonite farmers in Charles and St. Mary's counties did not take the buyout because their religious beliefs preclude them from making contractual agreements with government agencies. By 2019, only about 800 acres remained in tobacco cultivation in the state – most of it in Southern Maryland and most grown by Amish and Mennonite farmers. In the 21st century North Carolina, Virginia, and Kentucky are the nation's largest producers of tobacco. North Carolina produced more than 183 million pounds of tobacco in 2020. Nationally, 389 million pounds of tobacco were produced, but China has become the world's largest tobacco producer with an amount of 2.61 million metric tons produced in 2019. In 2019, faced with continued decline in sales and the increased popularity of e-cigarettes, cigarette-industry giant Phillip Morris notified farmers that they were no longer buying tobacco from Maryland.

A Cultural Legacy and New Ventures

Although the buyout enabled tobacco farmers to keep their land and grow new crops, it had an inevitable impact on both the tangible and intangible culture of Southern Maryland. Particularly in the 19th and 20th centuries, a social structure revolved around tobacco farming as families worked in the fields and neighbors gathered at auction houses for tobacco sales. While faced with rigid segregation and discrimination in the first half of the 20th century, African American farm ownership increased as second-generation tenant farmers saved enough to buy their own farms. An example is the Ponds Wood Road community in Calvert County where 14 farmsteads were owned by first-time African American landowners between 1889 and 1958, featuring modest homes and tobacco barns.

In the early 21st century, as tobacco farming ceased in Southern Maryland, tobacco barns became the endangered tangible legacy and focus of preservation efforts by local, state, and national organizations. Tobacco barns have been a feature of Southern Maryland's landscape

since the early 19th century. The earliest barns were built of heavy timbers and included sheds for tobacco stripping and storage. Between 1830 and 1900, tobacco barn design became standardized with a rectangular shape, asymmetrical roof and even spacing of one door on each side. In the 20th century, the use of mechanized farm equipment resulted in changes to the design as barns became long structures with large doors.

In 2004, the National Trust for Historic Preservation included Southern Maryland's tobacco barns on its annual "11 Most Endangered Places" list, noting the threats of rampant development and leaving the empty barns to deteriorate. The Southern Maryland Tobacco Barns Initiative formed in 2005 with the National Trust, Maryland Historical Trust, and Preservation Maryland, the region's five county governments and other groups partnering. The effort included the Maryland Tobacco Barn Restoration Fund which awarded supported repairs to almost three dozen barns before funding ran out in 2010.

In the past decade, tobacco barns and farm land have been successfully repurposed. A new industry – wine making – has emerged with some of the 14 wineries located on former tobacco farms in Southern Maryland. Winemakers have found that grapevines flourish in the rocky, sandy, and well-drained soil that once grew tobacco, and tobacco barns provide space for tasting rooms for tour groups to enjoy.

Agritourism has become a new source of revenue for many former tobacco farms that now grow produce and meats, and welcome visitors for tours and farmer's markets.
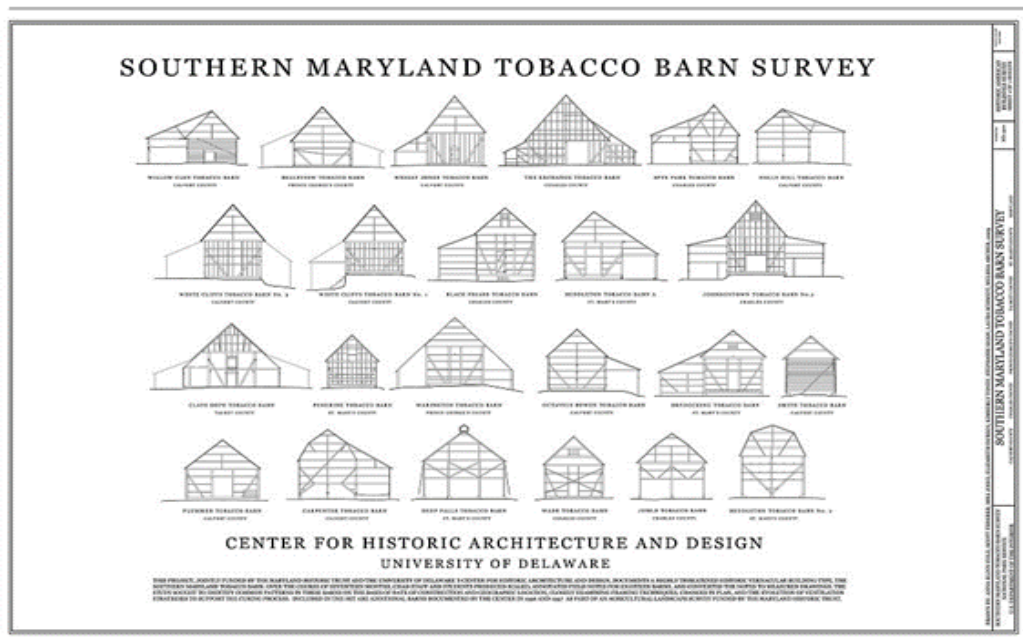
Tobacco Barns of Southern Maryland, Saint Charles, Charles County, MD.
Historic American Buildings Survey. 1933. Library of Congress

Resources

(NR – National Register of Historic Places; NHL – National Historic Landmark; NPS – National Park Service)

The history of tobacco farming in Southern Maryland is documented in the National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form (MPDF) titled ***Tobacco Barns of Southern Maryland: Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Prince George's, and St. Mary's Counties.*** The document includes descriptions of associated property types from the colonial era through the 20th century. Barns referenced in the MPDF and listed individually in the National Register are the **De La Brooke Tobacco Barn** and **Johnstown Tobacco Barn No. 2**; both are listed as a significant examples of a Southern Maryland air-curing tobacco barn from the period 1800-1830. Most of the plantations in Southern Maryland grew tobacco. Sites that interpret this history include **Thomas Stone National Historic Site,** also known as Haberdeventure (National Park Service, NHL); **Smallwood's Retreat** (home of General William Smallwood, Smallwood State Park); and **Historic Sotterley** (NHL, National Park Service Underground Railroad Network to Freedom site, UNESCO Slave Route Site of Remembrance), and **Poplar Hill on His Lordship's Kindness** (NHL). **Compton Bassett Historic Home** (NR) was also a tobacco plantation, but it is not currently open to the public. Other historic sites that interpret tobacco history include the **Godiah Spray Tobacco Plantation** at **Historic St. Mary's City** (NR), **Piscataway Park's National Colonial Farm** (National Park Service, NHL), **Oxon Cove Park/Oxon Hill** Farm (National Park Service, NR), the **Tobacco Barns at Rosaryville State Park** and the **Tobacco Farming Museum at Patuxent Rural Life Museums. Robin Hill Farms and Vineyards** and **Janemark Vineyard and Winery** illustrate new uses of tobacco barns in recent years.

**Photo:
Maryland
Historic Trust**

Theme 4: Spirit of Faith, Spirit of Law, Spirit of Progress

Freedom, liberty, rights, opportunity, tolerance, control, subjugation ...These high ideals and harsh realities collided in Southern Maryland as the new colony's governance directly addressed religious freedom for English colonists while soon creating systems and laws that would marginalize the Piscataway and enslave Africans. For the ensuing four centuries, the effort to define or defy circumstances of faith, law and opportunities for progress continued in response to treaties, war, emancipation, segregation, and campaigns for rights and recognition, over time widening the circle of beneficiaries of the original colonists' vision for their new world.

As winter gave way to spring in early 1634, two small wooden ships crammed with almost 150 passengers completed a 68-day, 3,000-mile journey from England across the Atlantic, sailing into the Chesapeake Bay and landing first at St. Clement's Island, the southern point of what became the state of Maryland, where the first Catholic mass was celebrated in what became the United States. The Ark and the Dove carried English colonists to land granted by King Charles I to George Calvert, the first Lord Baltimore, giving him proprietary rights to the region east of the Potomac River. When George Calvert died before he could make plans for a new colony, his son, Cecil, became the second Lord Baltimore and, along with his brother, Leonard, began recruiting settlers. England's economic turmoil generated a supply of women and men who were willing to take a chance on a difficult journey to create a new life that might include wealth and land ownership. Leonard Calvert led the voyage and remained in Maryland the rest of his life, serving as the colony's first governor. The colonists moved from St. Clement's to land they named St. Mary's City. As the first colony in Maryland, St. Mary's City served as the state capital for 61 years, when the capital was moved to Annapolis.

Birthplace of Religious Freedom

The seeds of religious tolerance that came to characterize Maryland's first settlement were sown even before the ships departed from England, sparked by the desire of Catholics to escape persecution in England and extended to Protestants who also sought a new life in the Maryland colony. In 1633, Cecil Calvert issued instructions to Catholic leaders that amounted to a warning that "they be very careful to preserve unity and peace amongst all passengers on shipboard, and that they suffer no scandal or offense to be given to the Protestants . . . (that) they cause all acts of Roman Catholic Religion to be done as privately as may be, and that they instruct all the Roman Catholics to be silent, upon all occasions of discourse concerning matters of religion, and that the said governors and commissioners treat the Protestants with as much mildness and favour as justice will permit. And this is to be observed at land as well as at sea."

Historical records indicate that the colonists took these instructions to heart, even sharing a single chapel building at St. Mary's and ruling in several disputes in favor of continued religious freedom. The founding of Maryland on the concept of liberty of conscience and separation of church and state was a radical idea for its time. The concept meant there was no state-established religion, no requirement to swear religious oaths in order to vote or hold office, and freedom to practice the Christian religion according to personal beliefs without fear of retribution.

In 1649, this intent made history when the Maryland General Assembly, gathered in St. Mary's City, passed *An Act Concerning Religion* (also referred to as the Maryland Toleration Act of 1649). Here, in Southern Maryland, was the first time religious freedom was codified into law in the western world. Although focused on Christianity, the law included remarkable provisions for its time, stating "no person or persons whatsoever within this province… professing to believe in Jesus Christ shall henceforth be in any ways troubled, molested, or discountenanced for or in respect of his or her religion, nor in the free exercise thereof…" The act contained an interesting mix of laws beginning with punishments ranging from fines to imprisonment to execution for denying or disparaging the Holy Trinity, Virgin Mary, or the Apostles. This was followed by a list of punishments for anyone speaking to another in a "reproachful manner relating to the matter of religion…," in effect creating the first legal limitations on religious hate speech in the world. Also of interest: although women could not vote, they were subject to the law. There are three references in the act to "he or she" and "his or her."

> ***Here, in Southern Maryland, was the first time religious freedom was codified into law in the western world.***

Over the next four decades, the law was struck down and reinstated before being replaced in 1692 by the English government which sought to establish the Anglican Church throughout the realm. Nevertheless, the act's legacy can be traced through American history to the free exercise of religion clause in the First Amendment to the Constitution passed in 1791: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof." Freedom of religion remains a pillar of our nation's democracy and democratic principles today.

Acts for Liberties and Laws

From its beginnings as a small colony in St. Mary's City, Maryland's experimentation with laws and struggles to define who would benefit from freedom and liberty mirrored – or in some cases preceded – these struggles on a national scale.

The Maryland General Assembly moved quickly to pass laws that would govern the colony. Two acts that addressed the rights of the people were *An Act for the Liberties of the People* and *An Act Ordering Certain Laws for the Government of this Province,* both passed in 1639. The first, a remarkable attempt at self-government, declared "All the Inhabitants of this Province being Christians (Slaves excepted) Shall have and enjoy all such rights, liberties, immunities, privileges, and free customs… as any natural born subject of England…" The second act includes a collection of statutes and declares: "The Inhabitants of this Province shall have all their rights and liberties according to the great Charter of England." As a precursor to the 1649 *Act Concerning Religion,* this act included a provision for religious freedom: "Holy Churches

Rights Given, Rights Denied

Despite the rights given to some by these and other acts, laws passed in the early years of settlement and for centuries to follow restricted and limited rights. Enslaved men, women, and children had no rights. By 1700, the majority of the once-dominant Piscataway were eventually dislocated from their homeland through a series of treaties which assumed control over the tribe's society and governance. Additionally, it should be noted that unmarried or widowed white women could own property, however they could not vote and, once married, had no rights to property.

A surprising event in the nascent colony was the election of the first black man to office in what would become the United States. Mathias de Sousa arrived onboard the Ark with the first colonists in 1634 as an indentured servant sponsored by Father Andrew White, a Jesuit priest. Historians speculate about how de Sousa came to be on the Ark as well as his ethnicity, believed to be a mix of Portuguese, African, and European ancestry. After completing his time in indenture in 1638, de Sousa quickly became a mariner, fur trader, and landowner. Most notably, in 1641 de Sousa was elected to serve in the General Assembly of Maryland where he was the first black man to vote on legislation in colonial Maryland.

Despite this promising beginning, Maryland became a colony – and later a state – where Africans and their descendants were enslaved, with the majority located in Southern Maryland by the mid-19th century. In 1664, the Maryland General Assembly, while still situated in St. Mary's City, defined enslavement as perpetual and race based. Legislation established the dominance of white, male property owners and sentenced "Negroes" and their children to life-long bondage. To further enforce white supremacy and male domination, the legislation called for enslaving white women who had relationships with enslaved men. Children born to these unions were also enslaved. For the next two centuries, as plantations were established and enlarged, the enslaved population grew as Maryland-born enslaved persons had children and some 100,000 people were brought to the area, mostly arriving from Africa in the first part of the 18th century. The almost total dependence on enslaved African Americans as a work force in Southern Maryland resulted in the region's allegiance to the Confederacy when Civil War broke out in 1861.

A remarkable exception to expectations for white women in the 17th century is the story of Margaret Brent. Brent was the first woman in the American colonies to appear before a court as an attorney to claim land in her own right. She also served as legal counsel for her brother and several women. Born in England, Brent and her siblings came to the Maryland colony in 1638 to escape persecution for their Catholic faith. Brent and her sister, Mary, settled in St. Mary's and soon amassed some of the largest land holdings in the colony.

**Margaret Brent
Louis Glanzman painting. National
Geographic. Maryland Commission on
Artistic Property. MSA-SC 1545-0789**

As a cousin of the Calverts, Margaret Brent won the trust of Governor Leonard Calvert, sharing with him the guardianship of Mary Kitomaquund, the daughter of a Piscataway chief. Calvert named Margaret Brent as executrix of his will before his death in 1647. In 1648, facing soldiers who had served under Governor Calvert and demanded to be paid, Brent went before the Maryland General Assembly and asked for two votes—one for herself as a landowner and one as executor of Calvert's will, in hopes she could convince the Assembly to pass a tax to pay the soldiers. After a lengthy debate, Brent's request for the right to vote (as either a landowner or executor) was denied, setting a precedent against women voting for almost 300 years.

Who is a Citizen and Who Isn't

In 1864, as the Civil War neared an end, the Maryland General Assembly, made up of Unionists, created a new state constitution which outlawed slavery and disenfranchised Confederate sympathizers, requiring an oath of loyalty before the rights of citizenship could be restored. The new constitution had a direct effect on Southern Maryland where support for the Confederacy had been strongest. Although slavery ended, taking away the labor force for growing tobacco, the constitution did not create a system of equality. African Americans were denied citizenship rights, and the vote was restricted to white men. Southern Maryland's representation in the legislature was reduced as enslaved persons – who had been calculated for purposes of representation – were no longer counted. (A fourth constitution was approved in 1867 and continues in use today; it has been amended almost 200 times.)

As white men who were former Confederates regained the right to vote and control of government and communities within a few years, African Americans started a century-long journey toward the full rights of citizenship. African Americans were subjected to laws, known as Black Codes or Jim Crow, and restrictions established a fully segregated society in housing and property ownership, marriage, education, employment, transportation, government and voting rights, entertainment, medical care, shopping, and worship. Terror was used to control African Americans as seen in a lynching in 1886. When Charles Whitley (or Whittle) was accused of molesting his employer's young daughter, a mob overpowered the jail's guards, and he was lynched in Prince Frederick. By the early 20th century, the rights of African Americans reached their lowest point as Maryland's General Assembly continued to pass discriminatory laws.

The opportunity for African Americans to receive an education became a particular area of focus in Southern Maryland. Following the Civil War, the Maryland General Assembly directed that taxes paid by African Americans could be used to build schools for black students; however, no counties used these funds to build schools. Overcoming this injustice, schools for African Americans were established in the late 19th and early 20th centuries by organizations that sometimes worked together – the federally established Freedman's Bureau, benevolent societies, churches, and the Rosenwald Foundation. Some of the schools continued to serve students well into the 20th century until public schools were desegregated.

Churches and communities rallied to work with the Freedman's Bureau, providing a site for the school, raising money for school construction, and helping fund teacher salaries. In Prince George's County, African Americans successfully petitioned for 10 Freedmen's Bureau schools.

Records for St. Mary's County document almost 50 schools built and operated for African American students following the Civil War through the early 1950s. Most were one-room schoolhouses for lower grades, but at least one larger school for higher grades opened as well. In 1924, the Cardinal Gibbons Institute (no longer extant) was dedicated as a Roman Catholic school focused on industrial and agricultural education; it continued to operate until 1967. A notable addition to the Cardinal Gibbons Institute was a strong liberal arts program with curriculum based on African American music, literature, and history.

In 1917, a new opportunity to build schools emerged through the Rosenwald Foundation. Julius Rosenwald, president of the retailing giant Sears, Roebuck and Company, was inspired by the work of Booker T. Washington to create educational opportunities for African Americans. He established a fund to provide financial and technical assistance to construct schools in the rural South. Even this effort met with challenges as noted in the 1919 report by the Maryland State Agent for Negro Schools: "Practically all over the state I have found that the people are willing to raise money to supplement the amount so generously given by Mr. Julius Rosenwald, of Chicago. The chief drawback has been to induce the county commissioners to levy sums that will make the construction possible after a sum has been raised by the people and aid extended by Mr. Rosenwald." Of the 156 Rosenwald schools built in Maryland between 1918 and 1932, at least 60 were built in Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Prince George's, and St. Mary's counties. Most were one or two-room buildings, although a few were larger and included space for high school classes.

Also important in establishing schools were African American benevolent societies which began in the mid-19th century to assist with expenses for medical care, funerals, and recovery from catastrophic events like fires, while also offering a venue for social and professional engagement. The Calvert County chapter of the Galilean Fishermen, founded in Baltimore in 1856, made education a priority, purchasing a piece of land that in 1921 became the site of the county's first Rosenwald School. The Central Industrial School (extant) was the first consolidated African American school in the county and the first to offer a high school curriculum.

**In the 1920s, Central Industrial School was the first consolidated African American school in Calvert County and the first to offer a high school curriculum.
Photo: Maryland Historic Trust**

Even when local governments did provide schools for African American children, discrimination was built into the system. In Calvert County, one teacher fought back. In 1937, Harriet Elizabeth Brown, a first-grade teacher at an African American public school, discovered that her annual salary was far below that of her white teacher peers. Brown's search for help in filing a lawsuit led her to the NAACP and Thurgood Marshall, who had recently won a pay discrimination suit in Montgomery County. Brown and Marshall succeeded, and the Calvert County Board of Education decreed salaries would be equal, setting a precedent that led to Maryland's Pay Equalization Law in 1941 and contributed to a series of cases that led to the Supreme Court's nationwide school desegregation order in 1954.

Harriet Elizabeth Brown

In contrast to the efforts of African Americans to access education, in 1939 a group of Amish families arrived from Pennsylvania for different reasons – to find cheaper land and to escape the state's compulsory education laws. In the Amish tradition, school ended when a child was 14, and they began to work on a farm or learn a craft; Pennsylvania law required attendance until age 15 or 16. Although the law was similar in Maryland, it was not enforced. In later years as the laws tightened in the state, the Amish were exempt. In the early 21st century, some 200 Amish families live and work in St. Mary's and Charles counties.

Widening the Circle

As the 20th century progressed and the 21st century opened, the circle of inclusion and opportunity continued to widen. The role of women expanded into every area including business, education, military defense, politics, and religion. In 1933, landscape architect Rose Greely was retained to prepare designs for the grounds of the reconstructed 1676 Maryland State House in St. Mary's City. In 1926 Greely became the first woman to receive architectural registration in Washington D.C. One of the first architects in Maryland, Gertrude Sawyer was hired by foreign service diplomat Jefferson Patterson in 1932 to design Point Farm, his country residence in St. Leonard. Sawyer eventually developed 26 building designs, ranging from the elegant Colonial Revival family home and guest houses to a show barn for cattle.

In 1975, civil rights lawyer and co-founder of the National Organization for Women (NOW) Pauli Murray returned to St. Philip's Chapel in Aquasco, one of three churches her uncle, Rev. John Small, had served as vicar 50 years previously. At the age of 10, Murray began spending summers with her aunt and uncle and later described the churches, including St. Simon's in Croom

Ordination of Pauli Murray, 1977.
Photo: Milton Williams

and St. Mary's in Charlotte Hall, as "extensions of my home." Murray returned to St. Philip's Chapel (no longer extant due to a fire) to serve as seminarian, before becoming the first African American woman ordained to the Episcopal priesthood in 1977. In 2012, Pauli Murray was named to Episcopal sainthood.

Preceded by 36 male commanding officers since 1943, Captain Heidi Fleming became commanding officer of Naval Air Station Patuxent River in 2014. Captain Fleming commanded the installation that included more than 25,000 civilians, contractors and active-duty service members engaged in research, development, testing and evaluation. She retired in 2016.

Spirit of Past and Future

As the third decade of the 21st century opens, entrepreneurship and innovation have become hallmarks of Southern Maryland, and county economic development offices are making plans to support this economic growth. A technology directory for St. Mary's County identifies more than 200 technology companies and support organizations. Building on the historical cornerstone of Naval Air Station Patuxent River, home to 300 federal research labs, St. Mary's County has designated the Airport Innovation District. The

St. Mary's County Airport Innovation District Master Plan

The Commissioners of St. Mary's County
Calvert-St. Mary's Metropolitan Planning Organization
November 5, 2019

district includes a TechPort Business Incubator, UMD Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) Test Site, and a new center dedicated to autonomous research, development, and teaching for the University System of Maryland at Southern Maryland (USMSM). A master plan calls for development of an ecosystem in support of innovation that includes creating an identity and a variety of innovative drivers, cultivators, and support systems. Other economic development endeavors have focused on sustainability and environmental stewardship. In 2017, Charles County completed its largest economic development project in many decades. The CPV St. Charles Energy Center is a 725-megawatt, combined-cycle, natural gas-fired power plant and is one of the cleanest natural gas-fired power plants in the nation, generating electricity for 700,000 homes.

The 21st century's focus on technology, innovation and opportunity in Southern Maryland is complimented by efforts to understand the area's history and to preserve historic, cultural, and natural resources. In 2003, Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary's counties were certified by the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority (a division of the Maryland Historical Trust) as the Southern Maryland Heritage Area. As one of 13 certified state heritage areas, the Southern Maryland Heritage Area – known as Destination Southern Maryland – promotes a regional identity by working with partners to develop heritage tourism experiences, comprehensive cultural and natural resource conservation, and educational programs. The proposed National Heritage Area will encompass these three counties as well as southern Prince George's County as detailed in the boundary delineation section of the feasibility study.

Resources

(NR – National Register of Historic Places)

The **Religious Freedom National Scenic Byway** was designated by the Federal Highway Administration in 2009 in recognition of the region's nationally significant role in the stories of religious freedom as a cornerstone of America's freedoms. The almost 200-mile route travels from Port Tobacco to Point Lookout, following parts of Route 234, U.S. 301 and Route 5 through Charles and St. Mary's counties. The route features historic churches including **Old Durham Church** in Nanjemoy, one of the original 30 churches chartered by the Colonial Assembly in 1692 (built in 1732); **Christ Episcopal Church** (NR) in Chaptico (built in 1736); **St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church,** (NR) in Leonardtown, the oldest Catholic church in Maryland (dating to 1640, church built in 1766); **St. George's Protestant Episcopal Church**, (NR) in Valley Lee, the seventh Episcopal Parish in Maryland, established in 1692; **Trinity Episcopal Church** in St. Mary's City**, St. Ignatius Roman Catholic Church** (NR) in St. Inigoes (built 1785-1787); and **St. Andrews Church** (NR) in Leonardtown (built in 1766). **Mount Carmel Monastery** (NR) in Port Tobacco, established in 1790 by four Carmelite nuns, is the site of the first monastery for religious women in Colonial America; the nuns remained at the monastery until moving to Baltimore in the 1830s. One hundred years later, the two surviving original buildings became the focus of a restoration campaign. The brick Colonial-style **Chapel of Our Lady** was completed in 1954. In 1976, nuns returned to the monastery and continue to reside at the site. **Historic St. Mary's City,** (NR) founded in 1634, was Maryland's first capital and is where Maryland took root. Extensive historical and archaeological research have recreated the settlement in living history sites, programs, and events. Historic African American schools extant in Southern Maryland include **Old Wallville School** in Calvert County which served students from the 1880s until the 1930s; built around 1890, **Drayden African American Schoolhouse** stands on its original site in St. Mary's County and was recently restored; the site of **Croome Industrial and Agricultural School** is part of the **St. Thomas' Episcopal Parish Historic District** (NR) in Prince George's County. A few buildings remain from the school, which was established in 1903 by Katherine and Susie Willes, sisters of the rector of St. Thomas Parish, to provide industrial, agricultural, and domestic education for African American children. **Jefferson Patterson State Park and Museum** includes the early 1930s Colonial Revival home designed by architect Gertrude Sawyer and gardens designed by landscape architect Rose Greely. A monument to the **Cardinal Gibbons Institute** is located in **Cardinal Gibbons Park**. Sites included on the National Park Service's Underground Railroad Network to Freedom are: **Historic Sotterley** in Hollywood, (NHL, National Park Service Underground Railroad Network to Freedom site, also a UNESCO Slave Route Site of Remembrance); **Camp Stanton, U.S. Colored Troops** site in Benedict, **Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum** in St. Leonard, **Port Tobacco Courthouse**, **Old Jail of St. Mary's County** in Leonardtown, **Darnall's Chance** in Upper Marlboro, **Mount Calvert Historic and Archaeological Park** in Upper Marlboro, and **Mouth of Swann Creek Escape Site** in Fort Washington.

Theme 5: Defense of a Nation

Armed conflicts have touched Southern Maryland from the time the area was first occupied. The region played a critical role in establishing and securing a new nation in the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812 and dealt with the struggle of a nation torn apart by Civil War. Southern Maryland contributed to defending American ideals in 20th century wars and continues to safeguard the nation in the 21st century.

First Conflicts

The archaeological record provides evidence of armed conflict from the earliest peopling of the region. In the 17th century, the historical record adds to the understanding of indigenous conflict, as well as how European colonial settlement impacted war and peace in the region. This is evident in the invitation by Charles Calvert, the third Lord Baltimore, for the Piscataway to build Fort Zekiah as a defense against continual attacks from the Susquehannok and the Five Nations Iroquois.

Revolutionary Years

Colonial ties to England faded over the course of the 18th century in Southern Maryland as objections to taxation grew. As the Revolutionary War broke out, the region felt the effects as the British Navy controlled the waters of the Chesapeake Bay and cargo ships carrying tobacco became easy targets.

Southern Maryland contributed leaders to the war and to the effort to establish a new nation. Thomas Stone, one of four signers of the Declaration of Independence from Maryland, served as a delegate to the Continental Congress and on the committee that drafted the Articles of Confederation. On the battlefield, General William Smallwood's service included the Battle of Long Island, New York, when five companies from his battalion, called the Maryland 400, took part in the first major battle of the war, sacrificing most of the troops to hold back the British while the Continental Army retreated.

Visitors to the Thomas Stone National Historic Site learn about the signer of the Declaration of Independence.

The largest battle of the Revolutionary War in the state, the Battle of St. George's Island, occurred in Southern Maryland. In July of 1776, more than 70 British ships sailed up the Potomac with 10 ships landing at St. George's Island in search of food and supplies. Hurrying back from Annapolis where they were preparing to head to New York, Maryland troops and local militia lined up along the shore. Firing continually, they succeeded in preventing more British from landing and setting up a base.

By the time of the Revolutionary War, slavery had become entrenched in Southern Maryland. Enslaved African Americans were forced to labor in the cultivation of tobacco, creating a paradox as white colonists declared their own right to freedom from what they saw as British tyranny. Both the British and Continental armies saw opportunities to use enslaved African Americans for their cause. By the end of the war, some 5,000 Chesapeake-area enslaved persons had escaped to the British. By 1780, military necessity caused the Continental government to draft free African Americans and to accept enslaved persons "volunteered" by their owners. Despite these actions and the collapse of slavery in the new northern states, slavery survived in Maryland, and free blacks were subjected to new laws severely restricting their civil and political rights.

The War of 1812

No war more directly impacted Southern Maryland than the War of 1812, sometimes referred to as America's "Second War of Independence" with Great Britain. Southern Maryland's extensive shoreline made it an easy target for attack. Within a year of the war's start, Royal Navy warships were in the Chesapeake Bay, and Southern Maryland was under siege. The U.S. Navy, blockaded in the Patapsco River, was unable to provide protection for the region. A series of battles ensued, including the Battle of Cedar Point in St. Mary's County and the First Battle of St. Leonard's in Calvert County between the British fleet and the Chesapeake Flotilla, a fleet of 18 ships manned by Marylanders.
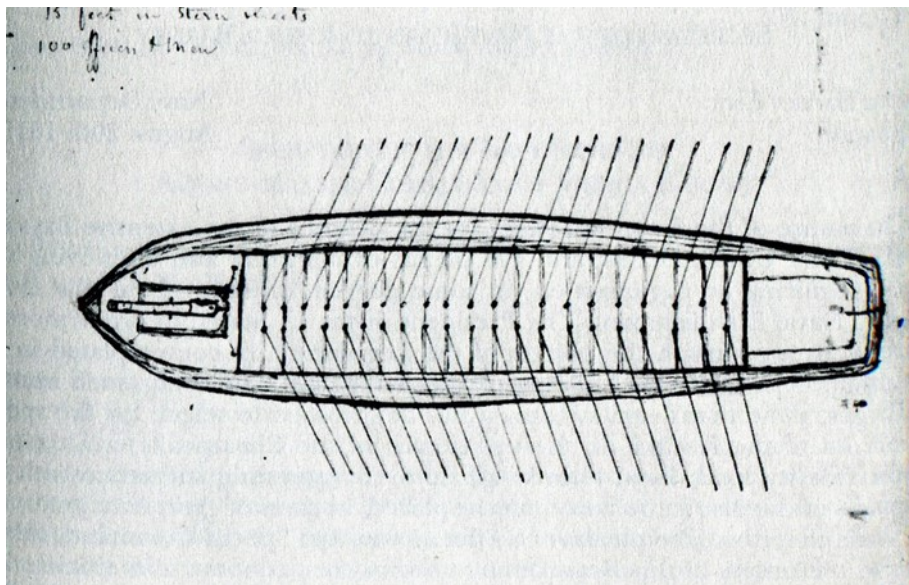
**Commodore Joshua Barney's sketch of one of the
proposed barges in the Chesapeake Flotilla.**

In August 1814, over 5,000 British troops sailed up the Patuxent River, landing at Benedict in Charles County with sights set on the invasion of Washington City. British troops marched northward, reaching the community of Bladensburg in Prince George's County where they overwhelmingly defeated the American troops. Upon reaching Washington City, the British troops burned the Capitol and the President's House, then marched back to Benedict, reboarded their ships and sailed to Baltimore where they were defeated at Fort McHenry.

As British troops followed the route from Benedict, more troops arrived on the Potomac River. In southwestern Prince George's County, a fort overlooking the Potomac River had been built in 1809 to protect the nation's capital. First named Fort Warburton and renamed Fort Washington in 1814, the fort was poorly equipped with troops and equipment. On August 27, three days after Washington City was burned, a fleet of British ships approached the fort. As the American troops retreated, they ignited the fort's magazine, destroying the fort. (The fort was rebuilt in 1817 and continued to be updated as part of the coastal defense system through 1921.)

The War of 1812 brought another opportunity for enslaved African Americans to seek freedom. The presence of British troops attracted hundreds of escapees, further encouraged by a proclamation in 1814 offering freedom to anyone who would take up arms against the American forces or move to a British colony, resulting in hundreds of families leaving Maryland. The proclamation declared "...the great point to be attained is the cordial support of the Black population. With them properly armed and backed with 20,000 British Troops, Mr. Maddison (President James Madison) will be hurled from his throne." An estimated 700 to 800 enslaved persons escaped. At Sotterley Plantation in St. Mary's County, 49 enslaved persons self-emancipated, most in one night. The "Corps of Colonial Marines," made up of formerly enslaved men from the Eastern Shore, fought for the British in the Battle of Bladensburg and other battles.

A Nation and a State Torn Apart

Southern Maryland's society and economy were built on slavery. At the onset of the Civil War, the region had an enslaved population that outnumbered the population of white land owners. Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary's were the only counties in Maryland that did not vote for Abraham Lincoln for president. President Lincoln declared martial law and imprisoned members of the General Assembly who were sympathetic to the Confederate cause to prevent the state from seceding. Even so, white men from the region crossed the Potomac to enlist in the Confederate Army. Southern Maryland's white population remained firmly pro-Confederate, but enslaved African Americans seized an opportunity for freedom.

In 1861, the Union Army deployed troops to St. Mary's County to arrest traitors, protect river traffic, and stop smugglers. This put Union lines within reach of St. Mary's enslaved laborers. Unsure how to treat the men and women who came into their lines, the Union dubbed escaped slaves "contraband," or property taken during war. Many went to work for the Union as laborers, porters, teamsters, cooks, laundresses, and hospital attendants.

In 1862, the federal government built Hammond General Hospital on land situated at the confluence of the Chesapeake Bay and Potomac River in St. Mary's County, dubbed Point Lookout. After the Battle of Gettysburg in July 1863, the site became a camp for Confederate prisoners of war. By the end of the war, more than 50,000 prisoners were held at the camp; 14,000 died from exposure, disease, and starvation.

Hammond General Hospital, Point Lookout, 1863. Huntington Library, Art Museum, and Botanical Gardens, Digital Library.

In 1863, the Union Army established Camp Stanton near Benedict in Charles County, named for Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton. African American men were recruited to the camp and trained for service in the Union Army. As African American soldiers were drilling, marching, and building officers' quarters, hospitals, and living quarters, more than 6,500 still-enslaved men and women toiled on nearby farms and plantations.

Also in 1863, the army constructed Fort Foote on Rozier's Bluff overlooking the Potomac River. It was one of 68 forts that encircled Washington, D.C., protecting the nation's capital from invasion. Later, the fort was used briefly during World War I and World War II.

In June 1864, full-scale recruitment of enslaved and free blacks into the Union Army began. Over 700 African American men from St. Mary's County, both slave and free, joined the 38th United States Colored Infantry. Some were placed on guard duty at the Point Lookout prisoner of war camp. Others marched into battle in some of the last decisive battles of the war, with many marching into Richmond at the war's end. On November 1, 1864, before the war's end, Maryland passed a new state constitution, ending slavery in the state.

U.S. Colored Troops Memorial, Lexington Park

One of the most compelling events in Southern Maryland occurred at the end of the Civil War. The escape of John Wilkes Booth after his assassination of President Lincoln on April 14, 1865, followed a preplanned route through Southern Maryland that relied on the aid of Confederate sympathizers. Over 12 days, Booth and his accomplice, David Herold, made their way through Southern Maryland, stopping at a tavern owned by Mary Surratt in Surrattsville (now Clinton) to pick up guns and ammunition. Surratt had moved to Washington, D.C. where Booth and his conspirators planned the assassination at her boarding house. Surratt was arrested and found guilty of collaboration and was the first woman hanged by the federal government along with Herold and two other men who helped plan and carry out the assassination. Other assistance in Southern Maryland came from Dr. Samuel Mudd who treated Booth's leg that was broken in his escape from Ford's Theater. (Mudd was found guilty and sentenced to life in prison before being pardoned by President Andrew Johnson.) Confederate sympathizer Thomas Jones provided food and allowed the men to hide in the woods near his house for several days. The men crossed the Potomac River into Virginia where, on April 26, Herold was captured, and Booth was shot and killed by federal troops.

John Wilkes Booth stopped at Surratt House to pick up guns and ammunition during his escape after assassinating President Lincoln in April of 1865.

TAVERN AT SURRATTVILLE.

The Navy Moves In: America Faces Another War

In 1890, the U.S. Navy began implementing plans for what became a major presence over the next few decades. The first step was to establish a naval gun testing facility at Indian Head in Charles County, situated between the Potomac River and Mattawoman Creek. By 1900, the site was named the Naval Proving Ground and had expanded to include a powder making plant, access roads, a wharf, weapons facilities, and officers' quarters. When the United States entered World War I in 1917, production increased, and the surrounding area grew with new housing, hotels, schools, and businesses. By the 1920s, the proving ground operations were relocated to Virginia. The remaining base included a chemical factory, research, laboratory, and explosives factory.

A lasting imprint of the war are the remains of more than 100 wooden steamships commissioned by the U.S. government and now submerged in Mallows Bay on the Potomac River on the west coast of Charles County. Recently designated as Mallows Bay-Potomac River National Marine Sanctuary, the bay holds a diverse collection of shipwrecks dating to the Revolutionary War, but it is most renowned for the World War I steamships, known as the Ghost Fleet, that lie under water. The cargo ships were constructed in 40 shipyards in 17 states. Although 322 ships were built (starting a revival in wooden shipbuilding), none were built for use in the theater of war. The steamships were brought to Mallows Bay where they were purposely scuttled, burned, and salvaged. Mallows Bay is the final resting place of the first steamship built during the war, *North Bend*, and also some of the last, including *Boyton, Munra, Wonahbe,* and *Owatam*.

World War II Transforms Southern Maryland

The outbreak of World War II pulled Southern Maryland, along with the rest of the country, out of the Great Depression and brought new wartime jobs to the region. Southern Maryland's location – near the nation's capital and bordered by the Chesapeake Bay, Potomac, and Patuxent Rivers – made it an ideal locale for military buildup, in particular the U.S. Navy.

However, despite bringing jobs and economic growth, the buildup came at a cost as traditionally agricultural lands were transformed, and many people were forced off their land to make room for military base construction. Although the nation's entry into war, following the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, sped up the timetable, the military had been studying the area for development as early as 1937. In November of 1941, Cedar Point in St. Mary's County was chosen for its proximity to the Naval Air Center in Washington and the ocean, and for a landscape suited to flight and weapons testing. More than 6,000 acres were condemned and purchased for construction of the Patuxent River Naval Air Base which would consolidate the nation's scattered air testing facilities, dislocating families on several large farms as well as sharecroppers and tenant farmers. By 1943 the station was bustling with flight, radio, and electronics testing.

In 1942, Calvert County became the training site for Navy and Marine detachments, with the establishment of an amphibious training base at Dowell. Training for the invasion of Normandy, France was simulated on the lower Cliffs of Calvert.

In Charles County, the old naval powder factory in Indian Head geared up to produce three million pounds of powder each year. A laboratory was also built for the Navy to examine captured enemy ordnance. By 1945, more than 5,000 civilian and military personnel worked at the base, resulting in prosperity and growth for the town of Indian Head.

In Prince George's County, the Navy conducted flight training missions at Riverside Field near Upper Marlboro. The site was first opened in 1941 by John W. Greene Jr. and was the first African American-owned and operated airfield in Maryland (later changed to Columbia Air Center). Also in Prince George's County, Camp Springs Army Air Field opened in 1943 with the mission to train fighter pilots for overseas duty. The site's name was changed to Andrews Field in 1945 to honor one of the Air Force's founding fathers, Lt. Gen. Frank M. Andrews.

Still Defending the Nation
In the late 20th and early 21st century, Southern Maryland continued to defend the nation.
When the Air Force became a separate service in 1947, Andrew's Field was renamed Andrews Air Force Base. In 2009, the base merged with Naval Air Facility Washington, changing the name again to Joint Base Andrews. The base is managed by the 316th Wing of the U.S. Air Force. Joint Base Andrews is the home base of two Boeing VC-25 aircraft that have the call sign Air Force One when the President of the United States is on board.

Naval Support Facility Indian Head is the Navy's oldest continuously operating ordnance station. Today, the facility is home to six major commands. The military community represents a mix of research and development activities and support programs to protect the U.S. from terrorist threats as well as serving U.S. Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force and Army forces deployed worldwide.

Naval Air Station Patuxent River (NAS Pax River) in Lexington Park is home to Headquarters for Naval Air Systems Command (NAVAIR), the U.S. Naval Test Pilot School, the Atlantic Test Range, Unmanned Aircrafts Systems (UAS) research, and serves as a center for testing and evaluation and systems acquisition relating to naval aviation. More than 17,000 people, including active-duty service members, civil-service employees, and defense contractor employees, work at the base. Research facilities at the base include a manned flight simulator, aircraft combat environment testing, and aviation survival training.

Resources

(NR – National Register of Historic Places; NHL – National Historic Landmark; NPS – National Park Service)

The Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail, authorized by Congress in 2008, leads visitors to sites and stories of the War of 1812 over 300 miles through Maryland, Virginia, and Washington D.C. Historic homes, museums and parks interpret stories of Southern Maryland's role in military conflicts and national defense from the nation's earliest days to the present. Stories of the Revolutionary War years are found at **Thomas Stone National Historic Site,** also known as **Haberdeventure** (National Park Service, NHL), the home of a signer of the Declaration of Independence and **Smallwood's Retreat** (home of General William Smallwood, Smallwood State Park). War of 1812 sites include sites related to the **Battle of Bladensburg,** interpreted through walking and driving tours, and **Fort Washington**, which was destroyed in the war and rebuilt in 1817. Civil War sites include **Point Lookout State Park: Civil War Museum and Fort Lincoln** where exhibits interpret the prisoner of war camp for captured Confederate soldiers and the earthworks of Fort Lincoln can be seen along with recreated barracks and officer quarters. **Surratt House Museum** (NR) and **Dr. Samuel A. Mudd House and Museum** (NR) tell of the escape of John Wilkes Booth after he assassinated President Lincoln. An outdoor exhibit at **Columbia Air Center,** located within **Patuxent River Park,** tells the story of the first African American-owned and operated airfield in Maryland and its use by the U.S. Navy for training missions during World War II. **Mallows Bay-Potomac River National Marine Sanctuary** was designated in 2019 as the Chesapeake Bay's first national marine sanctuary and includes the "Ghost Fleet" of more than 100 wooden steamships built during WWI. **Patuxent River Naval Air Museum** is the nation's only museum dedicated to naval aviation research, development, testing and evaluation and features 22 one-of-a-kind aircraft. Exhibits and events at **Maryland Veterans Museum at Patriot Park** honor veterans from all military wars.

A Conceptual Boundary

The Process of Defining a Proposed Southern Maryland NHA Boundary

Identification of a boundary for the Southern Maryland NHA followed the process outlined in the National Park Service's *National Heritage Area Feasibility Study Guidelines: 2019* and meets Criteria 9: *A conceptual boundary is supported by the public.* As required in the guidelines, the proposed boundary includes resources that connect to the themes and retain integrity that enable "residents and visitors to fully understand how the region has contributed to the national story and that offers opportunities for additional resource protection."

The proposed Southern Maryland NHA encompasses an area rich in historic, cultural, and natural resources encompassing nationally significant stories discussed in the previous section. The SMHA consists of Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary's counties. It lies entirely within the Atlantic Coastal Plain and is bounded by the Chesapeake Bay on the east and by the Potomac River on the west and south. The proposed NHA boundary also includes part of southern Prince George's County that is not currently within the boundaries of a state certified heritage area.

History and Culture: The Human Dimension

Southern Maryland's occupation over thousands of years, starting with Indigenous people, followed by European colonial settlers and enslaved Africans, has been marked by events that contribute to the nation's stories and create a distinctive sense of place. The present-day impact of events reflecting Southern Maryland's history are widely varied and include state recognition of the Piscataway, watermen continuing to make their living harvesting seafood in the Chesapeake Bay, the transition away from tobacco farming, continued leadership in the nation's defense, and the commitment to preserve historic and cultural resources and to tell the region's stories. The five primary themes discussed in the previous section elaborate on Southern Maryland's history and culture and identify key resources for each theme:
1) Piscataway People: The Land is Who We Are
2) Sea Change: Time and Tide Shape Land and Life
3) Tobacco: A Growing Concern
4) Spirit of Faith, Spirit of Law, Spirit of Progress
5) Defense of a Nation

The Landscape

The proposed boundary is comprised of communities, villages and rural landscapes connected by state and local highways and roads as well as waterways. There are no interstate highways in the region. Waterways are a defining regional characteristic of Southern Maryland. The region is a peninsula bordered on the west by the Potomac River and the Chesapeake Bay on the east. The Patuxent River, the largest river within the state's boundary, flows for approximately 110 miles to the Chesapeake Bay between Calvert and Anne Arundel counties to the east and St. Mary's, Charles, and Prince George's counties to the west. The southern part of Prince George's County included in the proposed NHA boundary is defined as the "rural tier" in the county's general plan, which focuses on maintaining the area's rural character. Both roadways and waterways are recognized for their connection to Southern Maryland's history. Roadways

include the Religious Freedom National Scenic Byway, an almost 200-mile route which travels from Port Tobacco to Point Lookout, following parts of Route 234, U.S. 301 and Route 5 through Charles and St. Mary's counties. The Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail travels 560 miles on land and water routes, passing through Southern Maryland and linking historic sites along the route. The Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail is a water-based national trail which covers 3,000 miles of water routes and is based on Smith's map and written accounts. In Southern Maryland, the trail connects stops along the Potomac River and Patuxent River.

The Boundaries

Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary's Counties
The state certified heritage area boundaries encompass all of Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary's counties. Preparation of a management plan for the state certified Southern Maryland Heritage Area in 2003 focused on heritage tourism development opportunities. Through the planning process, the boundaries were defined to include 11 cluster areas based upon the concentration of heritage resources, the presence of existing or proposed interpretive facilities, and the amount of land protected by federal and state ownerships or easements. The availability of facilities to provide visitor services (accommodations, restaurants, and other amenities) was also considered. Road boundaries were based on consideration of scenic qualities or proximity to historic, cultural, or natural resources. Communities include Benedict, Broom's Island, Chesapeake Beach, Dowell, Dunkirk, Hughesville, Huntingtown, Indian Head, Lusby, Marbury, North Beach, Owings, Port Republic, Port Tobacco, Prince Frederick, Solomons, St. Leonard, and Waldorf.

Southern Prince George's County
Prince George's County is adjacent to the SMHA. Although the northern part of the county makes up the Anacostia Trails/Maryland Milestones state heritage area, the southern part of the county is not currently within the boundaries of a state heritage area. In the 21st century, the southern part of Prince George's County is defined as the "rural tier" in the county's general plan, which focuses on maintaining the area's rural character. The proposed boundary line was determined in recognition of the connections of landscape and history of this part of the county to Southern Maryland.

Responding to interest from representatives of heritage sites in southern Prince George's County, this area was included in the feasibility study from its conception. The study's subsequent research and public engagement process determined that southern Prince George's County should be included within the boundaries of the proposed National Heritage Area. Documentation of places, significant historical events, and the cultural landscape of the area over almost four centuries made clear that the stories of southern Prince George's County are the stories of Southern Maryland. Strong connections to themes include the history of the Piscataway, the impact of wars including the War of 1812 and the Civil War, tobacco as an economic and cultural system, and the legacy of African American enslavement, segregation, and fight for civil rights. Historic, natural, and cultural resources in southern Prince George's County are included in the feasibility study resource inventory. Communities in southern Prince George's County to be included within the NHA boundary are Upper Marlboro, Brandywine, Aquasco, Eagle Harbor, Cedar Haven, Clinton, Fort Washington, and Accokeek.

Political Boundaries
Calvert, Charles, St. Mary's, and Prince George's County each have a form of county government that oversees and administers the county's budget to provide services for residents. Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary's County, which make up the current boundaries of the SMHA, are partners in the Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland. As the cooperative planning and development agency for Southern Maryland, the Council coordinates local, state, and federal resources to support economic development, environmental protection, and regional resource management, which includes transportation, utilities, urban growth and development, housing, and public facilities and services.

Prince George's County's planning office is the Maryland -National Capital Park and Planning Commission (MNCPPC). MNCPPC facilitates planning for communities throughout the county, conducts research and documentation of historic resources, and owns many of the resources included in the feasibility study resource inventory.

The SMHA's offices are housed in the Tri-County Council offices. As the proposed boundary for the NHA includes southern Prince George's County, which is outside of the Tri-County Council's jurisdiction, management of an expanded region (beyond the Tri County Council's boundaries) is addressed in Chapter 4.

Potential Future Boundary Addition: Anne Arundel County
A recommendation to consider inclusion of southern Anne Arundel County within the proposed NHA boundaries emerged from public meetings and program committee discussions. Southern Anne Arundel County is within the boundaries of state certified Four Rivers Heritage Area (which extends north to Annapolis). The Four Rivers Heritage Area connects sites in the southern part of the county through the Roots and Tides Byway (state designated), which starts in Annapolis and continues south into Calvert County.

As research progressed for the development of themes, it became clear that southern Anne Arundel County's history does intertwine with that of Southern Maryland, particularly the history of tobacco farming and water-based commerce. The area includes several historical museums, villages, and churches whose stories connect to the proposed Southern Maryland NHA themes. This feasibility study references Anne Arundel County in the themes' historic context as appropriate. At the conclusion of the study process, partners agreed that southern Anne Arundel County could be reconsidered for inclusion in the boundaries in the future.

Southern Maryland National Heritage Area Conceptual Boundaries

This map identifies historic, cultural, natural , and recreational resources . To view an interactive version, click on the link below. When the link is opened,, click on each dot to view the name of the resource. See Appendix IV for links to additional maps.

https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/edit?
mid=1nMnR57KKAmZCPstP8vSE3li7c0LXhL2C&usp=sharing

Chapter 4: Management of the Proposed National Heritage Area for Southern Maryland

A Heritage Region of Strong Partnerships and Greater Opportunities

Since the certification of the Southern Maryland Heritage Area (SMHA) by the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority in 2004, a robust local partnership has grown within Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary's counties. This partnership includes the State of Maryland, county and local governments, non-profit organizations, businesses, tourism groups, cultural organizations, and residents. The success of this network of partners over almost two decades has positioned the region to advance to national recognition.

Based in Hughesville, SMHA is staffed by an executive director with support and guidance from a board of directors. Administrative services and office space are provided by the Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland. In addition to the SMHA board of directors, the executive director also reports to the Tri-County Council executive staff and board of directors.

Proposed NHA Boundary

As discussed in Chapter 3, the proposed NHA boundary will encompass the existing state heritage area counties of Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary's and will include southern Prince George's County. A key partner in the inclusion of this geographic area is the Anacostia Trails (Maryland Milestones) Heritage Area (ATHA). Located in northern Prince George's County, ATHA is currently considering a boundary amendment into the southern part of the county. If the boundary amendment is approved, ATHA would then share part of the proposed NHA's geographic area. The existing collaboration between SMHA and ATHA provides opportunities for increased heritage area programming and projects with an NHA designation, increasing the effectiveness of all partners and enhancing the benefit of the NHA designation for the communities of Southern Maryland.

A Record of Successful Grant Management

SMHA has a strong record of carefully directing its funds and technical assistance to organizations whose programs and projects support the heritage area's goals, heighten awareness and understanding of the area's history, and assist the organizations to grow and flourish.

SMHA's executive director prioritizes working directly with heritage area sites and organizations including meeting individually, hosting workshops, and forming associations such as the Southern Maryland Museum Association to provide a regular forum for discussion. The executive director focuses on identifying opportunities that are eligible for a heritage area grant and working with the organization to develop the grant application.

SMHA offers seed grants – maximum $5,000 - as well as being the conduit for larger, state-funded grants from the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority for capital and non-capital projects ($50,000 maximum for non-capital, and $100,000 maximum for capital). Seed grants are particularly useful in helping an organization to build capacity for project and fiscal management. SMHA has found that the seed grant opportunity, which provides the benefit of locally based support from SMHA, is more accessible to underserved populations and volunteer-based organizations. This is often a first step for these organizations, followed by applying for a larger grant from the state.

Seed grant opportunities have grown from $10,000 to $40,000 annually in the past five years, and the number of applications continues to increase, often to several times the funding limit. At the state level, the funding opportunity has doubled, and applications have tripled. Because SMHA's grant partners are often working on projects reflecting the themes of national significance discussed in this feasibility study, additional funding through NHA designation will create a great opportunity to further support the important work of these organizations.

Following are examples of partnerships that SMHA has formed with grantees :

Piscataway Conoy Tribe
The Indigenous people of Southern Maryland have managed to survive against all odds and are creating a new legacy. One aspect of that legacy is the master plan, "Through Piscataway Eyes," completed in 2016 (discussed in Chapter 3). This master plan was funded by the State of Maryland and was housed within SMHA. With facilitation by consultant specialists, the plan was driven by the Piscataway and reflects their vision. One aspect of the plan was creating a logo that would reflect Piscataway approval of an interpreted site. SMHA's executive director and Tribal leaders discussed this important need identified in the plan - a "stamp of approval" - a logo to let visitors know that an exhibit or a site's interpretation of the Piscataway experience is correct. A grant from SMHA supported development of a logo by a Piscataway artist. The design features the words *Through Piscataway Eyes* written in both English and Piscataway. Building on the success of that grant opportunity, the Tribe was awarded a second grant to create a traditional Native arts display to be located at one of the partner sites.

Logo developed by the Piscataway Conoy Tribe in 2018 with wording in English and Algonquin.

The Cedarville Band of the Piscataway.
The Cedarville Band of the Piscataway is a nonprofit organization and represents another aspect of the Piscataway experience. This organization and SMHA's executive director engaged in numerous conversations regarding their experiences and the needs of the organization. Several grants were funded including support for a Pow Wow, "We are Singers" oral history, and "Living the American Indian Experience." The organization is now considering applying to the state level capital and non-capital heritage area grant program.

UCAC - Unified Committee for Afro-American Contributions of St. Mary's County
SMHA's executive director reached out to members of this volunteer organization to make them aware of the heritage area's grant program and to encourage applications. The result was a grant in support of an oral history project, "Preserving and Sharing African American Histories," which captured the stories and experiences of African Americans in St. Mary's County. The grant supported a time-sensitive project as many of those interviewed are advanced in age.

Friends of Maxwell Hall
SMHA's work with the Friends of Maxwell Hall is an example of a seed grant building to a state level capital grant opportunity. Maxwell Hall is an important asset to the region that was recently acquired by the Charles County for preservation and interpretation. An active friends group is committed to the site's restoration and interpretation but was not familiar with local and state grant programs. The friends group was first awarded seed grants to assist with a master plan, including retaining a consultant to guide the master plan process. Based on the master plan's strategies and projects, this group successfully secured a large grant from the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority's non capital grant program for the project: "Maxwell Hall: Discovering and Raising New Voices, Phase I," an oral history project to interview descendants of white owners and enslaved African Americans.

Approach to Determine Management Alternatives
A series of meetings, presentations, and outreach continued throughout the feasibility study, as detailed in Chapter One. Due to the COVID 19 pandemic, some meetings were virtual while two in-person public meetings were also held. Public meetings were conducted in September 2020 to kick off the planning effort and to enlist involvement and support for NHA designation. While in-person meetings were restricted after September 2020, the planning process continued with virtual public meetings and committee meetings. Meeting participants were advised of the planning process milestones, including testing and determining a final NHA management alternative. The process included remote sessions with the National Heritage Area Feasibility Study Steering Committee, SMHA Board of Directors, and Tri-County Council executive staff, apprising them of the planning approach for the feasibility study. During the planning process, three alternatives were discussed:
- **No Action - State Heritage Area -** Continue to operate as a Maryland state heritage area
- **SMHA as a National Heritage Area –** Seek federal designation to become a National Heritage Area within the state heritage area's current boundaries.
- **National Heritage Area -** Seek federal designation to become a National Heritage Area in combination with the state designation, but with an expanded boundary into southern Prince George's County.

An additional investigative step provided insights into the benefits of NHA designation to an area that is a successful state heritage area. The Baltimore NHA's staff attended the September 2020 public meetings and enthusiastically supported the feasibility study. Baltimore NHA staff shared with meeting attendees the benefits of having both state and federal designation to enhance opportunities for programs, access technical assistance, and increase funding. Participants agreed the Baltimore NHA's success offered great inspiration for Southern Maryland's efforts.

The Preferred Alternative – Establishment of a Southern Maryland NHA

Recognizing the tremendous accomplishments of the SMHA, the esteem the management entity engenders, and the nationally important stories and abundance of related resources, stakeholders agreed that the region is well-positioned to seek NHA designation to include the current state heritage area boundaries and the expanded boundary of Southern Prince George's County.

It was also noted that the National Park Service already has a strong presence in the area (National Parks, National Historic Landmarks, and National Historic Trails) and an effective partnership with SMHA as they work together on projects such as developing the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail in Southern Maryland and enhancing programming along the Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail. NHA designation would further strengthen this partnership with technical assistance and funding to support programs and projects of that tell our national story. The NHA designation will also create leverage to raise funds from other federal, state, local, and philanthropic sources.

Impact Assessment

An assessment of the preferred alternative was determined to have minimal, if any, negative impact on the environment of, or the communities within, Southern Maryland and the counties of Calvert, Charles, St. Mary's, and Southern Prince George's. NHA designation does not impose any federal regulatory oversight or management, nor does it enact any land-use regulations or limit the rights of individuals, businesses, or other entities to the use of their private property.

National Heritage Area Management

For the past 17 years, a strong partnership between SMHA and the Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland has effectively managed the state heritage area program. As the fiduciary agency for SMHA, Tri-County Council manages all financial matters, including billings, bookkeeping, contracts, and financial reporting. Tri-County Council also provides office space and use of office equipment to SMHA. Additional in-kind service benefits are provided to SMHA by a network of regional partners. The value of in-kind benefits is substantial, greatly enhancing the ability of the heritage partnership to advance projects and programs for the benefit of the communities and region.

As the planning process advanced, it was confirmed that the partnership between SMHA and Tri-County Council would be equally effective to serve an NHA. The strength of this partnership guarantees a strong fiduciary organization to oversee financial management, record keeping, reporting, and audits and allows SMHA to expand its proactive outreach, community engagement, and proven track record of accomplishments in delivering high-quality heritage projects and programs. Legislation introduced in the United States Senate and U.S. House of Representatives in 2021 further supports this dual-bodied management approach naming the Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland as the coordinating entity, with SMHA responsible for the day-to-day program and project implementation with the heritage area partners.

To ensure the strongest management structure for the NHA, the following actions were identified:

- SMHA will become a legal entity and incorporate as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization within the State of Maryland. This incorporation will enable SMHA to receive donations, grants, and pass-through funds from other partners, including funding provided by Tri-County Council. As Tri-County Council is restricted to work only in St. Mary's, Calvert, and Charles counties, the establishment of SMHA as a separate 501(c)3 nonprofit will allow the organization to work not only within the three counties that comprise the state heritage area, but also in southern Prince George's County as part of the NHA boundary.

- Roles and responsibilities of the boards and staff of Tri-County Council and SMHA will be defined through a cooperative agreement for managing the NHA. This agreement will be beneficial to future evaluations of the NHA and will allow for adjustments as the needs of the NHA change over time.

- The NHA staff will operate as part of SMHA. Staff will include a full-time, salaried executive director and additional program and support staff as financial capacity increases. All staff will be salaried employees of the new non-profit organization, receiving competitive wages and benefits.

Potential Programs and Projects

As discussed above, SMHA has a multi-year track record of successfully implementing programs and projects in partnership with numerous state and local organizations. The heritage area's support is provided in many ways including grants, technical assistance, advocacy, and promotion. This record of success creates a strong foundation for developing substantive programs and projects as an NHA that will further elevate the nationally important themes and stories described in this feasibility study.

Following are examples of potential programs and projects gathered from public meetings, program committee discussions, stakeholder interviews and a review of previous programs and project supported by the heritage area.

Note: It is understood that specific plans and programs for the National Heritage Area will be identified as part of the management planning process. Following are examples intended to be representative of the types of programs and projects that could be considered. Each example identifies the theme associated with the program or project.

Maryland Rediscovery 400
The landing of the Ark and the Dove at St. Clement's Island in 1634 marked the beginning of European colonization in the region and the eventual formation of the state of Maryland. SMHA has taken a leadership role in planning to commemorate the milestone of 400 years since the founding of Maryland in 2034. In 2019, SMHA formed a committee with representatives from the Piscataway Conoy Tribe, African American Heritage Society, historic sites, museums, colleges, and county and state preservation, transportation agencies. The committee's work is underway to encourage and support community-based projects in Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary's counties and southern Prince George's County. The NHA could elevate recognition of the historical importance of this initiative with increased support of partner's projects and promotion of programs and events. (Theme: Spirit of Faith, Spirit of Law, Spirit of Progress)

Religious Freedom National Scenic Byway
The first and only nationally recognized byway focused on stories of religious heritage and freedom was designated by the Federal Highway Administration in 2009. The byway's corridor management plan includes numerous actions for interpretation, preservation, and promotion with the goal of making the byway a primary touring route in Southern Maryland. The SMHA was the lead organization to develop the corridor management plan and to implement initial activities focused on promoting the byway. As a designated NHA, the heritage area could further develop many of the strategies in the management plan. (Theme: Spirit of Faith, Spirit of Law, Spirit of Progress)

Piscataway Federal Recognition

After a decades-long effort, the Indigenous Piscataway Conoy Tribe and the Piscataway Indian Nation in Southern Maryland received official recognition from the State of Maryland. With state recognition secured, the Piscataway plan to move forward with requesting federal recognition. The NHA could assist with compilation of documentation and connecting with federal officials to secure recognition. (Theme: Piscataway People: The Land is Who We Are)

Repository for Indigenous Stories and Places

Maryland National Capitol Parks and Planning in Prince George's County is studying Native history on the Patuxent River and working to reconstruct the cultural landscape through archaeological excavations. This work could also be expanded by other partners throughout the region. An important role for the NHA could be to create an online repository to house resources and information on all activities to research, document, preserve, and interpret Indigenous places and stories. This would bring resources that are currently scattered throughout the region (in universities, historical societies, museums, etc.) into one searchable online resource. (Theme: Piscataway People: The Land is Who We Are)

Southern Maryland Conservation Alliance

Formed in 2020, this alliance represents land trusts and other partners with a mission to "work to conserve and restore Southern Maryland's landscapes, waterways, and shorelines that are special to its people, fundamental to its economy, reflected in its culture, and vital for its native fish, wildlife, and plants, on which we rely." The Alliance will raise funds to purchase and protect lands which often include historic sites. The NHA could be an important partner in providing funds and technical assistance for restoration and conservation projects as well as promoting the mission and goals of the Alliance which align with the mission and goals of the NHA. (NHA's cannot purchase land with federal funds.) (Theme: Sea Change: Time and Tide Shape Land and Life)

Maryland Historic Trust - Statewide Preservation Plan, 2019-2023

The State Historic Preservation Office's (SHPO) preservation plan includes sections with goals and strategies for each region of the state. The Southern Maryland region's strategies which could engage the NHA in a leadership role include developing oral history programs for youth, providing preservation-themed training programs on topic such as use of the historic rehabilitation tax credit and flood mitigation for historic resources, documenting properties threatened by climate change, documenting historic and cultural site significant to recreational and agricultural heritage, and providing technical assistance to preserve and protect the area's rural character. (Theme: Spirit of Faith, Spirit of Law, Spirit of Progress)

Trail of Discovery
In response to presentation of the feasibility study's themes at a public meeting, a suggestion was made to create a Trail of Discovery to guide visitors through the region according to these themes. The trail could be created as a downloadable app with travel experiences organized by theme. (Theme: All feasibility study themes)

Environmental Literacy Educational Programs
In 2011, Maryland became the first state in the nation to pass an environmental literacy high school graduation requirement. This mandate requires all local public schools to provide a comprehensive, multi-disciplinary environmental education program aligned with state environmental literacy standards. The Alice Ferguson Foundation in Prince George's County owns and manages Hard Bargain Farm Environmental Center which offers numerous programs for students and teachers that fulfill the state's environmental literacy requirements. Among the foundation's programs is Trash Free Schools, a partnership with the National Park Service and 17 federal and state parks, which engages 6,000 students annually in more than 200 site cleanups. Partnership with the NHA could allow the program to be extended to schools through the NHA region. (Theme: Sea Change: Time and Tide Shape Land and Life)

Update National Register of Historic Places nominations
There are more than 130 properties listed in the National Register of Historic Places, including seven National Historic Landmarks and 14 districts or multiple property designations. Many of these nominations were written at a time when nominations focused on architectural descriptions and the historical significance of white males who owned the property. The NHA could provide a leadership role in prioritizing nominations that need to be updated to tell a more diverse story and providing funding and technical assistance. (Themes: All themes).

Conceptual Financial Plan

The financial plan and proposed budget for the Southern Maryland NHA include anticipated federal funding through annual congressional appropriations to the Heritage Partnership Program through the National Park Service and continuation of funding from the State of Maryland through the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority. These two funding sources will provide a stable base of financing from which SMHA can implement and grow the NHA.

As a certified Maryland State Heritage Area, SMHA receives $100,000 of base funding each year from the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority. In addition, two other sources of funding provide a solid financial foundation for the state heritage area. This includes annual appropriations averaging $60,000 per year from counties participating in the heritage area program and funding from the Rural Maryland Council via the Tri-County Council averaging $55,000 per year. Together, these three funding sources exceed the federal match requirement of one dollar to one dollar, assuming the initial federal appropriation to a new Southern Maryland NHA will be $150,000. SMHA also receives significant in-kind support through donated services, office space and overhead, and project costs that together average $234,509 per year. This in-kind support is listed separately from income in the budget – having a value that can offset certain costs and expenses but not available as actual cash to pay the expenses.

With NHA designation, SMHA forecasts a five-year budget that grows significantly. The designation will enable the new NHA to employ an adequate number of staff and to conduct programming and projects while attracting a significant amount of revenue from other sources. This assumption is grounded in the 30-year track record established and documented by the Alliance of National Heritage Areas in economic impact studies of other NHAs. In addition to these revenue sources, SMHA will establish other revenue opportunities which may include grants, philanthropic contributions, an annual membership program, income from special events and programs, and sales of merchandise.

Additionally, SMHA holds a reserve fund to cover expenses when unpredictable economic conditions may interrupt otherwise regular grant funding. That reserve fund balance of $62,000 is expected to grow with additional funds from interest earned and additional funding added each year. Altogether, the total of those funds, along with the annual grant from NPS and MHAA, will meet the sustainability test that Congress desires for all NHAs.

Southern Maryland National Heritage Area
FIVE-YEAR PROJECTED BUDGET
Annual Operating Revenues & Expenses

REVENUES	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	5-Year Totals
Earned Income	0	10,000	12,000	15,000	20,000	57,000
Contributions/Donations	5,000	7,500	10,000	12,500	15,000	50,000
Membership	1,000	1,250	2,500	3,000	3,250	11,000
Special Events	5,000	7,500	10,000	12,500	15,000	50,000
Sales	0	5,000	8,000	9,000	10,000	32,000
Federal Grants/NPS (see, Note 1)	177,000	180,000	322,000	325,000	328,000	1,332,000
State Grants/MHAA	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	500,000
Local Grants- County & Municipal	60,000	60,000	90,000	90,000	90,000	390,000
Other State Grants	80,000	80,000	80,000	80,000	80,000	400,000
Total Revenue	**428,000**	**451,250**	**634,500**	**647,000**	**661,250**	**2,822,000**
EXPENSES						
Administration, Operations, Management	145,000	205,000	211,150	217,485	224,010	1,002,645
Consultants	100,000	100,000	30,000	35,000	40,000	305,000
Heritage Grants	40,000	50,000	60,000	70,000	80,000	300,000
Equipment & Maintenance	7,500	6,500	5,000	4,500	4,500	28,000
Insurance	5,000	5,250	5,700	5,700	6,000	27,650
Marketing & PR	12,000	13,500	15,000	16,500	17,500	74,500
Office & Facility/ Utilities	1,500	1,750	2,000	2,250	2,500	10,000
Printing, Copying, Postage	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	25,000
Professional Expenses (Board/Staff)	2,000	2,200	2,400	2,600	3,000	12,200
Program Expenses	5,250	6,000	6,750	7,500	8,250	33,750
Professional Org. & Membership Fees	3,750	5,000	5,000	7,500	7,500	28,750
Supplies & Furnishings	2,000	2,200	2,400	2,750	3,000	12,350
Travel & Related	4,350	5,000	6,000	7,500	7,500	30,350
Misc. & Other	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	12,500
Total Expenses	**335,850**	**409,900**	**358,900**	**386,785**	**411,260**	**1,902,695**
Subtotal Profit/Loss	**92,150**	**41,350**	**275,600**	**260,215**	**249,990**	**919,305**
Reserve Funds Balance	**62,000**	**65,000**	**70,000**	**75,000**	**80,000**	**80,000**
Total of Cash After Expenses	154,150	**106,350**	**345,600**	**335,215**	**329,990**	**999,305**
In-Kind Support	234,000	**234,000**	**234,000**	**234,000**	**234,000**	**234,000**
Grand Total	388,150	**340,350**	**579,600**	**569,215**	**563,990**	**1,233,305**

Note 1: Funding in this line includes an established annual grant received from NPS for the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail. The budgeted amount also estimated future NPS/NHA funds at the Tier I and Tier II base amounts established for Federal Fiscal Year 2021.

Additional Information

The Appendix includes additional information relevant to management of the NHA:

- **Partnerships** – current and potential partners
- **Funders** – current and potential funders
- **Concurrent Planning Documents –** economic development, arts and culture, conservation and parks, tourism and interpretation, planning, historic preservation, and scenic byways
- **Letters of Support**

Chapter 5: National Heritage Area Criteria Application

In 2004, the State of Maryland recognized the unique history and culture of Southern Maryland through the designation of a heritage area that encompassed Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary's counties. The SMHA is one of 13 state heritage areas operating under the auspices of the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority (part of the Maryland Historical Trust, State Historic Preservation Office). The heritage area honors the region's character, shaped by the Chesapeake Bay and the waterways that feed it, as well as by the people who were drawn to Southern Maryland over millennia. From the Piscataway and their ancestors to English colonists seeking religious freedom and economic opportunity, to the vastly different lives of those who managed and those who toiled on tobacco plantations and in the seafood industry, the region is marked by stories of the creation and the testing of some of our nation's core values of justice, freedom, equality, and opportunity. SMHA has focused on enhancing this special region through heritage tourism, cultural and natural resource conservation, and educational opportunities.
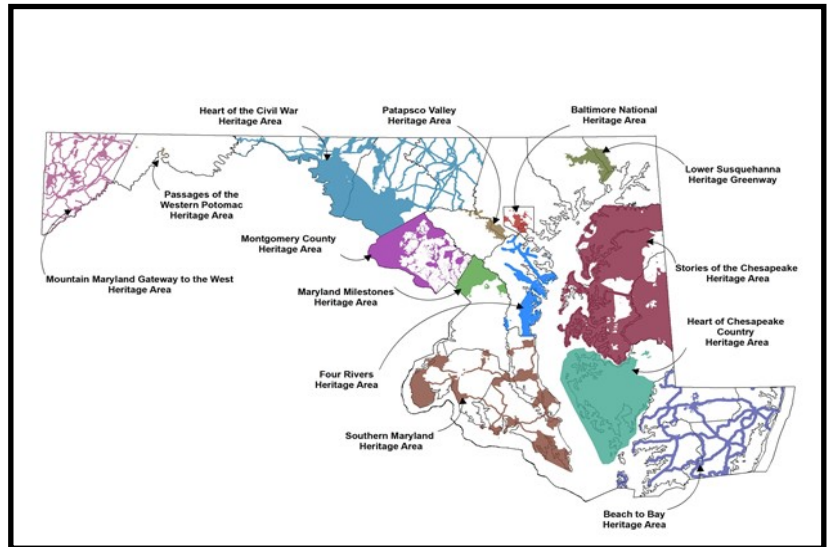
Destination Southern Maryland is one of 13 heritage areas certified by the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority.

In 2018, area leaders began the process of pursuing National Heritage Area (NHA) designation for Southern Maryland. Under the auspices of the SMHA, Executive Director Lucille Walker and a steering committee of key regional partners have spearheaded the feasibility study process. Because the rural character and history of Southern Maryland extends into Prince George's and Anne Arundel counties, those areas were also considered in the study process.

The 18-month process involved hundreds of citizens and dozens of community groups across the region. Over the course of the planning process, the following questions have been considered: Is a NHA feasible in Southern Maryland? What is the nationally important story here? Are there historic, cultural, and natural resources in the region that could help tell this story? Is there a partnership network and capacity to develop and carry out a regional vision based on the story and resources?

The National Park Service evaluates emerging NHAs using an established set of 10 criteria. Each criterion is listed below, followed by a description of how this study has demonstrated the feasibility and suitability for designation of the Southern Maryland National Heritage Area .

1. **An area has an assemblage of natural, historic, or cultural resources that together represent distinctive aspects of American heritage worthy of recognition, conservation, interpretation, and continuing use, and are best managed as such an assemblage through partnerships among public and private entities, and by combining diverse and sometimes noncontiguous resources and active communities.**

SMHA shares stories that underpin the history of our nation's democracy, from the intersection of cultures from three continents to the creation, testing, and evolution of our nation's core values. of justice, freedom, equality, and opportunity The legacy of this played out over centuries on a landscape that supported the twin economic drivers of agriculture and commercial fishing. An impressive concentration of historic, cultural, and natural resources in the region support this history as expressed in historical overview in Chapter 2 and the five themes and statement of significance set forth in Chapter 3.

An inventory with more than 240 resources was developed over the course of the feasibility study (see Appendix IV). The history and culture of the Piscataway (Theme 1) is reflected in 68 resources. History and living traditions associated with the Chesapeake Bay and the region's waterways (Theme 2) are supported by 98 resources. The history of plantations and the tobacco economy has 161 historic places associated with it (Theme 3). The establishment of religious freedom and the complex history of what freedom means (Theme 4) is evident at 110 sites. Finally, there are 87 resources that are associated with the past and present defense of our nation (Theme 5).

The region contains many resources that are recognized by the federal government, including six units of the National Park Service, two National Historic Trails, a National Scenic Byway, and a National Marine Sanctuary. In addition, there are 138 properties listed in the National Register of Historic Places, including 7 National Historic Landmarks and 14 districts or multiple property designations. The State of Maryland also manages more than 30 properties in the region as state parks, trails, environmental areas, wildlife sanctuaries, and museums.
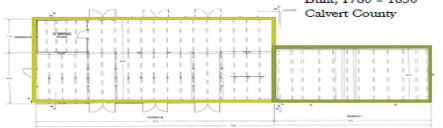

History and Context of Southern Maryland Tobacco Barns

1800 – 1830 Tobacco Barns:
The earliest barns [...] were square in the barn's main section and were built of heavy timbers. Access into these barns was limited to foot traffic through narrow doorways spanned with large, hand-hewn sills. Sheds for tobacco stripping and storage were commonly added to two, three or four sides.

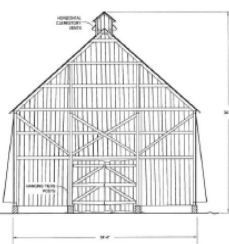The Exchange Tobacco Barn
Built: 1800
Charles County

1830 - 1900 Tobacco Barns:
Between 1830 – 1900, farmers [...] began to construct fairly standardized structures for curing tobacco. These barns are more rectangular and often have only one original shed located on the south side. The asymmetrical gable roof and even spacing of one door on each side makes these barns easy to identify
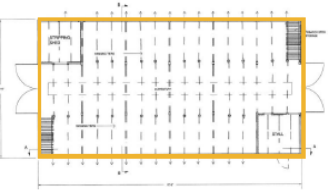
Holly Hill Tobacco Barn
Built: 1780 – 1850
Calvert County

1900 - Present Tobacco Barns:
The shift to mechanization among [...] tobacco farmers in the twentieth century is clearly evident in tobacco barns of this period. Long structures with single or double aisle plans provide easy access for farm vehicles. The large number of ventilation doors suggests a change in attitudes towards ventilation requirements. Specialized rooms for stripping tobacco are also found in these modern barns.

Deep Falls Tobacco Barn
Built: 1940's
St. Mary's County

Text: Tobacco Barns, Calvert County, Maryland pamphlet

Drawings: The Center for Architecture and Design students, University of Delaware

2. **Reflects traditions, customs, beliefs, and folklife that are a valuable part of the national story.**

A hallmark of NHAs is that they are truly living landscapes. While they have tangible resources that help tell important stories of the past, they also encompass the cultural traditions and economic activities that have connected and sustained people over generations.

The Piscataway Conoy Tribe and the Piscataway Indian Nation were recognized by the State of Maryland in 2012. Tribal members are actively engaged in sharing history and culture through interpretation and events, much of which is highlighted in the plan *Through Piscataway Eyes*. They have been joined in developing and carrying out this plan by key state and local partners across the region.

Governor O'Malley meets with Piscataway youth after signing an executive order recognizing the Piscataway tribes.

The story of religious freedom is writ large on the Southern Maryland landscape. Historic churches are found in most communities, and of the 14 churches listed in the National Register, many have active congregations who trace their history back centuries. The Religious Freedom National Scenic Byway is a 195-mile route through the region that connects these historic resources and the stories they hold.

Agriculture has been an economic mainstay in the region since the colonial era. Although tobacco is no longer as dominant as it once was, some is still grown. Moreover, farmers continue to use former tobacco lands as vineyards and to grow a wide range of fresh herbs, fruits, and vegetables. Jane Mark Winery, Robin Hill Farms and Vineyards, and Serenity Farm are all excellent examples of the evolution of Southern Maryland agriculture from tobacco to vineyards and vegetables that draw agritourism.

The Chesapeake Bay is the nation's largest estuary. The bay and its watershed support thousands of marine species that have long been the focus of culture and economy in Southern Maryland. The watermen who harvest and process seafood have strong traditions and deep roots in the region. Watermen Heritage Tours share traditions with the public in a partnership program of the Chesapeake Conservancy, Coastal Heritage Alliance, Maryland Watermen's Association, and the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum. The partners have trained 100 watermen in heritage tourism, offering experiences such as trotlining, crabbing, and cruises on historic skipjacks.

Finally, Southern Maryland has a proud tradition of military service, including three key installations of the United States military that remain active today. The Naval Support Facility at Indian Head, Maryland's longest running base, has been in operation since 1890. Joint Base Andrews and the Patuxent River Naval Air Station have served the nation since World War II.

3. Provides outstanding opportunities to conserve natural, cultural, historic, and/or scenic features.

Southern Maryland sits just beyond the beltway that defines the Washington D.C. metropolitan area, yet the region has retained a largely rural landscape dotted with small communities. The farmlands, waterways, and coastlines offer a wealth of scenic and natural landscapes that can benefit from conservation efforts. In addition, the concentration of historic communities and former plantations in the region include significant opportunities for preservation activities.

The region holds fragile historic resources such as the Robertson Tenant House, which could face destruction without help, and the Compton Bassett Historic Home, owned by Maryland-National Capitol Park and Planning Commission, which has been stabilized and mothballed pending development of a plan for the property's use. Opportunity for better understanding the past and caring for significant resources is also found in major archaeological projects at significant Indigenous and African American sites in Southern Maryland.

Restoration and conservation of the Chesapeake Bay, the nation's largest estuary, focuses on the water and surrounding land and the habitat created for fish, oysters, waterfowl, pollinators, and other wildlife. Organizations such as the Chesapeake Conservancy, Chesapeake Bay Environmental Center, and Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay have undertaken a wide variety of activities to study the bay's ecosystem, advocate for restoration, offer tours and programs to educate the public, and to create a culture of stewardship. These organizations work in partnership with the federal government and Maryland Department of Natural Resources.

Additionally, in 2021, between 15 and 20 conservation organizations in Southern Maryland, including many land trusts, formed the Southern Maryland Conservation Alliance. Ecological, aquatic, cultural, agricultural, and scenic attributes have been researched and mapped to verify the benefits of rural lands conservation in Southern Maryland. The new alliance states as its mission "The Southern Maryland Conservation Alliance is a network of partners who work to conserve and restore Southern Maryland's landscapes, waterways, and shorelines that are special to its people, fundamental to its economy, reflected in its culture, and vital for its native fish, wildlife, and plants, on which we rely." This mission aligns with the goals of a Southern Maryland NHA as evidenced by the invitation to SMHA's executive director to serve on the board of directors, making the new alliance an ideal partner for the NHA.

The American Chestnut Land Trust offers 22 miles of trails across a 3,000 acre preserve.

4. Provides outstanding recreational and educational opportunities.

The region's rural, coastal landscape provides many opportunities for active and passive recreation, with over 60 recreational resources located across the region. Most notable are the water trails, including the Captain John Smith National Historic Trail and the Maryland Water Trails located in each of the counties. In addition, the Mallow's Bay-Potomac River National Marine Sanctuary facilitates recreational access to the historical and natural features that earned the bay one of only 14 such designations in the country. Numerous hiking and biking trails also exist within and between communities.

Southern Maryland is also replete with educational opportunities, many of which are found in the more than 40 museums and interpretive centers currently open to the public. Among the most impactful educational projects currently underway, Historic St. Mary's City (NHL) is enhancing education across the site with recent archaeological discoveries and new interpretive panels, and Historic Sotterley – a UNESCO Site of Memory – continues to build upon their *Common Ground* initiative that brings together descendants, the community, and partners. In addition to the federal and state properties mentioned previously, the counties and many non-profit organizations also support sites with interpretation. Many of these will benefit from the impact of NHA designation.

Historic Sotterley's *Common Ground* initiative brings together descendants, the community, and partners to provide education and remembrance.
Photo: Historic Sotterley

5. The resources important to the identified theme or themes of the area retain a degree of integrity capable of supporting interpretation.

The resources described in this feasibility study are highly capable of supporting interpretation in the region. As noted in Criterion 1, above, the assemblage of historic, cultural, and natural resources in Southern Maryland combine to tell the story of the intersection of cultures from three continents and the creation, testing, and evolution of our nation's core values. The integrity of the resources in Southern Maryland is demonstrated by the large number of federal designations that exist in a relatively small area. These resources merit their national designations by virtue of their integrity and the significance of the stories they share. Southern Maryland encompasses six National Park units/properties— Oxon Cove Park/Oxon Hill Farm, Fort Foote, Fort Washington, Harmony Hall, Piscataway National Park, and Thomas Stone National Historic Site—and the Captain John Smith National Historical Trail and Star-Spangled Banner National Historical Trail pass through the heart of the region. The 195-mile Religious Freedom National Scenic Byway, designated by the U.S. Secretary of Transportation lies (continued next page)

completely within the proposed NHA. Mallow's Bay
-Potomac River National Marine Sanctuary,
designated in 2019 by the National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), conserves
and facilitates access to the Ghost Fleet and the
area's rich natural environment.

Seven National Historic Landmarks also support
Southern Maryland's history, including the
Accokeek Creek Site, Historic St. Mary's City, J.C.
Lore Oyster House, Poplar Hill on His Lordship's
Kindness, Historic Sotterley, the William B.
Tennison (Chesapeake Bay Bugeye), and Habre-de
-Venture (the aforementioned Thomas Stone
National Historic Site). These special places are
complemented by 125 additional resources listed
in the National Register of Historic Places, found in
the feasibility study inventory, including 14
recognized as having a national level of significance.

Old Durham Church in Charles County is one of many historic churches on the Religious Freedom National Scenic Byway.

6. **Residents, business interests, non-profit organizations, and governments within the proposed area are involved in the planning, have developed a conceptual financial plan that outlines the roles for all participants including the federal government, and have demonstrated support for designation of the area.**

Southern Maryland boasts a strong network of partners that work well together. Leading this effort is the SMHA which has a proven track record of working with partners and has an active grant program which supports many heritage tourism projects and strengthens the network of partners throughout the region. Moreover, the heritage area has demonstrated the capacity to secure necessary funds and carry out a feasibility study, garnering increased respect and confidence from the organization's partners as well as local, state, and federal elected leaders.

The partnership network in Southern Maryland is diverse, engaged, energized, and capable of sustaining an NHA. This network includes more than 80 current partners, 21 of whom are represented on the NHA Steering Committee. There is the potential to add many other partners as the initiative continues to gain momentum (see "Partnerships" in Appendix I). Partners in the region work together to carry out a wide variety of projects and programming. Maryland Rediscovery 400 and Maryland Day provide two recent examples of how the partnership network functions, and the role the heritage area plays within that regional network. Additionally, many partners attended public meetings as part of the feasibility study process.

A five-year conceptual financial plan is found in Chapter 4. The financial plan builds on the strong fiscal foundation of SMHA with projected growth in the years following NHA designation.

7. **The proposed coordinating entity and units of government supporting designation are willing to commit to working in partnership to develop the heritage area.**

State and local governmental support for designation of the Southern Maryland NHA is strong. Since 2004, the heritage area has operated under the auspices of the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority and is administratively housed under the Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland. The Maryland Heritage Areas Authority provides administrative and grant funding to the Southern Maryland Heritage Area Consortium, and the Tri-County Council provides administrative support, office space, and project funding. In addition, the Southern Maryland Heritage Area Consortium has been successful in working with the Anacostia Trails Heritage Area in Prince George's County, including that heritage area's participation on the Steering Committee.

The 12 members comprising the Southern Maryland delegation of the Maryland General Assembly have voiced strong support for NHA designation and provided a letter of support. Additionally, letters of support were provided by the Commissioners of St. Mary's County Government, the Mayor of Leonardtown, the Mayor of the Town of Chesapeake Beach, and others (see Appendix V for letters of support). The demonstrated and ongoing commitment of state and local government support is a key indicator for future success of the Southern Maryland National Heritage Area.

8. **The proposal is consistent with continued economic activity in the area.**

The SMHA has been highly successful in complementing and enhancing economic activity in the area, especially through a strong focus on heritage tourism. The historic, natural, and recreational resources combine to create great visitor appeal for the region. A December 2020 study commissioned by the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority and conducted by Parker Philips, Inc., a nationally recognized consulting firm specializing in economic impact analysis, found that the annual economic impact of SMHA in 2019 is $187 million. This figure is calculated from tourism driven by the presence of SMHA ($185.5 million), and the operations and grantmaking activities of the heritage area in collaboration with the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority ($1.5 million). The study incorporated direct spending on operations, pay, benefits, grants, and heritage tourists by SMHA, as well as the estimated increase in demand for goods and services in industry sectors that supply or support heritage tourism in the region.

The study found that heritage tourism augmented by SMHA sustains 2,637 jobs. The vast majority of these jobs are created by vendors, at hotels, restaurants, and retail stores in support of the heritage area operations, and through grantmaking. The study also calculated tax revenue, concluding SMHA's activities help generate $25.3 million in revenue for state and local government. (continued on next page)

(continued from previous page)

Beyond tourism, economic mainstays in the region long have included commercial fishing, agriculture, and the military. These activities are clearly reflected in the region's history and cultures and are highlighted in the themes set forth in the feasibility study. The proposed NHA will complement and leverage these historically important economic drivers whose impact is described below.

According to the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, the Chesapeake Bay is home to 348 species of finfish and 173 species of shellfish, many of which have been fished commercially and recreationally for generations. Five-hundred million pounds of seafood are harvested in Maryland and Virginia waters each year. The industry's annual impact is $1.4 billion in sales, $539 million in income, and more than 30,000 jobs (https://www.cbf.org/issues/fisheries/, accessed April 5, 2021).

The Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission supports and documents agriculture in Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Prince George's, and St. Mary's counties. In 2020, there were more than 2,000 farms in Southern Maryland that encompassed 205,000 acres (https://smadc.com/about/reports/, accessed April 5, 2021). The region has successfully navigated the decline of the tobacco industry through diversification of crops and expansion into agricultural tourism through farmers markets and wineries. SMHA's executive director serves as vice chair of the commission.

Past and present, the military has had a strong presence in the region. There are three key military installations within the boundaries of the proposed NHA—Joint Base Andrews, the Naval Air Station at Patuxent River (Pax River) and Naval Surface Warfare Center at Indian Head (Indian Head). A 2016 study prepared for the Maryland Department of Commerce by the Regional Economic Studies Institute, Towson University, clearly demonstrates the economic impact of the three bases on the region. The bases supported approximately 94,000 jobs and had a combined impact on the Southern Maryland economy of $14 billion.

9. A conceptual boundary map is supported by the public.

Over the course of the planning process, a conceptual boundary was delineated that incorporates the large concentration of cultural and natural resources described above and recorded in the inventory in Appendix IV. These resources, including many that are nationally significant, collectively tell the history of Southern Maryland. The boundary encompasses Calvert, Charles, St. Mary's, and southern Prince George's counties. This boundary was studied by the staff, planning team, and Steering Committee, and was presented to key partners and the public for input. The boundary clearly supports the nationally important story and themes.

The public process by which the conceptual boundary was determined is described in detail in Chapter 3. That process took into consideration Southern Maryland's landscape, cultures, and history, including traditions and activities that remain an integral part of the region's heritage today, as well as political and topographical factors. The final boundary proposal and the reasoning behind it was shared with the public at the final round of public meetings.

10. **The coordinating entity proposed to plan and implement the project is described.**

As described in Chapter 4, the SMHA in partnership with the Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland is the proposed coordinating entity for the Southern Maryland National Heritage Area. The SMHA is managed by an Executive Director and a Board of Directors. The organization has strong working partnerships throughout Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary's counties and has built partnerships in southern Prince George's County prior to and throughout the feasibility study process. The Tri-County Council has more than a half century experience in regional planning, transportation, agricultural development, and tourism. Under that umbrella, the SMHA's track record of success as a state-designated heritage area stretches back almost twenty years, including an engaged board and experienced executive director.

Throughout the feasibility study process, the SMHA demonstrated regional leadership and excellent facilitation skills. These skills will continue to be important after designation, enabling the organization to build the capacity of the partnership network to develop and implement a shared vision for Southern Maryland.

Study Conclusion

Southern Maryland's history is readily visible in the small communities, rural landscapes, waterways, and coastline of the region. Historic properties are abundant, and cultural traditions that are celebrated today have been handed down through generations. Due to the significance, concentration, and integrity of the places and living traditions related to this story, this region meets the necessary criteria for designation as an NHA. Furthermore, through participation in public meetings and events, as well as through letters of support for an NHA, the public and governmental representatives at all levels have expressed strong interest in designation of the Southern Maryland National Heritage Area. Finally, the SMHA in conjunction with the Tri-County Council underpins a strong partnership network that has demonstrated expertise, will, and capacity to support an NHA in Southern Maryland.

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APPENDIX I

Partnerships

Note: SMHA Grant Recipient (GR) – Grants awarded by the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority were developed with the support and approval of SMHA. Grants noted on this chart were awarded between 2017-2021.

ORGANIZATION	TYPE, ACTIVITY OR MISSION	FINANCIAL SUPPORT FUNDER (F) POTENTIAL FUNDER (PF) SMHA GRANT RECIPIENT (GR) POTENTIAL GRANT RECIPIENT (PFR)	PARTNERSHIP ACTIVITIES
HISTORIC/CULTURAL			
Maryland Heritage Areas Authority	Governs state heritage area program	Provides financial support to SMHA operations and grants for projects and programs (F and PF)	Provides technical assistance for projects
Maryland Historical Trust	State Historic Preservation Office – develops and implements statewide preservation plan	Provides financial support through grant program; administers historic tax credit program (F and PF)	Provides technical assistance for projects
Maryland Heritage Area Coalition	13 state directors work together to advocate for the heritage areas program		Heritage area directors advocate for program, advocate for funding annually through legislative process, share expertise, SMHA director is Chair of Coalition
National Park Service Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail Captain John Smith National Historic Trail	NPS is the management entity for three historic trails and a National Historic Site within Southern Maryland	Grant for Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail (F) GR	Convenes and participates in planning and implementation for trails and historic sites
Federal Highway Administration – Religious Freedom National Scenic Byway	Designates National Scenic Byways	Grant for corridor management plan (F)	
National Scenic Byway Foundation	Advocacy for National Scenic Byways	PF	Promotes program through national platform
National Trust for Historic Preservation	National nonprofit organization advocating for the preservation of historic resources	Provides grants for preservation planning and implementation (PF) GR	Partners with

HISTORIC/CULTURAL (Continued)			
Maryland Rediscovery 400	Partnership of state, county, Tribal, and private entities to plan for Maryland's 400th Commemoration	Relevant projects may receive grants from SMHA (GR)	SMHA is leading the coalition of partners and providing technical assistance
Maryland "Fort to 400" Commission	Partnership of diverse entities throughout the state (primarily governmental) to plan official Maryland Commemoration	PF	Southern Maryland is where Maryland began and where much of the 400th Commemorative activity will be planned and executed
Preservation Maryland	Nonprofit statewide preservation organization	Administers Heritage Fund grants program in partnership with Maryland Historical Trust (PF)	Provides training and programs relevant to preserving historic resources and advocates for preservation
Council for Maryland Archeology, Inc.	Organization for professional archeologists in Maryland		Hosts Archeology Month in April with partners – includes events in Southern Maryland
Maryland Milestones Heritage Area	State heritage area located in northern Prince George's County		A boundary amendment may include southern Prince George's County
Maryland National Capital Parks and Planning Commission (MNCPPC) Darnall's Chance Surratt House and Museum	Departments of Planning and Parks & Recreation Owns and operates historic sites in Prince George's County	Potential GR	Potential partner
Accokeek Foundation National Colonial Farm Piscataway Park	Works with National Park Service to enhance visitor experience	Potential GR	Partners with NPS and Piscataway to ensure stewardship of the site
Alice Ferguson Foundation – Hard Bargain Farm Environmental Center	Manages site and operates educational programs for students and teachers	Potential GR	Potential Partner
African American Heritage Society of Charles County	Fosters awareness of African American's historical contributions to Southern Maryland; Operates African American Heritage House as a museum	Potential GR	Partners with SMHA activities, their director serves on Maryland Rediscovery 400

HISTORIC/CULTURAL (Continued)			
Society for the Restoration of Port Tobacco	Dedicated to documenting and sharing history of Port Tobacco; advocates for restoration and stewardship of historic buildings	GR	
Friends of Smallwood State Park	Supports state park; hosts programs and events	GR	
Historic St. Mary's City Foundation	Provides volunteers; assists with fundraising	GR	
Historic St. Mary's City	Historic site, location of Maryland's first capital, location of newly discovered 1634 fort		Partners with SMHA in events and projects, archeologist serves on Maryland Rediscovery 400
St. Mary's County Museum Division St. Clement's Island and Museum Piney Point Lighthouse Museum and Park Drayden African American Schoolhouse The Old Jail Museum	Stewards historic sites, including site of the first landing of Europeans in Maryland in 1634	GR	Partners with SMHA in events, Piscataway with exhibits and events, manager of museum division serves on Maryland Rediscovery 400
Historic St. Mary's City Commission	Operates and manages Historic St. Mary's City	GR	
Historic Sotterley Inc.	Manages historic site; documents history; offers tours and educational programs. Location of an UNESCO Slave Site of Remembrance	GR	Partners with African American descendant population
Friends of St. Clement's Island and Piney Point Park	Raises funds to support interpretation, education programs and other activities.	GR	
Friends of Calvert Marine Society, Calvert Marine Museum	Raises funds to support the museum	GR	
Calvert Marine Museum	Museum and Maryland Paleontological Center		Partners with SMHA with events, director serves on SMHA Board

HISTORIC/CULTURAL (Continued)

Friends of Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum	Supports environmental, history, and archaeology programs	GR	
Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum	Stewards historic site, houses the Maryland Archeological Conservation Laboratory		Partners with SMHA, Piscataway, African American descendant population, director serves on Maryland Rediscovery 400
Friends of Bayside Museum	Provides volunteers and support for the museum	GR	
Bayside Museum	Provides exhibits and programming about Chesapeake Bay life and history		
Patuxent River Naval Air Museum Association Inc.	Operates the museum	GR	
Patuxent River Naval Air Museum	Museum on naval air history, including first astronauts		
Friends of Chesapeake Beach Railway Museum	Raises funds, provides volunteers, assists with museum collections maintenance	GR	
Chesapeake Beach Railway Museum	Located in and interprets historic railway station		
Pride II of Baltimore	Reproduction of a 19th century clipper schooner – offers deck tours and day sails	GR	Partners with Maryland Heritage Areas, SMHA, and National Park Service for events in Southern Maryland
Maryland Veterans Memorial Museum at Patriot Park	Museum honors veterans from all wars with exhibits, programs and events	GR	
Historic McConchie One-Room School	Early 20th century school for African Americans	GR	
Friends of Maxwell Hall	Steward 18th century colonial house in Maxwell Park	GR	

ARTS, EDUCATION AND HUMANITIES			
Launching Educational Assistance Programs Forward (LEAP Forward) Inc.	Works with disadvantaged youth – awards scholarships, provides college tours, encourages interest in math and science careers	GR	Focus on African Americans in Southern Maryland
Maryland Humanities Council	Produces Maryland History Day; supports humanities programs	Provides grants for humanities programs and projects (F and PF);

GR | Partners with SMHA and Southern Maryland sites |
| The Arts Council of Calvert County | Supports and provides a variety of arts programs and events, including the Barn Quilt Trail | Offers arts in education and community arts grants (F and PF)
GR | |
| St. Mary's County Arts Council | Supports and provides a variety of arts programs and events | Offers arts in education and nonprofit arts organization grants (F and PF)
Offers scholarships to high school seniors | |
Charles County Arts Alliance	Supports and provides a variety of arts programs and events	Offers arts in education and community arts grants (F and PF)	
St. Mary's College of Maryland	Public liberal arts college	GR	Senior Archeologist serves on Maryland Rediscovery 400
College of Southern Maryland	Public community college with campuses in Hughesville, La Plata, Leonardtown and Prince Frederick; houses the Southern Maryland Studies Center		
The Patuxent Partnership	Fosters collaboration among academia, industry, and government from technology to STEM initiatives		Partners with SMHA in events and engagements
Mattawoman Creek Art Center	Offers exhibits, classes, workshops and studio space		
Ann's Circle, Annemarie Art Center and Sculpture Garden	Offers art galleries, classes, events and student field trip programs, includes environmental and historic focus	GR	

NATURAL RESOURCES/RECREATION

Maryland Dept. of Natural Resources	State department manages parks, plans and implements environmental stewardship programs	GR	
Partners of Open Space Steering Committee	Statewide coalition advocating for open space and related conservation and preservation programs		SMHA director a member, funding for Maryland Heritage Area comes through Program Open Space funding
Southern Maryland Conservation Alliance	Alliance of land trusts and other conservation organizations		SMHA director a board member, Network of partners working to restore Southern Maryland's waterways, landscapes and shorelines
Chesapeake Conservancy	Advocate for conservation; help build parks, trails and public access sites	GR PF	Partners include National Park Service, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Chesapeake Bay Program, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, federal, state and local agencies, private foundations, and corporations
Farm Heritage Conservancy	Dedicated to preserving the agricultural, historical, and educational heritage of Southern Maryland.	GR PF	SMHA director serves on board of directors
American Chestnut Land Trust	Protects areas through land purchase, conservation easements, and land lease	GR	
Calvert Nature Society Inc.	Dedicated to the protection and preservation of Calvert County's natural heritage; offers educational programs for all ages	GR	

NATURAL RESOURCES/RECREATION (continued)			
Mallow's Bay-Potomac River National Marine Sanctuary	Protects and interprets the remnants of more than 100 World War I-era wooden steamships – known as the "Ghost Fleet" - and other maritime resources and cultural heritage dating back nearly 12,000 years.		SMHA director serves on Advisory Council; heritage area is a designated Community Champion
Friends of Mallows Bay-Potomac River National Marine Sanctuary	Advocates for Mallows Bay		
Patuxent Riverkeeper	Advocates and stewards of the river; offers volunteer opportunities, tours and educational programs		Riverkeeper serves on SMHA Board of Directors
Friends of Calvert Cliff Parks	Volunteers provide improvements and stewardship of the park	GR	
Friends of Chapman State Park	Supports the 2200-acre park including trail maintenance; offers tours of Mount Aventine Manor	GR	

GOVERNMENT/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT/ADVOCACY			
Southern Maryland Delegation	Members of the Maryland General Assembly		
Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland	Economic development, transportation planning, agricultural development and workforce training	Provides fiscal management services for SMHA GR	SMHA is housed in the Council offices
Southern Maryland Municipal Association	Municipalities in southern Maryland		
Piscataway Conoy Tribe	State-recognized Indigenous tribe	GR	SMHA partners with the Tribe on projects, Tribal Chair serves on Maryland Rediscovery 400
Cedarville Band of the Piscataway Inc.	State-recognized Indigenous tribe	GR	

NAACP
  Calvert County
  St. Mary's County
  Charles County
  Prince George's
      County
	Chapters of the nation's oldest and largest civil rights and social justice organization		SMHA partners with members for events

Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission	Provides services to support farmers and the future of agriculture	GR	SMHA director serves as Vice Chair of Board of Directors
St. Mary's County Commissioners	County governance	GR	
Calvert County Commissioners	County governance	GR	
Charles County Commissioners	County governance	GR	
Town of Leonardtown	City governance	GR	
Town of LaPlata	City governance	GR	
Town of Chesapeake Beach	City governance		
Maryland Dept. of Transportation, State Highway Administration	State agency manages road construction, maintenance and signage, archeology	PF	Chief archeologist serves on Maryland Rediscover 400
Maryland Office of Tourism and Maryland Tourism Council	Promotes the state to attract tourists		Promotes the state's heritage areas, SMHA is a member of the Council

GOVERNMENT/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT/ADVOCACY (continued)			
St. Mary's County Dept. of Economic Development	Supports development of tourism, defense industries, aviation, agriculture, manufacturing and other types of economic development		Provides technical assistance and resources to start ups, workforce development, permits, etc.
Visit St. Mary's	Non-profit tourism entity for St. Mary's County	F	Director serves on SMHA Board of Directors
Calvert County Dept. of Economic Development	Supports economic development through business recruitment and relocation services; serves as the county's tourism promotion agency	F	Provides technical assistance to businesses, tourism services and platforms, tourism specialist serves on SMHA Board of Directors
Charles County Dept. of Recreation, Parks and Tourism	Administers and coordinates all recreational and tourism programs, activities, and special events; park system planning, design, development, and maintenance	F	Chief of Tourism serves on SMHA Board of Directors
Rural Maryland Council	Brings together citizens, community-based organizations, federal, state, county and municipal government officials as well as representatives of the for-profit and nonprofit sectors to collectively address the needs of Rural Maryland communities	F	SMHA partner

APPENDIX II – FUNDERS AND POTENTIAL FUNDERS

ORGANIZATION	Arts, Culture, Humanities	Heritage Tourism	Education	Environment, Conservation	Historic Preservation	Community, Economic Development	General
Maryland Heritage Areas Authority		X			X		X
Maryland Historical Trust (SHPO)					X		
Preservation Maryland					X		
Maryland Humanities Council	X						
Maryland Dept. of Housing and Community Development, Division of Historical/Cultural Programs	X				X	X	
Maryland Dept. of Transportation (ISTEA)					X		
Maryland Dept. of Nature Resources, Program Open Space				X			X
Maryland Dept. of Employment and Economic Dev.						X	
Maryland Office of Planning							X
Maryland Neighborhood Business Dev. Program						X	
Maryland Office of Tourism		X					
National Trust for Historic Preservation		X			X		
National Park Service							X
Rural Maryland Council							X
Dominion Energy			X	X			
PNC Foundation			X			X	
Chaney Foundation	X					X	

APPENDIX III – CONCURRENT PLANNING DOCUMENTS

Economic Development

PLAN NAME	ORGANIZATION	PLAN AVAILABILITY	CONNECTION WITH NHA
A Proactive Approach to Shaping the Economic Future of Charles County, Maryland (2016)	Charles County Department of Economic Development	http://www.meetcharlescounty.com/clientuploads/directory/downloads/download_files/CharlesCounty_final_051316.pdf	Includes strategies for business retention and growth, product improvement initiatives, entrepreneurship, business recruitment and marketing, workforce needs and tracking economic development efforts
Calvert County Economic Development Strategic Plan Update (2017-2022)	Calvert County Department of Economic Development	https://www.ecalvert.com/DocumentCenter/View/375/Calvert-County-Economic-Development-Strategic-Plan-Update-2017-2022-PDF?bidId=	A high priority is to accelerate development of town centers, including by supporting local resident entrepreneurs and to create communities more likely to appeal to entrepreneurs and young professionals.
Strategic Plan to Build an Innovation Driven Economy (2017)	St. Mary's County Department of Economic Development	https://www.yesstmarysmd.com/docs/Strategic%20Plan%20to%20Build%20a%20Innovation%20Driven%20Economy%20Final%20Report.pdf	Includes people- and placed-based strategies focused on attracting young professionals and strategies based on innovation and entrepreneurship.
Economic Snapshot of St. Mary's County (2017)	St. Mary's County Department of Economic Development	https://www.stmarysmd.com/ded/docs/Economic%20Snapshot%20of%20St.%20Mary's%20County.pdf	Goals: Attract and retain a young, talented, and diverse workforce, create a nurturing environment for innovation and entrepreneurship, grow emerging and heritage industries, and support and advance the mission of Naval Air Station (NAS) Patuxent River and its tenant commands.
Prince George's County Economic Development Strategic Plan (2013)	Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation	http://mncppcapps.org/planning/publications/BookDetail.cfm?item_id=284&Category_id=2	Identifies high-growth industries – includes travel and tourism industry cluster.

Economic Development (continued)

PLAN NAME	ORGANIZATION	PLAN AVAILABILITY	CONNECTION WITH NHA
Market Analysis and Strategic Plan: 2018-2028 (2018)	Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission	https://smadc.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/smadc-2018_2028-strategic-plan.pdf	Strategies to provide the resources, infrastructure and advocacy needed for market-driven farms and agribusinesses to thrive and be profitable; expand the region's overall agricultural economic development; preserve Southern Maryland farmland assure long-term viability of SMADC as a driving force of the regional agricultural economy
Airport Innovation District Master Plan	St. Mary's County government	https://www.yesstmarysmd.com/doing-business-here/innovation-in-stmaryscounty/	Built through private and public investment, the Airport Innovation District is a center for startups, established companies and research institutions.

Arts and Culture

PLAN NAME	ORGANIZATION	PLAN AVAILABILITY	CONNECTION WITH NHA
Arts Vision 2020: A Strategic Plan for the Arts in Charles County, MD (2008)	Charles County Arts Alliance	https://charlescountyarts.org/arts-vision-2020-strategic-plan/	Strategies and actions to enhance the overall arts infrastructure in Charles County in four areas: arts development, arts education, arts programming, and arts venues and facilities.
Maryland State Arts Council Strategic Plan (2019)	Maryland State Arts Council	https://msac.org/about/strategic-plan	Strategies to increase participation in the arts, provide support to arts organizations, build capacity, and bolster the arts in Maryland
Prince George's Cultural Arts Study	Maryland National Capitol Park and Planning Commission – Prince George's County Planning Department	Began development in June 2020 - http://www.mncppc.org/4860/Cultural-Arts-Study	To develop strategies for integrating cultural arts activities into the county's economic development and land use planning.

Conservation and Parks

PLAN NAME	ORGANIZATION	PLAN AVAILABILITY	CONNECTION WITH NHA
Priority Preservation Area (PPA) Functional Master Plan (2012) (farm and forest)	Maryland National Capitol Park and Planning Commission, Prince George's County Planning Department	http://www.mncppc.org/1109/Priority-Preservation-Area-Functional-Ma	Establishes goals for the amount and types of agricultural lands to be preserved in the PPA and methods to achieve land preservation goals.
Resource Conservation Plan: A Countywide Functional Master Plan. (2017)	Maryland National Capitol Park and Planning Commission, Prince George's County Planning Department	https://www.mncppc.org/881/Resource-Conservation-Plan	Combines the related elements of green infrastructure planning and rural and agricultural conservation into one functional master plan. Prepared in response to recommendations in the County's general land use plan, Plan Prince George's 2035 Approved General Plan (Plan 2035).
Green Infrastructure Master Plan (2002)	Maryland National Capitol Park and Planning Commission, Prince George's County Planning Department	http://www.mncppc.org/1266/Approved-Green-Infrastructure-Master-Pla	Identifies existing green infrastructure elements throughout the county and propose conservation mechanisms to preserve, protect, and enhance these elements.
Land Preservation and Recreation Plan: 2019-2023 (2019)	Maryland Department of Natural Resources	https://dnr.maryland.gov/land/Pages/Stewardship/LPRP-2019-2023.aspx	Strategies to provide Maryland's citizens and visitors with safe and easily accessible amenities; encourage the enjoyment and stewardship of Maryland's natural world; and balance outdoor recreation land use with natural and cultural resource protection.
St. Mary's County Land Preservation, Parks, and Recreation Plan	St Mary's County Department of Recreation and Parks	https://www.stmarysmd.com/docs/Approved%202017%20LPPRP.pdf	Museum division manages access to several museums and historic sites. Discussed goals for conservation of the rural landscapes and viable agriculture in the county.
St. Mary's County Recreation and Parks Strategic Plan 2020-2024	St Mary's County Department of Recreation and Parks	https://www.stmarysmd.com/docs/strategicplan.pdf	Museum division manages access to several museums and historic sites.
Lexington Park Development District Master Plan (2016)	St. Mary's County Department of Land Use and Growth Management	https://www.stmarysmd.com/docs/Full-CSMC-LPDDPlan-effective2-23-2016m.pdf	

Conservation and Parks (continued)

PLAN NAME	ORGANIZATION	PLAN AVAILABILITY	CONNECTION WITH NHA
St. Mary's County Historic Roads Survey, St. Mary's County, Maryland	St. Mary's County Department of Land Use and Growth Management	Hard copy available from DLUGM, or Regional Library System	Significance of historic roads in St Mary's County is identified in the survey document. Includes recommendations for conservation of historic roads in the county.

Tourism/Interpretation

PLAN NAME	ORGANIZATION	PLAN AVAILABILITY	CONNECTION WITH NHA
St. Mary's County Tourism and Hospitality Master Plan (2016)	St. Mary's County Department of Economic Development, Tourism Division, and St. Mary's County Chamber of Commerce	https://www.stmarysmd.com/docs/Final-Tourism-and-Hospitality-Master-Plan.pdf	Overall objective is to increase overnight stays to generate economic impact. Strategies focus on all aspects of the tourism industry in St. Mary's County.
Visit St. Mary's Marketing, Sales and Media Strategy (FY2020)	Visit Saint Mary's	https://s3.us-east-1.amazonaws.com/st-marys/images/files/FY2020_Marketing_Plan.pdf?mtime=20200330122727&focal=none	Plans to increase overnight stays, expand market reach, align actions with Maryland Tourism Office to increase impact.
Southern Maryland Heritage Tourism Master Plan (2003)	Southern Maryland Heritage Area	https://destinationsouthernmaryland.com/wp-content/uploads/smha-plan-2003.pdf	Strategies for interpretation, preservation and stewardship of resources, and tourism marketing.
Fiscal Year 2020 Marketing Plan	Maryland Office of Tourism	http://industry.visitmaryland.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Maryland_FY20_Marketing_Plan_final.pdf	Plans for partnerships with DMOs, Maryland Heritage Areas and other partners; strategies for marketing and promotions in all sectors of the tourism industry.
Charting a Sustainable Course for the Next Decade: 2010-2020	Maryland Heritage Areas Program	https://mht.maryland.gov/documents/PDF/MHAA/MHAA_StrategicPlan.pdf	10-year strategic plan for the Maryland Heritage Areas Program which focuses on heritage tourism.
Changing Landscapes: Farmsteads and Resort Towns (2019)	University of Maryland, Historic Preservation Studio Workshop, School of Architecture, Planning, and Preservation	https://www.mncppc.org/DocumentCenter/View/14832/Changing-Landscapes?bidId=	Heritage trail linking Aquasco, Eagle Harbor and Cedar Haven with a tour guide and interpretive signage.
Through Piscataway Eyes Master Plan (2016)	Piscataway Conoy Tribe	https://destinationsouthernmaryland.com/wp-content/uploads/tpe-master-plan-for-web-1-11-17.pdf	Plan for development of interpretive resources to tell the story of the Piscataway.

Planning

PLAN NAME	ORGANIZATION	PLAN AVAILABILITY	CONNECTION WITH NHA
The Charles County Comprehensive Plan (2016)	Charles County Government: Planning and Growth Management	https://www.charlescountymd.gov/home/showdocument?id=3674	Comprehensive plans as required by state law.
Calvert County Comprehensive Plan (2019)	Calvert County Government	https://www.co.cal.md.us/DocumentCenter/View/28975/Comprehensive-Plan_Adopted-2019	
St. Mary's County Comprehensive Plan (2010)	St. Mary's County Government: Comprehensive Planning Division	https://www.stmarysmd.com/docs/compplan.pdf	
Prince George's 2035 General Plan (2014)	Maryland National Capitol Park and Planning Commission	http://mncppcapps.org/planning/publications/BookDetail.cfm?item_id=279&Category_id=1	
Rural Villages Study (2012)	Maryland National Capitol Park and Planning Commission	http://mncppcapps.org/planning/publications/BookDetail.cfm?item_id=281&Category_id=3	Focuses on three communities in southeastern Prince George's County, Baden, Aquasco, and Croom, and provides recommendations for incentives and regulations for enhancing and preserving rural character. The three villages are in the county's Rural Tier except the northeastern portion of Croom that is in the county's Developing Tier.
LaPlata Comprehensive Plan (2010)	LaPlata Planning Department	https://townoflaplata.org/index.asp?SEC=C9E1C7CC-655B-44B8-BC41-25722CEC3095&Type=B_BASIC	Policy guide for the Town Council and Planning Commission as they assess the location, character and extent of proposed public and private development.
Comprehensive Plan – Town of Leonardtown (2010)	Leonardtown Planning Department	https://leonardtown.somd.com/government/ComPlan2010.pdf	One of Leonardtown's goals is to preserve its small town, historic character.
Greater Upper Marlboro Revitalization and Redevelopment Strategy (2012)	Maryland National Capital Parks and Planning Commission (MNCPPC)	http://mncppcapps.org/planning/publications/BookDetail.cfm?item_id=261&Category_id=3	Presents background information and recommends goals, strategies, and actions pertaining to land use, environment, recreation, and public facilities.

Planning (continued)

PLAN NAME	ORGANIZATION	PLAN AVAILABILITY	CONNECTION TO NHA
Waldorf Urban Development Corridor (2021)	Charles County Economic Development Department	https://www.meetcharlescounty.com/waldorf-urban-redevelopment-corridor/	The plan is designed to create a downtown Waldorf area that is a dynamic and vibrant new urban center. The Charles County Commissioners have launched a strategic initiative to connect Charles County and Washington, DC with light rail transit service to the Branch Avenue Metrorail Station, and redevelop the Old Washington Road corridor of downtown Waldorf as a mixed-use, transit-oriented, walkable, new urban center.

Historic Preservation

PLAN NAME	ORGANIZATION	PLAN AVAILABILITY	CONNECTION WITH NHA
Painting a Self-Portrait: A Historic Preservation Plan for St. Mary's County (2000)	St. Mary's County Department of Land Use and Growth Management	https://www.stmarysmd.com/docs/HistoricPreservationPlan.pdf	Goals and strategies for surveys, education and public outreach, preservation planning, grant programs, easement program, archaeological site identification, support of heritage tourism, criteria for acquisition of historic sites
Prince George's County Sites and Historic Districts Plan (2010)	Maryland National Capitol Park and Planning Commission, Prince George's County Planning Department	http://mncppcapps.org/planning/publications/BookDetail.cfm?item_id=235&category_id=&name=historic%20sites%20and%20districts%20plan&pricemin=&pricemax=&author=&Pubs_year=All&price=&	Includes a set of goals, policies, and strategies to guide future preservation planning efforts. The plan contains implementation priorities and a proposal for a strategic plan of implementation. Appendices provide updated county and community histories; a summary of historic themes; and lists of cemeteries, and organizations.
Antebellum Plantations in Prince George's County (2009)	Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission	http://mncppcapps.org/planning/publications/BookDetail.cfm?item_id=206&Category_id=2	Tool for cultural resource managers, county planners, and other researchers studying antebellum Prince George's County
Brandywine Revitalization and Preservation Study (2012)	Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission	https://www.mncppc.org/602/Brandywine-Revitalization-Preservation-S	Strategies to define community character and preserve historic resources.
Broad Creek Historic District Preservation Planning Study. (2002)	Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission	http://mncppcapps.org/planning/publications/BookDetail.cfm?item_id=68&Category_id=2	Provides a history and architectural survey and clarifies county policies for protection of the historic district.
Prince George's County Cemetery Preservation Manual (2010)	Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission	http://mncppcapps.org/planning/publications/BookDetail.cfm?item_id=229&Category_id=2	Provides information on the types of cemeteries present in Prince George's County, why it is important to preserve cemeteries, how to develop a cemetery preservation plan, where to look for funding, and how to research and survey historic cemeteries.

Historic Preservation (continued)

PLAN NAME	ORGANIZATION	PLAN AVAILABILITY	CONNECTION WITH NHA
Preserve Maryland: Statewide Preservation Plan (2019-2023)	Maryland Historical Trust	https:// mht.maryland.gov/ plan.shtml	Guidance document for government agencies, non-profit advocates and others involved in historic preservation, archaeology and cultural heritage in Maryland. Includes a section specific to Southern Maryland – goals include connecting to a broader audience, expanding outreach and training programs, expanding and updating documentation of historic resources, protect the area's rural character, and ensuring inclusion of Native American interests in planning.

Scenic Byways

PLAN NAME	ORGANIZATION	PLAN AVAILABILITY	CONNECTION WITH NHA
Religious Freedom Byway Management Plan (2008)	Charles and St. Mary's Counties; Maryland Office of Tourism Development; Maryland State Highway Administration	https://destinationsouthernmaryland.com/wp-content/uploads/rfb-management-plan.pdf	Goals and strategies for preservation, interpretation and promotion of the byway.
Common Interpretive Strategy – Charles and St. Mary's counties (2014)	Southern Maryland Heritage Area, National Park Service, Potomac Conservancy	https://destinationsouthernmaryland.com/wp-content/uploads/Common-Interpretive-Stratgegy.pdf	Interpretation strategies for the Religious Freedom Byway, Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail, Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail, Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail.
Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail *Multiple relevant plans*	National Park Service	https://www.nps.gov/pohe/getinvolved/planning.htm	Trail crosses Virginia, Maryland, Washington D.C., and Pennsylvania.
Comprehensive Management Plan for the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail (2011)	National Park Service	https://www.nps.gov/cajo/getinvolved/management-plan-for-the-trail.htm	Trail crosses Maryland, Virginia, Washington D.C., Delaware, Pennsylvania, and New York.
Comprehensive Management Plan for the Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail (2012)	National Park Service	https://www.nps.gov/stsp/learn/management/cmpstsp.htm	Trail crosses Virginia, Maryland and Washington D.C.
Maryland Scenic Byways: Moving Forward Toward Sustainability (strategic plan – 2012)	Maryland Scenic Byways Program Advisory Committee	https://www.roads.maryland.gov/OED/MSBP.pdf	Goals for managing a statewide systems of scenic byways, managing corridors, and promoting to visitors.

APPENDIX IV – RESOURCE INVENTORY AND MAPS

Southern Maryland's Historic, Cultural, and Natural Resources

A defining characteristic of a National Heritage Area is the concentration of the historic, natural, and cultural resources and intangible living traditions that possess integrity and clearly express the history and culture of a region. As part of the feasibility study process, an inventory of Southern Maryland's resources and maps showing resource locations were developed. The inventory and the maps highlight the five themes. Additional information on themes and resources is found in Chapter Three: Statement of National Importance, Themes, Historic Context, Resources and Boundaries. Links to the inventory and maps follow.

The Inventory

The inventory is organized into four tabs—All Resources, Historical and Natural Resources, Museums and Interpretive Centers, and Events and Amenities.
https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/jmj03y43ymb7u2zdvz29k/Southern-Maryland-Resource-Inventory.Review.August-2021.xlsx?dl=0&rlkey=29z2izmc3mabyu58w6e8oe58p

Maps by Theme

Six interactive maps illustrate the concentration of resources in the region. The first map contains all of the resources in the inventory; the other five are presented according to theme.

When links are opened to show the map, click on each dot to view the name of the resource.

All Resources
https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/edit?mid=1nMnR57KKAmZCPstP8vSE3li7c0LXhL2C&usp=sharing

Piscataway People: The Land is Who We Are
https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/edit?mid=1rKa0kzVdkOwi9BdcAHG1jB5qkjM3uTnY&usp=sharing

Sea Change: Time and Tide Shape Land and Life
https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/edit?mid=1NmEdyNfO34PfFrzJTYUz0eQxaGM98vKS&usp=sharing

Tobacco: A Growing Concern
https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/edit?mid=1qu6hrIMkPJ5YGKtOH1PwXpVIo2qTmlAC&usp=sharing

Spirit of Faith, Spirit of Law, Spirit of Progress
https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/edit?mid=1-a1MmN9e-FIRNSmE1YrSrEEpTTTk2hT8&usp=sharing

Defense of a Nation
https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/edit?mid=13vW3ynhIm9VDv0LiMlTp6LZW9VhHSJbM&usp=sharing

APPENDIX V – LETTERS OF SUPPORT

Delegate C.T. Wilson
    Chair
    Southern Maryland Delegation*
    Maryland General Assembly

James. R. Guy
    Commissioner President
    Commissioners of St. Mary's County

The Honorable Daniel W. Burris
    Mayor of Leonardtown

The Honorable Patrick J. Mahoney
    Mayor, Town of Chesapeake Beach

Steve Weems
    Chair
    Tri-County Council of Southern Maryland*

Andrzej Marciniak
    President
    Southern Maryland Municipal Association

Bill Tyler
    Director, Department of Parks and Recreation
    Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission

Stephanie T. Sperling, M.A.A.
    President
    Council for Maryland Archaeology

Gregory A. Bowen
    Executive Director
    American Chestnut Land Trust, Inc.
    Prince Frederick

Nancy L. Easterling
    Executive Director
    Historic Sotterley, Inc.
    Hollywood

LETTERS OF SUPPORT (continued)

Sheryl Elliott, Ph.D.
  President, Board of Directors
  Friends of Chapman State Park
  Indian Head

Julia A. King, Ph.D.
  Professor and Chair
  Department of Anthropology
  St. Mary's College of Maryland
  St. Mary's City

Jolanda Campbell
  Executive Director
  Greenwell Foundation
  Hollywood

Dorothea H. Smith
  President
  African American Heritage Society of Charles County, Inc.

Joyce Edelen
  SRPT Board of Directors, Events and Publicity
  Society for the Restoration of Port Tobacco

Tuajuanda C. Jordan
  President
  St. Mary's College of Maryland
  St. Mary's City

Stephen M. Bunker
  Chairman
  Friends of Mallows Bay National Marine Sanctuary

Ed Thiedeman
  President
  Mattawoman Creek Art Center
  Smallwood State Park
  Marbury

LETTERS OF SUPPORT (continued)

Greg Pierce
Executive Director
Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum
St. Leonard

Jeffrey Murray
Director
Calvert Marine Museum
Solomons

Gracie Brady
President
Bayside History Museum
North Beach

Ronald Brown
President
Historical Society of Charles County

Franklin A. Robinson Jr.
Chair
Farm Heritage Conservancy
Benedict, Charles County

Andrzej Marciniak
The President and Commissioners of the Village of Port Tobacco

Michael Kent
President
Calvert County NAACP

Jeffrey Buchheit
Executive Director
Pride of Baltimore

Laura Ford
President and CEO
Accokeek Foundation at Piscataway Park

LETTERS OF SUPPORT (continued)

Bonnie Green
    Executive Director
    The Patuxent Partnership

Meagan Baco
    Executive Director
    Anacostia Trails Heritage Area Inc./Maryland Milestones

Francis Gray
    Tribal Chair
    Piscataway Conoy Tribe

William R. Hall III
    President
    NAACP St. Mary's County Branch, Unit #7025

Lynn Fitrell
    President
    Board of Trustees
    St. Mary's County Museum Division

Nicholas A. Redding
    President and CEO
    Preservation Maryland

Regina Faden
    Chair
    Visit St. Mary's MD Inc.

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DISTRICT 29

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TRI-COUNTY COUNCIL FOR SOUTHERN MARYLAND

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Senator Arthur Ellis – *District 28*
Senator Jack Bailey – *District 29*
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Delegate Rachel R. Jones – *District 27B*
Delegate Mark N. Fisher – *District 27C*
Delegate Debra M. Davis – *District 28*
Delegate Edith J. Patterson – *District 28*
Delegate C. T. Wilson – *District 28*
Delegate Matt Morgan – *District 29A*
Delegate Brian M. Crosby – *District 29B*
Delegate Gerald W. "Jerry" Clark – *District 29C*

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Mike Hart
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Earl "Buddy" Hance

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Michael L. Hewitt
John E. O'Connor
Todd B. Morgan

Southern Maryland Municipal Association
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Vice President - Nick Colvin Commissioner, Leonardtown
Secretary/Treasurer - Teri Dimpsey Secretary, Leonardtown

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Wayne Magoon, *Chair, Planning Commission, Charles County*
James Howard Thompson, *Chair, Planning Commission, St. Mary's County*

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Chris Kaselemis, *Director, Economic Development, St. Mary's County*
Vacant, *Economic Development, Calvert County*

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Kelly M. Schulz, *Secretary, Maryland Department of Commerce*