

Prince William County
TRAILS AND BLUEWAYS COUNCIL
Advisors to the Board of County Supervisors

MOTION: Lynda Silverstrand

September 26, 2023
Regular Meeting

SECOND: Eileen Sheridan

Res. No. 23-6

**RE: RECOMMEND POTOMAC HERITAGE NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL
ALIGNMENT OBJECTIVES FOR IDENTIFIED GAPS 19 & 20**

ACTION:

WHEREAS, the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail (PHNST) is a designated National Scenic Trail corridor spanning parts of the mid-Atlantic region and will connect various trails and historic sites in Virginia. The trail network includes existing and planned sections, tracing the natural, historical, and cultural features in the Potomac River corridor; and

WHEREAS, Prince William County, in partnership with the National Park Service and the Northern Virginia Regional Commission, has mapped potential routes for the PHNST through eastern Prince William County, connecting to Fairfax and Stafford Counties; and

WHEREAS, the PHNST enters Prince William County at the Town of Occoquan; and

WHEREAS, as a scenic trail, the trail's alignment must travel as close to the Occoquan River as possible as it connects the Town of Occoquan to the Occoquan Bay National Wildlife Refuge at Belmont Bay; and

WHEREAS, as an example of successful and effective trail mapping within Prince William County, the Neabsco Creek Boardwalk has served as a jewel of Prince William County, is designated as part of the PHNST, and is a recreational resource for residents and tourists alike; and

WHEREAS, the Trails and Blueways Council is reviewing trail gaps in Prince William County, defining a PHNST alignment for Prince William County which will the County to work with property owners and VDOT to use rights-of-way as appropriate, particularly when passing under I-95 and Rt 1;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Prince William County Trails and Blueways Council recommends to the Prince William Board of County Supervisors that they ensure that the PHNST be aligned such that the planned route:

- Ensure a positive trail use experience by connecting users to a section of trail that follows a waterfront alignment; and
- Follows a waterfront alignment as close to the Occoquan River as possible as to connect the Town of Occoquan to the Occoquan Bay National Wildlife Refuge at Belmont Bay.

Votes:

Ayes: 9

Nays: 0

Absent from Vote: 1

Absent from Meeting: 3

SIGNED: *Elizabeth Cronauer*
Liz Cronauer, Chair, Prince William County Trails and Blueways Council